

## Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: January 18, 2023

Location: Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference

Start Time: Public Meeting at 6:06 PM (live and via zoom, see below invite)

Prior to the business meeting of The Board, we were honored to celebrate our latest Ellinomatheia Exams success stories. Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, The Director of Language Acquisition, overseeing World Languages and Dual Language Immersion at the Delaware Department of Education presented opening remarks. Dr. Ioanna Lekkakou and the teachers of the Greek Program were proud to introduce and honor the students who have passed the exams.

A1 (8-12 yo) Exam: Potluri Pratheek Sai, Adeyanju Abigail, Koddippily Litheja, Mendoza Camila, Valagurusamy Sivakumar, Thomas Aaron, Bandi Tanvi, Sasikumar Hemanth, Wolcott John, Duraikkannan Kani, Shi Jasmine, Manley Bridget, Narsangani Dhriti, and Corrigan Sean.

A1 Exam: Hall Angelo, Patel Rushil, and Mergu Saman

A2 Exam: Joey Brooks, Kranidioti Isidora, and Kalampakas Konstantinos

B1 Exam: Kranidiotis Symeon, Bornivelli Panagiota, and Walder Thomas

B2 Exam: Markos Papadopoulos

C2Exam: Niki Papadopoulou

Honorable mention goes out to our two recipients of the Certificate of Multiliteracy: Bornivelli Panagiota and Walder Thomas

Attendance: President Anamaria Anagnostou (AA), Vice President Erin Allard (EA), Treasurer Helen Anderson (HA), Recording Secretary Ken Przywara (KP), Paul Brooks (PB), Valerie Caras (VC), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Elias Rigas (ER), Kristin Tuner (KT) Absent: Georgia Halakos (GH), Jessica Inskeep (JI)

### Agenda<sup>1</sup>

1. Call to Order 6:30 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
  - Public Comments
    - None.
  - Previous minutes for October
    - **Motion** to approve minutes for December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>th</sup> as presented.  
KP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
      - Approved unanimously

<sup>1</sup> All agenda items are potential action items for which a vote may be taken.



- Head of School Report – Elias Pappas
  - Academic Trends
    - Due to Covid and a change in prior testing methods, it is better to review and compare the 2019 and 2022 school years. Tests during 2021 were optional.
    - We are seeing an average bounce back in recovery in ELA, with some pocket exceptions
    - Math trends at OCS parallel a statewide issue with downward trend in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
    - SAT scores show a better recovery pattern; however, the SAT's nationwide have become optional. We are evaluating options to better gauge measurement methods.
    - Evaluating deviation from state averages we see that our recovery methods following Covid are bring our students back to norm at a better rate than the state average, by grade. We see this improvement in ELA, and it is slightly better in our math program.
    - We are seeing that we are doing relatively better, but want to be doing absolutely better. We are researching methods to close the Covid learning gap, as well as the equity gap. We are working hard to not lose focus on our success for our students and instruction.
    - We are seeking to discern our ranking statewide. That information has not been published by the state this year.
    - SAT, which are required for all Delaware students, are being submitted to colleges at a lower and lower rate than ever before.
  - Lower School – Hrysoula Davis
    - Greek Culture celebrated with an arts-n-crafts version of *vasilopita*, which are like King Day cakes to celebrate the New Year
    - Benchmark testing will run through the end of the month to be used to track student progress to aid in interventions and extensions
    - Literacy development will engage with events each month to promote literacy throughout the day and school
    - In February, we will host a children's book author, as we read and cover their Valentine's Day book, including an online puppet version of the book.
    - Grading Day will be January 20<sup>th</sup>
    - Every grade level has organized a field trip this marking period, please volunteer to chaperone if you can
    - Look for information regarding collaborative sessions to address bullying policies and the Code of Conduct beginning in February
    - Behavioral referrals are trending down as we practice restorative practices earlier in the process



