

Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: March 20, 2024

Location: Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference

Start Time: Public Meeting at 6:02 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), Bridget Davis (BD), Georgia Halakos (GH), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Georgia Kollias (GK), Joel Porter (JP), Kristen Turner (KT) Absent: Valerie Caras (VC)

Agenda¹

1. Call to Order 6:02 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
 - Public Comments
 - Letter from Emily Barratt-Grassi regarding what constitutes bullying, how it is addressed, and what actions are taken when it is reported
 - Previous minutes for February
 - **Motion** to approve the minutes for the February 9th special meeting. KP 1st and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Head of School Update – Elias Pappas
 - Teachers of the Year – thank you for your commitment
 - Lower school – Theodora McManu
 - Intermediate school – Zaferirios Ntouvis
 - Middle school – Gregory Altmeier
 - High school – Kelly Gemmill
 - Proposed changes for next school – Elias Pappas
 - Uniform Policy
 - Create more consistency regarding our uniforms in a post-Covid era
 - K-5 – Shirts embroidered with school logo are to be navy, light blue, or white. Pants, shorts, skirts, and skorts are to be khaki, navy, or clear blue plaid. Jumpers with white blouse.
 - 6-12 – Shirts embroidered with school logo are to be navy, light blue, grey, or white. Pants, shorts, skirts, and skorts are to be khaki, navy, or clear blue plaid.

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



- PE – Plain, solid navy mesh shorts or sweatpants are the only bottoms students are permitted to wear, including spirit wear.
- Shoes – Shoes must be closed toed, hard soled, and have a back. Sneakers, boots, and dress shoes are acceptable. Uggs, slippers, and crocs are not permitted.
- Socks – Solid color only, no patterns or designs.
- Blazer – To give our school and students a professional and more successful look for special events or visitors, we are proposing the addition of a navy blazer for scheduled professional days. Standard blazer from any retailer like Target, H&M, Gap, Old Navy, Walmart, etc. A sew-on patch to be affixed if not ordered through the school vendors. Loaners will be available and we will fundraise and utilize the Owl Fund to assist families with financial needs.
- Motion held until next meeting so the community can provide feedback
- Cell phone policy
 - Cell phones present an indisputable impediment to learning, and we have the research backs this up. Social media, messaging, and filming are major contributing factors to behavioral infractions, attention spans, and mental health.
 - Removing all cell phones and connected watches at Odyssey during the school day will enable us to maximize instructional time, allow students to become critical thinkers, and successful social interactions
 - Cell phones must be powered off and in students backpack or locker, not in clothing pockets from boarding the bus or arriving by carline
 - Emergency calls or contacts would be make through the front office
 - Devices can be powered on once the student returns to their guardian.
 - Motion held until next meeting so the community can provide feedback
- Family Filotimo to OCS
 - We are proposing a 10 hour per family volunteer contribution per year.
 - This commitment will help build our community and provide up to 20,000 hours of community service toward our school.
 - Opportunities include in classroom support, field trip volunteers, graduations assistance, sporting event help, fundraisers, cultural assemblies, and so much more
 - Acknowledgement to the agreement as part of the code of conduct
 - We are mutual partners with our families so there will be no penalty for non-compliance, but we will all benefit from the effort
 - Motion held until next meeting so the community can provide feedback



- Calendar for 2024-25 school year
 - Our calendars always meets the DOE instructional minutes requirement
 - Parents, teachers, and admin are all part of the committee and all feedback that has been received throughout the years
 - Our calendar is inclusive of our multicultural community, and takes into account the ebbs and flows of our instructional community through the year
 - Professional development has been increased for the beginning of the year rather than the end of the year
 - The school year will begin after Labor Day with K, 3, 6, 9, and 12 will start on Sept 3, and the remaining grades on the 4th
 - Asynchronous days' assignments will be open 48 hours in advance to allow for flexibility, communication, and support when needed
 - Working on a process to offer pay-for childcare through our aftercare program to support families and staff
 - **Motion** to approve the calendar as presented. GK 1st and EA 2nd
 - a. Approved unanimously
- High school – Ashely Lipson
 - Junior Arnav Taduvayi has been named a Parsons Scholar for his work with his non-profit to bridge the gender gap in STEM, and his TED Talk on AI
- Out of state travel
 - Prom in Mendenhall Inn, in PA on May 2nd
 - Twenty three BPA qualifiers to Nationals Chicago May 10-14
 - Annual Dorney Park trip on June 6th
 - CTE trip to the Herra Chip Factory, PA May 1st
 - Senior Class trip to Kalahari in PA May 12-14
 - BioMed Field trip to the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia April 25th
 - Melissa Tracy to Las Vegas on April 19th as a speaker for Green our Planet
 - **Motion** to approve the calendar as presented. JP 1st and KP 2nd
 - a. Approved unanimously



- Suicide Prevention Policy – Elias Pappas
 - Compliant policy reviewed and will be posted
 - **Motion** to approve the Suicide Prevention Policy and post accordingly. KP 1st and EA 2nd
 - a. Approved unanimously
- Greek Program – Ioanna Lekkakou
 - Greek Independence Day on Monday in Wilmington Freedom Plaza 11:30
 - Lower school parade Tuesday morning
 - Philadelphia Greek Independence Parade will be April 7th, look for information and transportation sign-up
 - Travelling to Greece new Wednesday to meet with the Greek government to build support for the Hellenic education in the states
- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
 - Monthly finance report February
 - Revenues are \$46.6 million with 101.6% collected
 - Zions income for the refi came through
 - Melissa Tracy received a grant for \$16k from I Can Do Great Things
 - Planning for next year has begun, with 349 new students accepted already
 - Golf Tournament will be June 17th Innisclone Golf Course
 - SCG is 60 days from construction of our fields project
 - Building #27 contractor DCI has completed walkthrough
 - HS front entrance project has been completed, with elevator in May
 - Fibre project for the fields project is ready for review
 - **Motion** to approve December monthly web report. KP 1st and GK 2nd
Approved unanimously
 - Fibre Project – Dino Charalambides
 - The fields area has never been a site of good wireless, camera, or security coverage
 - We have been approved for a Federal infrastructure grant covering ½ of the \$150k project with Tri-M as the approved vendor
 - New 10Gb fibre runs connecting all of our buildings as well as running connectivity to the fields light poles
 - This project will include all the network infrastructure required
 - **Motion** to approve December monthly web report. KP 1st and JP 2nd
Approved unanimously



- PTO – Kaija Miller
 - OCS Skating Party April 14th
 - Spring Book Fair April 22-30th
 - Reading Under the Stars details will follow
 - Treats with Special Persons K-2 May 7th and 3-5 May 8th 9-12
 - Guys & Girls in Ties & Pearls May 11th K-2 from 5-7 and 3-5 from 7-9:30
 - Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-10
 - PTO Meeting will be tentatively May 21st covering finance
- 4. Committee Reports
 - Citizens Budget Oversight Committee
 - Meeting to review financial transactions without findings
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - No meeting
 - Greek Program
 - Update provided above
 - Fundraising Committee
 - No update
 - Accountability
 - No update
 - Safety and Security
 - No meeting
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - No update
 - PTO
 - See above
- 5. Old Business
 - none
- 6. New Business
 - None



7. Good of the School
 - The step up day was a wonderful success
8. **Motion** to adjourn to executive session at 7:40 KP 1st and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
9. Return from executive session at 7:52 PM

10. **Motion** to Adjourn JP 1st and GK 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Meeting adjourned 7:53 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 14, 2024

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: March 20, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

Meeting ID: 884 8980 3681 Password: 136806

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