

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

Date: March 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), Valerie Caras (VC), Georgia Halakos (GH), Jessica Inskeep (JI), Elias Rigas (ER) Absent: Eva Jannelli (EJ), Kristin Tuner (KT)

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

1. Call to Order 6:03 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
  - Public Comments
    - None
  - Previous minutes for February
    - **Motion** to approve minutes for February 15th as presented. PB 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
      - Approved unanimously
  - Head of School Report – Elias Pappas
    - Parents Advisory Councils
      - School Preview Day was March 2<sup>nd</sup> and was a success with over a thousand family members in attendance. We will survey attendants and those who didn't attend to find out what more they would like to see at that type of event.
    - Key Factors for OCS Success discussion
      - OCS K-12 system is in place
      - The high school has been under-enrolled, by 220 students
      - Our debt service for campus ownership is just over \$3M
      - We were heading toward budget deficit of over \$1M
      - We were able to increase high school enrollment from 280 to 468 next fall
      - We increased grant awards and dollar amounts of the awards
      - We have purchased 12 more busses, so we can manage our students, and provide bussing service to other schools for a profit
      - Our school now has a marketable credit rating

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



- We worked through Covid to offer on-campus testing to enable students to return earlier, stay in school longer, and keep students safe
- Enrollment has grown to 2123 students
- Investors and donors are beginning to be engaged in our mission
- Honors academy for 8<sup>th</sup>, AP courses, CT pathways and expanded honors programs have provided more opportunities for advancement
- We will have an opportunity to refinance our bonds at a competitive rate
- We need to expand our field facilities to compete, recruit, and retain students. This project has a quick turnaround time, with lower cost than other projects. The Grail will provide gym space as well as income from sub-leasing.
- The field project will help us to sustain our long-term sustainability, our liquidity, and our role in our community as a leader and a beacon.
- If we choose not to act shortly, the opportunity may not be available in the future.
- The project will cost about \$3.6M, with the ability to host outside programs and generate a revenue stream. The hope is to use this revenue to offset debt service delta.
- Resurfacing all fields into three fields, one with a stadium and two other fields. These could be field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, or football.
- The rehab of building 27 would come later, the fields are “shovel ready”
- Formal finance term sheets have not been presented yet
- Business Professional of America – Ashley Lipson
  - The BPA team competed at the state competition
  - We were presented with the award winners in such challenges as podcast production (1<sup>st</sup>), payroll accounting (1<sup>st</sup>), web design (1<sup>st</sup>), graphic design (2<sup>nd</sup>), presentation management (2<sup>nd</sup>), personal finance (1<sup>st</sup>), word processing (1<sup>st</sup>), office systems (1<sup>st</sup>), and health administration (4<sup>th</sup>)
  - Our small business management team placed in the top three
  - Many individuals also won touch awards
  - Fifteen of our team will travel to Anaheim to compete in the national
- Lower School – Hrysoula Davis
  - The Blue Rocks Rocky Reading Challenge will give students a chance build on the literacy initiative in a fun way
  - Spread The Word to End The Word presentations were done in classroom this month
  - Rock Your Sock for downs syndrome awareness
  - Greek Heritage and Independence this month, so students are learning about the impact of Greeks in history, and we are getting ready for the parade



- Began an initiative to work on keeping our hands to ourselves, and not speeding in the hallways, to improve behavior and celebrate positive improvement
- Parent conferences are this weeks and an admin meet-n-greet on Monday
- Academic Fair will be May 11<sup>th</sup>
- End of the year gatherings are being planned for each grade
- Walk and Jog club, Green Team, and Soccer Shots are starting again
- Working to minimize referrals through intervention, since January we have had 110 referrals, with 65 from 5 students
- Working to support students to extinguish behaviors, following successes from the fall
- Intermediate School – Edward Cohen
  - Grades 3-5 are doing practice tests so students are acclimated to the framework of the smarter balance tests
  - March 1<sup>st</sup> with our partnership with Special Olympics we were able to have our annual Spread The Word to End The Word presentation in the gym live
  - We are promoting clean streets project and pledging
  - Scheduled teachers by grade level in the same PLC for the first time, so an entire grade level is able to collaborate and build a common plan
  - Feb Referrals 72 of 565 students, with 23 from four students. Thirty-three has a single referral, and we continue to work with the guardians, students, and instructors to monitor and address student's needs.
- Middle School – Adrienne Rodriguez
  - Science Olympiad was March 11<sup>th</sup> our team competed for the first time in 18 events and medaled in 6 and came in 15<sup>th</sup> in the state
- High School – Ashley Lipson
  - All core courses have been select for next year
  - New course include AP PreCalculus, AP Chemistry, a dual enrollment course with the U of D, and 2 CTE courses, and adding work base learning
  - College acceptances continue to roll in, 100+ acceptances to 50 schools in 19 states
  - Merit based aid is in excess of \$1.8M
  - Three students competed in the AHEPA History challenge and made it to the semi-finals
  - Sixty percent of our students have earned at least one college credit bearing course
  - Discussions about dual enrollment courses, honor courses, AP courses and how they are recognized and utilized
  - How dual enrollment courses may be accepted, while AP course are credited



