

Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: May 15, 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), Georgia Halakos (GH), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Georgia Kollias (GK), Joel Porter (JP), Kristen Turner (KT) Absent: Valerie Caras (VC), Bridget Davis (BD),

Agenda¹

1. Call to Order 6:03 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
 - Public Comments
 - Letter from parent Heather Cloud regarding the cancellation of the 5th grad field trip to Washington DC, and why the 5th grade did not wear cap and gown for graduations. The letter has been forwarded to the middle school to respond
 - Pam White, a parent of an OCS senior, hosted a German student, Katerina, this year. The foreign exchange program is through AFS Intercultural Program. The Department of State has recognized OCS as a Medallion School for being a successful part of this program.
 - Previous minutes for March
 - **Motion** to approve the minutes for the April 17th meeting as presented. KP 1st and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Middle School – Adrienne Rodrigues
 - BPA National Competition in Chicago was a huge accomplishment.
 - National History Day is a yearlong history project, with seven students invited to the national competition. One of our students also won an award from the History Department of the University of Delaware at the state competition
 - Head of School Update – Elias Pappas
 - OCS Family BBQ has over 1,000 positive RSVPs
 - Standardize testing, SBAC, have completed, and thanks to parents, staff, and students for their hard work, which initial reports are showing good news.
 - Graduation schedules are out for all ceremonies. High School on June 1st, 8th on June 8th, 5th Grade on June 4th, and Kindergarten on June 3rd

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



- High School – Ashley Lipson
 - Senior Class President, Mia Carini, placed 4RU in the Miss Teen Delaware
 - HS National History Day Team won 1st place at the state competition, this was their first year competing. They will compete at nationals in June.
 - Our BPA team has a great showing at nationals, with one of our OCS students placing 5th in the nation
 - Congratulations to the new OCS Honor Academy students for next year
- Head of School Update – Elias Pappas
 - **Motion** to approve the dress code, family volunteer hours, and cell phone policy as presented, to be added to the code of conduct. KP 1st and JP 2nd
 - This will all be highlighted in the new code of conduct well before the school year
 - Approved unanimously
- Out of state travel
 - National History Day competition in Maryland, June 9-14th
 - BPA Reward Day to Mt Laurel, NJ Fun Plex on May 22nd
 - **Motion** to approve travel as mentioned KP 1st and EA 2nd
 - a. Approved unanimously
- Greek Program – Ioanna Lekkakou
 - The Ellinomatheia Exams have begun, and we are an official testing center with more than 110 candidates from the area testing.
 - We were invited by The Biden School to the Media Democracy Summit, with scholars from the US and Greece on May 30th. We will send a group of students to represent the school.
 - There is a convention in Boston, and Dr Lekkakou will present on the roll of Greek American schools in the US and OCS will be the case study
- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
 - Monthly finance report March
 - Revenues are \$48 million with 104.6% collected
 - Final Zion proceeds have come in to offset income
 - Transportation income produced an additional \$82k
 - Golf Outing is sold out, with some room for sponsorship
 - Summer Camp advertising in underway
 - Building 27 design walkthrough is completed, and plans being finalized
 - HS entrance is complete, and the elevator is going in
 - **Motion** to approve April monthly web report. KP 1st and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously



- Final FY24 Budge
 - Enrollment final was 2,192 students
 - State operations increased \$750k
 - Transportation income was adjusted down due to staff outages and focus on OCS students, rather than outside contracted runs
 - Capital campaign shows the Yaz prize and camp budget has been lowered based on initial expectations
 - Temp employment services increased for substitutes and supplement staff
 - Legal, medical, and capital expenses have all increased
 - Building maintenance increased, including the power outage
 - The budget is a net difference of .36%
 - **Motion** to approve the final budget as presented. JP 1st and GK 2nd
 - a. Approved unanimously
- Turf Field change order IV
 - The storm water retention volume needs to be increased due to the real survey of the field space to meet the county requirements
 - All bids received from all vendors included a caveat about actual site survey
 - Our field has a 6 foot difference from one end to the other, the lower end will need a water retaining space below the turf, at a cost of \$750k
 - Newark Charter, who completed a similar project, was met with the same challenge and a roughly equal cost
 - The costs will be covered with funding from our refinance for capital maintenance which we will defer and process in the future
 - The increase in non-permeable space will require the retention of 500,000 gallons for 48 hours to ensure water quality standards
 - **Motion** to authorize the finance team to negotiate and restructure the financing to use the maintenance funds to cover water retention needs of the fields project KP 1ST and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously



- Discussion about the use of the space in the intermediate school as play space for the intermediate students
- The landscape, trees, mounds, and farm inhibit a clear play space
- The fields project construction team would be able to relocate the playground equipment
- Landscape buffer between the play space and the classroom windows
- The urban farm will be located in a larger area with better drainage, and closer to the program center
- **Motion** to relocate the urban farm to the rear of the high school and develop the intermediate school space KP 1st and JP 2nd

Approved unanimously

4. Committee Reports

- Citizens Budget Oversight Committee
 - Met and discussed April expenses without findings
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Investigating having students take over the food pantry
- Greek Program
 - Update provided above
- Fundraising Committee
 - Planning has begun for the Fall Gala in September, meeting June 6th at 10AM
- Accountability
 - No update
- Safety and Security
 - No meeting
- Strategic Planning Committee
 - No update
- PTO
 - Working on providing a new digital sign for the front of our school
 - They consistently fund our programs, and staff appreciation programs

5. Old Business

- none

6. New Business

- None



7. Good of the School

- IDEA Awards hosted by The Charter School Network – we swept the awards
 - K-12 Innovator of the Year – OCS
 - Organization and Governance Impact II – Jeff Koss
 - Impact Leader of the Year – Elias Pappas

8. **Motion** to move to Executive Session KP 1st and JP 2nd

- Approved unanimously
- Motion to approve the decision as discussed in Executive Session KP 1st and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- Motion to authorize Jeff Koss to negotiate the real estate agreement as discussed in Executive Session KP 1st and GK 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- Motion to authorize Jeff Koss to negotiate the other real estate agreement as discussed in Executive Session KP 1st and EA 2nd
 - Approved unanimously

9. **Motion** to Adjourn KP 1st and JP 2nd

- Approved unanimously
- Meeting adjourned 8:20 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: May 6, 2024

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: May 15, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

Meeting ID: 884 8980 3681 Password: 130806

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