- Middle School – Adrienne Rodriguez
  - Mid-term exams have begun; this is new for the middle school. These cumulative exams will only count as a single test grade, but provide students the experience to prepare for high school
  - A Science Olympiad Team has been created, and will participate in STEM competitions with other schools
  - Our staff is being trained in the new evaluation program, with more focus on learning, rather than the teacher. This holistic view is great, but a new approach for educators.
  - Valentine’s Day Dance in the middle school gym, on February 17<sup>th</sup>
- High School – Ashley Lipson
  - Working through mid-term exams, with 6 of 8 completed
  - College acceptances are rolling in, 70+ acceptances to 39 schools, with merit aid has surpassed a million dollars
  - The Snow Ball dinner dance will be January 20<sup>th</sup>
  - School choice window remains open
  - We are approved for the Digital Communication and Work based Learning programs which are CTE offerings, so students can graduate with certifications as well as earning college credits
  - Our 2022 Men’s Soccer Team received the Sportsmanship Award
- Student Services – Dr Stephanie DeMayo
  - ELL, now the MLL, Multilingual Learners, will begin testing to evaluate progress and needs going forward, over 300 learners will be reviewed
  - OCS will be represented on the state MLL Steering Committee which will revise Delaware’s strategic plan for English Learners
  - MTSS Charter Con was last weekend at OCS. This annual event has workshops for Delaware Charter schools.
  - Mid-year benchmarking is underway in K-5
  - Looking at Title 14 restorative methods to reduce out of school suspension
  - Spec Ed interviews have begun for next school year
- Greek Program – Dr. Ioanna Lekkakou
  - We launched our partnership with The Biden School of Public Policy & Administration at the University of Delaware. We had a presentation on civil discourse on our staff PD day
  - Immersion Committee meeting last week is planning for next year
  - We have begun projects to celebrate International Greek language Day



- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
  - Monthly finance report December
    - Preliminary budget revenues of \$41,376,294, with 97.3% collected
    - Received the State Safe and Secure grant for \$52k for PD, Development, and safety items, like the vape detectors
    - Planning for over 1,100 students who have applied for OCS next year
    - Exploring funding options for further capital expense
    - **Motion** to approve monthly web report. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved unanimously
- 4. Committee Reports
  - Citizens Budget Oversight Committee – Evan Winokur
    - Met this evening, with 7 attendees
    - Reviewed financial report and monthly finance report
  - Immersion – Erin Allard
    - **Motion** to renaming the Immersion Committee to the Greek Program Committee  
EA 1<sup>st</sup> and KP 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved unanimously
  - Strategic Planning Committee – Elias Rigas
    - We are reaching out to planning organizations for guidance
    - Kick-off will be in 2023
  - Fundraising Committee – Jeff Koss, et al
    - Golf Outing planning meeting tomorrow
    - Health and Wellness Fair April 29<sup>th</sup> planning continues
    - Working on copy for the Annual Appeal
- 5. Old Business
  - None
- 6. New Business
  - None
- 7. Good of the School
  - Elias Papas informed us of plans to submit a grant application for green energy, healthy learning, and renewable energy. We are submitting for a variety of programs, including for an electric bus fleet. This is a 24-36 month project if we win, and up to \$5 million in funds. We are submitting the initial proposal for the January 26<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- 8. **Motion** to Move to Executive Session - EA 1<sup>st</sup> and KP 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Approved unanimously 7:55 PM

The meeting returned from Executive Session at 8:13 PM, but due to a technical issue, there was no audio presented to remote viewers, or for the recording.

9. **Motion** to Accept and Submit the Odyssey Annual Report to the State of Delaware as presented to the board earlier with no edits. EA 1<sup>st</sup> and KP 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Approved unanimously
10. **Motion** to Adjourn KP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Approved unanimously
  - Meeting adjourned 8:15 PM

NOTE: These Agenda Items may not be considered in sequence. Pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 10004(e)(2), this Agenda may be changed to include additional items, including executive sessions, or to delete items that arise at the time of the meeting.

Initial Agenda Posted: January 5, 2022 at [www.odysseycharterschooldel.com/](http://www.odysseycharterschooldel.com/)

Odyssey Zoom is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: January 18, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88489803681?pwd=T0c1UE9peTk4aytZckpjeUhmQXFEZz09>

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