

Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: February 15, 2023

Location: Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference

Start Time: Public Meeting at 6:00 PM (live and via zoom, see below invite)

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

Agenda¹

1. Call to Order 6:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
 - Public Comments
 - None.
 - Presentation by the Middle School Science Olympiad Team, The Science Greeks
 - Fifteen member team competing in 23 events on March 11 for State Tournament
 - Students design, log, and build event models
 - Demonstrated a catapult hurling a marble for distance and accuracy
 - Presented a bridge build to support 15Kg across a span
 - Designed and created a marble rollercoaster to hit a specific time trial
 - Explained code buster, which requires one team member to describe in writing a model, the other team member then has to follow only these instructions and recreate it
 - Months of volunteer help from teachers and parents support the team
 - Previous minutes for January
 - **Motion** to approve minutes for January 18th as presented. HA 1st and PB 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Head of School Report – Elias Pappas
 - Parents Advisory Councils
 - School preview day will be March 2nd, from 4:30-6:30 for new and returning students and families, K – 12
 - We all teach literacy continues to be a focus for all grade levels
 - Grant Submissions
 - Hope Grant submitted for \$20,000, waiting for feedback

¹ All agenda items are potential action items for which a vote may be taken.



- Academic Updates
 - Using end of semester data to adjust instruction for semester 2
 - Preparations are being made to set goals to address preparations for SBAC/SAT testing
- Cultural Focus
 - Black History Month was celebrated throughout our campus, including pep rallies, education, and shortly Carnival including a campus conga line
 - Books and Basketball event on March 8th for the Intermediate School
 - Chat and Chews continue the get feedback from our stakeholders
- Lower School – Hrysoula Davis
 - Literacy event this month surrounded a book authored by one of our students' grandparents, *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*.
 - Blue Rocks Rocky Reading Challenge allows students to log reading both in school and at home
 - Former student will be installing a Story Walk display, of stories in English and Greek on the grounds of the lower school as an Eagle Scout project
 - Addressing student behavior with two safety campaigns to remind and reward students for understanding *Hands to Ourselves* and *No Speeding*
 - Kindness Week celebrating random acts of kindness
 - Substitute staff has assisted us as class room aides and supplemental supervision, as well as an additional para-professional
 - Admin Meet & Greet on Feb 21st presents a chance for parents to meet the Dean, Student Advisors, and Family Crisis Therapist to discuss behavior, challenges, bullying, the code of conduct, and how to work together
 - Kindergarten Graduation will be June 5th
 - The Green Team will be done by lottery due to overwhelming interest
- Intermediate School – Edward Cohen
 - Random Acts of Kindness will foster activities which will earn the students raffle tickets, while celebrating kindness
 - Spread the Word to End the Word partnership with DE Special Olympics has begun
 - Greek Language Day was celebrated with performances
 - Recess will be able to access the soccer field going forward to provide more space and more green space
 - Standardize testing results are back so that we can utilize them to help identify student needs
 - We are planning to address staffing needs as we will have some staff out for maternity leave this spring and fall
 - Implementing a better scheduling for common planning sessions for instructors to be able to work together



- Middle School – Adrienne Rodriguez
 - Random Acts of Kindness programs continue with dress downs, inclusion day, and kindness shout outs
 - Social Studies DeSSa Exam today ran smoothly
 - Winter Dance this Friday night for the middle school
 - Last week we met with incoming immersion 6th grade parents for a Q&A
- High School – Ashley Lipson
 - Black History Month at the Grail
 - College acceptances are rolling in, 90+ acceptances to 50 schools in 19 states, with merit aid surpassing \$1.6 million
 - School choice window remains open
 - New Courses for next year: AP Precalc, AP Chem, UofD ExtreX Lab, and additions CTE programs
 - OCSHS Teacher Sani Chalima's courses are being recognized for the 2022 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award
 - OCSHS Teacher Melissa Tracy is a finalist for the Superstars in Education Award
 - Field trips
 - a. Three students for the Hellenic History Tournament, Cherry Hill, NJ on Feb 18th
 - b. High School Art Class to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC
 - c. Senior Class Trip to Camelback Mountain, PA 3/31-4/1
 - d. HS Dorney Park trip on June 5th
 - e. HS Band, Music in the Parks Day at Six Flags, NJ on May 26th
 - f. HS Food Studies Pathway to Doylestown, PA on April 5th
 - g. HS Computer Pathways to Annapolis Junction on May 16th
 - h. HS BPA National in Anaheim, CA April 26-30
 - i. Greek Independence Day all grades in Philadelphia on April 2nd
 - **Motion** to approve all field trips as listed. EA 1st and HA 2nd
Approved unanimously
 - a. 5th Grade trip to Washington, DC on May 31st
 - **Motion** to approve additional field trips as listed. EJ 1st and PB 2nd
Approved unanimously



