

OCS Public Board Meeting Minutes

Date	March 18th, 2026
Location	Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference
Start Time:	Public Meeting at 6:00pm Eastern Standard Time (live and via zoom)
Attendance:	Present: President Ken Przywara (KP), Treasurer Costas Fountzoulas (CF), Joel Porter (JP), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Dimitri Dandolos (DD), Monica Loughman (ML), Kristen Turner (KT), Valerie Caras (VC) Absent: Vice President Georgia Kollias (GK), Secretary Bridget Davis (BD), Dimitri Karakasidis (DK)

Agenda

- Call to order
 - Time: 06:02pm
 - Initials: KP
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Standard Order of Business
 - Public Comments: none
 - Previous Meeting Minutes Approval: February Minutes
 - JP 1st and CF 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- Head of School Report
 - School-wide Goal #1: **Project updates, building 27 second floor**
 - School-wide Goal #2: **Filotimo in Action: Staff Appreciation and The Gift of Time**
 - School-wide Goal #3: **Recruitment 2026, step up days**
 - School-wide Goal #4: **Culture Plans and Academic Goals**
- Building-level Updates
 - K-5 updates
 - Schools are focused on improving student achievement through targeted instruction and progress monitoring, while preparing for conferences and end-of-year testing (including incoming Kindergarten). Students in grades 3–5 are working toward SBAC goals.
 - Behavior efforts center on consistent expectations, prevention, and increased supports, with new incentives and interventions being implemented. Planning for next year is already underway.
 - Key events include conferences (3/19), PD day (3/20), spring break (4/3–4/13), and various field trips across grade levels.
 - Middle School



- Students completed winter diagnostics and assessments to guide instruction ahead of state testing, with strong academic achievement noted. A new math program is being piloted.
- Behavior updates include probation notices for students with concerns in grades, attendance, or conduct.
- Recent events include an awards assembly, Valentine’s dance, a field trip for Black History Month, and upcoming spring sports tryouts.
- High School
 - Staff were recognized for excellence, and students are preparing for upcoming PSAT/SAT testing. Course scheduling information will be available soon.
 - Students are engaging positively in PBIS events, with another incentive trip planned.
 - Highlights include the girls varsity basketball team making playoffs, an upcoming blood drive, and the next awards ceremony in April.
- Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction
 - Staff are actively engaged in professional learning across all grade levels. At the schoolwide level, teachers participated in CharterCon, with OCS staff presenting. K–5 reading interventionists completed LETRS training to strengthen literacy instruction, and teachers are engaging in ELA and science program training to support high-quality classroom implementation.
 - At the secondary level (6–12), teams are planning for next year’s professional learning with a focus on disciplinary literacy and improving reading fluency across content areas.
 - Curriculum work is ongoing across the school. K–5 teams are reviewing new math curriculum options, while grades 6–12 are piloting math programs and using student data, surveys, and assessments to guide decisions. The high school is also piloting diagnostic tools and personalized learning programs to address gaps and support student growth.
- Operations
 - Culture and Climate
 - Schools are reinforcing core values by rolling out daily affirmations, increasing visual reminders throughout buildings, and consistently integrating “Odyssey Way” language across classrooms and schoolwide practices.
 - Transportation Report
 - The department is working to recruit and train additional drivers to build redundancy.
 - February On Time Percentage: HS/MS: 99.7% (840 routes), IS/LS: 100% (756 routes)
 - IT Report
 - In IT, work is ongoing on the Immersion School second floor wiring, huddle cameras installation, and new intercom systems across multiple buildings. The team discussed cost savings from in-house construction work, estimating over \$2 million in savings compared to a design-build approach.
 - Technology enhancements include deploying VR headsets in middle school classrooms and planning Chromebook replacements for next year. The team is also working on a new time-tracking system for staff in collaboration with HR and the business office.
 - Facilities



