



Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: January 15, 2025

Location: Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference

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

Attendance: **Present** President Erin Allard (EA), Vice President Ken Przywara (KP), Bridget Davis (BD), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Georgia Kollias (GK), Kristen Turner (KT), Valerie Caras (VC)
 Absent Treasurer Helen Anderson (HA), Secretary Joel Porter (JP), Costas Fountzoulas (CF), Georgia Halakos (GH)

Agenda¹

- Call to Order - 6:04 PM (EA)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comment
 - Dr. Marina Matthaoudaki – expressing enthusiasm for the accomplishments of OCS – Charter Renewal, YASS prize, and Longwood Foundation grant.
- Standard Order of Business
 - Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Head of School Report
 - Goal 1 Project Updates and approvals
 - Turf field finished fencing, paving, and ancillary equipment
 - Elevator in building 23 awaiting fire marshal clearance
 - Building 27 clean and prepped for construction
 - Goal 2: Intervention and WIN Time Groups, Goal setting in classes, Leadership Walkthroughs, Leader Development
 - Prepping for testing season starting next month
 - Leadership seminars beginning this month – geared for aspiring leaders
 - Goal 3: Planning for SY25-26 enrollment: Open House, Recruiting, Step Up Days, Data Analysis from 2024 trends, Adjustments
 - Save-the-date
 - Upcoming Gala on Feb 1
 - 7th Grade targeted recruitment in February – interest based
 - 2/27 - Preview night
 - 3/13 - Chill and Cheer Fest – unveiling Athletic Fields
 - 4/09 - Grand opening of Athletic Fields to press, external OCS family and friends of Odyssey

- Enrollment
 - Increase of 8% YOY
 - Kindergarten – 48% increase
 - 6th Grade – 36% increase
 - 9th Grade – 30% increase
- Goal 4: End of Quarter Celebrations: Three Pillars, Filotimo
 - Grading period, and first semester report cards going out next week
- Building-level updates
 - Lower school
 - Currently in benchmark testing period
 - Winter Tennis & Drama currently operational
 - LS Science Club starts next week
 - Intermediate School
 - Welcome Back Assemblies to reacclimate students from holiday
 - PAWS for People coming to IS for 1 hour per week – students may cash out FILO tickets to participate
 - Middle School
 - Hired two new counselors
 - Grades released on Jan 27
 - High School
 - Hired new staff to backfill for those that have transitioned, including math, art, Greek, school counselor, workforce development, science, culture, and office staff.
 - Students already receiving college acceptances!
 - CIA
 - Professional Development
 - 3rd-8th grade teacher professional development from Oct-Dec
 - Instruction
 - Senior leadership completed all monthly walkthroughs
 - DTGSS observations are complete
 - CIA team conducting quarterly learning walks w/ principal and assistant principal visiting & observing classrooms
 - Assessment
 - Working with the New Teacher Center to help teachers make data-informed instruction adjustments to better support students for the Smarter Balanced Assessment this spring.
 - Transportation
 - Continuing to hire drivers
 - Working with DHS and TSA to assess security of all areas of transportation department.
 - Securing quotes for new buses
 - Student Services
 - Working to support creation of IEPs that exceed best practices in development and implementation.
 - MTSS
 - Focusing on bolstering Tier 1 intervention practices
 - IT

- Building out “OCS University” - icon in Classlink – library of procedures, conduct, best practices videos.
- Food Service
 - Initiated test run classroom party initiative to ensure birthday parties in LS are DOE-compliant. FS catering can offer parents a package that includes classroom snacks that are DOE compliant
- Board approvals for Out of State Travel
 - 1/17 - Elias Pappas to Washington DC for Open House Inaugural Summit
 - 2/14-17 – Meredith Hooper to Salt Lake City, UT, for American Exchange Project
 - 2/28-3/1 - 6th-12th grade social studies to Lancaster, PA, for Middle States Council
 - Motion to approve OOS Travel – KP 1st and BD 2nd
 - Motion carried unanimously
- Greek Program Report
 - New Greek language teacher Miss Fani Pentarvani
- Monthly Financial Review
 - December WEB Report
 - Includes both November and December numbers as we did not meet in November.
 - Motion to Approve December WEB Report: KP 1st and EJ 2nd
 - Motion carried unanimously
- Board address concerns regarding school survey
 - Context – an initiative several years in the making
 - Goal from the Board was to gather anonymous and unfiltered “gut check” insights from the staff, teachers, and employees, without fear of possible blowback.
 - KP and EA gave apologies that the survey was created by a Board sub-committee and was sent out without a full Board review.
 - Concerns from survey recipients raised due to the length of the survey, some questions that appeared to indirectly identify the recipient, some questions that appeared to lead the participant toward a desired response, and some verbiage that was either confusing or easily misinterpreted as offensive.
 - Motion to retract, revise, and resend the survey: EJ 1st and BD 2nd
 - Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 2
 - BD offered to head-up the revision effort.
 - EA to write retraction letter
- Motion to enter Executive Session: BD 1st and EJ 2nd
 - Motion carried unanimously
 - Executive Session began at 8:00pm
- Motion to Adjourn not captured by recording.

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 08, 2025]

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting – Special Public Session

Time: January 15, 2025 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)