- Student Services – Dr Stephanie DeMayo
 - MLL, Multilingual Learners, Testing is going on now
 - OCS will be represented on the state MLL Steering Committee which will revise Delaware’s strategic plan for English Learners
 - MTSS mid-year benchmarking is complete and data discussion held K-5
 - MTSS Winter Cycle began Feb 6th as will change as new data is available
 - Special Ed compliance letters have been received
- Discussion regarding behavior referrals and FYIs
 - Intermediate school has been increasing effort to work with students and parents to address the increase.
 - Lower school has been utilizing additional helpers to monitor. Leadership is visiting classrooms and working with students and teachers. Stressing the importance of personal space at the classroom and student level.
 - Targeting behaviors of a small subset of students to address issues with strategies and minimize struggle to get behavior on target.
 - **Motion** to approve ½ day for students on March 3rd. EJ 1st and PB 2nd
Approved unanimously
- 4. **Motion** to Move to Executive Session - EA 1st and KP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously 6:50 PM
- Greek Program – Dr. Ioanna Lekakou
 - K-12 Celebrated Greek Language Day. Created 2 videos with the students explaining in Greek and English why they like Greek. We had a live interview with an author in Greece to discuss his book, his life, and being a writer.
 - Lower School integrated Black History Month with the Greek culture
 - Feb 21st Celebrating International Mother Tongue Day to celebrate all the languages our student speak at school and at home to include and honor everyone
 - We will expand middle school immersion into 6th grade, the first Q&A session was very productive.
 - This month our students worked with the Pierce College in Athens to discuss how Greek Language Day is celebrated here and in Greece
 - Greek Carnival Celebration and the Philadelphia Greek Independence Parade plans are in the works
 - The Harvard Hellenic studies exchange program details will be coming soon. This will be for a student and teacher to spend a week in Greece with this educational program this summer.



- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
 - Monthly finance report January
 - Preliminary budget revenues of \$41,376,294, with 97.9% collected
 - OCS PTO fundraising has funded the entry checkpoint station and taking over the campus vending machines
 - Financing options for future plans are being sought
 - 1,100 students have applied for Choice and 108 accepted in the first week
 - **Motion** to approve monthly web report. PB 1st and HA 2nd
Approved unanimously

5. Committee Reports

- Citizens Budget Oversight Committee – Evan Winokur
 - Met this evening
 - Reviewed P-Card transactions monthly finance report
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Eva Jannelli
 - Thanks for donations to the food pantry
- Greek Program
 - None
- Fundraising Committee – Jeff Koss, et al
 - Health and Wellness Fair April 29th planning continues with peer-to-peer fundraising
 - Golf Outing has 24 foursomes committed, with 6-7 sponsors
 - Delaware Do More 24 fundraising day is on our preview date, so we will have fliers to engage current and future families.
- Strategic Planning Committee – Elias Rigas
 - No update yet

6. Old Business

- None

7. New Business

- Bus purchase proposal – Jeff Koss, Evan Winokur
 - Details shared with board in advance, highlights provided
 - 16 route buses service 6-12, 7 at capacity, 4 approaching capacity
 - With slow growth of enrollment planned in the minor modification
 - Request last year for three 2024 72 passenger busses from manufacture
 - These buses are being held for our purchase, no used busses are available
 - \$388k was budgeted for financing, with actual amount being \$339k
 - Recommendation to move forward with Santander Bank at 5.75% financing the purchase, unless a lower rate can be found before closing.
 - Ridership is not at risk at this time, flexibility would become an option
 - Additional stops, or route changes could be made based on current ridership
 - Additional contract opportunities for non-OCS routes are possible offsets



- Some of our fleet busses are 6 years old, and require additional maintenance
 - Ridership challenges at the beginning of this year would be better managed
 - If we expand by 100 students next year, we will not accommodate riders
 - If we do not expand student population, we would still utilize these buses
 - **Motion** to Approve pursuing loans to purchase of three new buses as presented
ER 1st and GH 2nd
 - Approved by majority, one opposing vote (HA)
8. Good of the School
- None
9. **Motion** to Adjourn PB 1st and HA 2nd
- Approved unanimously
 - Meeting adjourned 8:25 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: February 5, 2022 at 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>

Meeting ID: 884 8980 3681 Password: 2020

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)