- Discipline Discussion
  - We are working to help students deal with “big emotions”
  - We are working on “high flyers” to help them settle in post Covid
  - Next year kindergarteners will not be assigned homerooms until a couple weeks after school begins so we can balance classes to avoid moving students later
  - We are working to find success for our students
  - We will work on this program through the summer as well
- Field trips
  - a. HS AP African Studies to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washing DC, and Longwood Gardens, Longwood, PA in May
  - b. Two members of the CIA Team to a literacy leadership event in Baltimore, MD, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - c. Eight Grade trip to Hershey Park, Hershey, PA, on May 30<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Busses for Greek Parade, April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Motion** to approve all field trips as listed. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and PB 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved unanimously
- Greek Program – Dr. Ioanna Lekkakou
  - Immersion homeroom teachers have attended their 3<sup>rd</sup> DOE training, this year’s focus was on inclusion in immersion classrooms
  - Preview Day gave the Greek department a chance to answer questions about the program earlier than ever, and engagement was an opportunity to answer questions now, that normally come up in September
  - Collaboration with the Pierce College and our middle school and the American Farm School and our intermediate school continues with our students reading essays by Greek students written in English, while they review essays by our students written in Greek.
  - Working with DOE and our resources to prepare our student and our curriculum ready for middle school
  - Surveying 5<sup>th</sup> grade immersion parents to learn their goals, concerns, and needs as they head to 6<sup>th</sup> and further
  - Greek Independence Day parade on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Philadelphia. Information is being spread. We are hoping to have a large group leaving the school at noon in busses to the parade route.



- We are being visited by a school from South Carolina to share our program with their new program next week
- High school summer program from Harvard in Greece, June 29 - July 14<sup>th</sup>, the information has been sent out, the deadline is the end of March. Please apply, we will send one student and one staff member. The program is free.
- The Greek Ambassador to the US will visit Odyssey school on March 30<sup>th</sup>
- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
  - Monthly finance report February
    - Preliminary budget revenues of \$41,376,294, with 98.7% collected
    - Annual appeal, health fair, and golf fundraisers are underway
    - **Motion** to approve monthly web report. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and PB 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved unanimously
    - High-level discussion regarding debt restructuring prior to our February 2025 call date.
    - Equitable Finance Fund, backed by The Walton Foundation, would allow us to refinance existing debt with their rating. This is due to our excellent finance record, school size, and our free & reduced lunch community needs.
    - This opportunity would allow us to refinance our current debt, add investment for the fields project, and not change our monthly debt service amounts
    - We have reached out to local banks regarding alternatively funding the fields project separately
    - Next step would be formal application with EFF
    - Final Budget proposal
      - a. Enrollment 2123 students, although count was slightly lower, revenues per unit counts were slightly higher
      - b. Transportation revenue continue to increase
      - c. Food service impacted by the loss of Covid funds and inflation
      - d. Substitutes increased, with redundancy added to lower school
      - e. Facilities savings in snow removal offset with renovations
      - f. Aftercare increase are above expectations
      - g. After budget cash on hand will be \$215k higher
    - **Motion** to approve final budget proposal as presented. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and PB 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved unanimously



4. Committee Reports

- Citizens Budget Oversight Committee
  - Meeting next month
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - No update
- Greek Program
  - Nothing to add
- Fundraising Committee
  - Health and Wellness Fair and Golf Outing are coming
  - Need volunteers and forward motion
- Accountability
  - No update
- Safety and Security
  - Removing the revolving doors from Building 23
  - Working with architects and structural engineers for HS elevator
- Strategic Planning Committee
  - No update
- PTO
  - No update

5. Old Business

- None

6. New Business

- School calendar for school year 2023-24
- Motion to approve calendar as presented. KP 1<sup>st</sup>, PB 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Approved unanimously

7. Good of the School

- None

8. **Motion** to Move to Executive Session - PB 1<sup>st</sup> and KP 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Approved unanimously 7:52 PM

9. **Motion** to Adjourn KP 1<sup>st</sup> and PB 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Approved unanimously
- Meeting adjourned 8:02 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: March 5, 2022 at

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: March 15, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

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