- The facilities team completed road repairs and are working on creating two high school biology classrooms, with 80% of the work being done in-house and expected completion by the end of May.
- Food Services
 - Food service announced plans for a teacher conference dinner and a Break Your Fast meal collaboration with high school BPA fundraising, set for April 14th.
- Safety & Security
 - New classroom door-locking devices have been finalized to improve safety during lockdowns and will be installed campus-wide by the 2026–2027 school year, funded through a safety grant.
- Human Resources
 - Recruitment efforts are underway for FY27, with open positions posted and the first hire secured. Leadership hiring is in progress with applications under review.
 - HR reported success from their recruiting fair with 50 attendees and 6 highly qualified candidates, including the first offer extended to a new ELE teacher.
 - Talent development initiatives are advancing, including a “Grow Your Own” teacher program and leadership pipeline training. Additional recruiting efforts include upcoming candidate interviews and partnership events.
- Fundraising and Development Report
 - Recent and upcoming events include a successful K–12 Preview Night and employment fair kicking off hiring season. The school will host Greek Independence Day celebrations, including a flag ceremony with officials, a visit from the Greek ambassador, and participation in the Philadelphia Greek Parade. Additional major events include the OCS Gala in April and the annual golf outing in June.
 - Marketing efforts are also underway, including a website redesign launching in 2026, updated campus signage over spring break, and ongoing Gala sponsorship outreach.
- Greek Report
 - Dr. Lekakou presented updates on the Greek program, including informational events for 5th and 8th graders about studying opportunities in Greece, the opening of the immersion program to non-immersion OHA students in 9th grade, and positive results from the AVANT language proficiency test. March events were discussed for Greek Heritage Month, including student performances, parades, and a dress-down day. The program's collaboration with Pierce, the American College of Greece, was highlighted, including an upcoming visit from 10 Greek students and plans for a student trip to Greece. Dr. also reported on successful recruiting events with Greek universities and the Ministry of Education, which generated interest and potential opportunities for the school.
- Financial Update
 - Revenues
 - Final Budgeted Revenues: \$61,170,392
 - Revenues to date: \$61,899,746, which represents 101.19% of the total budgeted revenues for the year.
 - Expenditures
 - Final Budgeted Expenditures: \$52,695,206 (including contingency)

- Expenses to date: \$37,249,570 and encumbrances of \$527,713 which represents 71.69% of the budget
- **Motion** to approve the web report as presented 1st (DD) 2nd (CF)
 - Approved unanimously
- Board Approvals
 - Out of State Travel:
 - Juliana, Ioanna, and Elias: April 29th - May 2nd to Boston, MA Harvard Institute
 - BPA Nationals - Middle and High Schools, total of 55 students and chaperones! May 5th-11th, Nashville, TN
 - Ioanna, Elias: UN in NYC - Celebration of Greece on March 25th
 - Ioanna, Elias: Greece on April 17-24
 - HS Sociology - Meredith Hooper - to the Eastern State Penitentiary in PA, April 23rd
 - HS End of Year Trip - June 1st - Dorney Park in Allentown, PA
 - MS and HS Volleyball teams will participate in team bonding experience on March 28, attending a volleyball match at Princeton University
 - **Motion** to approve OOS Travel as presented 1st (ML) 2nd (CF)
 - 26-27 School Calendar
 - **Motion** to approve the calendar as presented 1st (EJ) 2nd (ML)
 - Approved Unanimously
- Committee Reports
 - CBOC: met this week, small debrief from Evan Winokur shared
 - Finance Committee: did not meet, scheduled out meetings through July
 - Governance Committee:
 - Bldg. 27 Renovation Committee: Second-floor construction in Building 27 began three weeks ago and is progressing well, with framing, electrical work, and HVAC demolition currently underway. School disruption is being minimized through established protocols for contractor access, parking, and logistics. The project remains on schedule for completion in early June. The Building 27 Committee will begin meeting next week to plan outdoor classroom features, including playground and fencing placement, seating, and color schemes.
- New Business/Good of the School
 - none
- **Motion** to adjourn- (JP) 1st and (CF) 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Meeting adjourned at 07:42 pm