

OCS Public Board Meeting Minutes

Date April 15th, 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), Vice President Georgia Kollias (GK), Secretary Bridget Davis (BD), Treasurer Costas Fountzoulas (CF), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Dimitri Dandolos (DD), Monica Loughman (ML), Kristen Turner (KT)

Absent: Joel Porter (JP), Valerie Caras (VC)

Agenda

- Call to order
 - Time: 06:01pm
 - Initials: KP
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Standard Order of Business
 - Public Comments: none
 - Previous Meeting Minutes Approval: March Minutes
 - EJ corrections shared verbally during meeting, GK shared edits via email- both corrections made
 - **Motion** to approve previous minutes as presented- (ML) 1st and (EJ) 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
 - Academics & Planning:
 - Round 2 of DTGSS and mid-year teacher reflections are complete, supporting goal-setting and instructional adjustments.
 - Grades 3–5 are actively preparing for SBAC testing.
 - Planning for the 2026–2027 school year is underway, including scheduling, hiring, and enrollment outreach to prospective families.
 - Behavior & Climate:
 - Continued focus on consistent behavior expectations across schools through a strong PBIS system and Tier 1 supports
 - Admin teams are using behavior data to guide staffing, systems, and interventions.
 - Lower School Highlights:
 - Strong focus on 3rd grade SBAC prep with aligned instruction and after-school support.
 - Ongoing planning for end-of-year events and positive climate initiatives (e.g., PBIS celebrations).
 - Development of next year’s schedule to increase ELA time and integrate hands-on, interdisciplinary learning.



- Continued hiring, enrollment efforts, and strengthening home-school partnerships.
- Immersion School Highlights:
 - Ongoing DTGSS observations and planning for PBIS end-of-year celebrations.
 - Focus on building a flexible schedule with increased intervention time and collaboration across content areas.
 - Continued hiring, enrollment outreach, and strengthening academic rigor and family partnerships.
- Intermediate School Highlights:
 - SBAC preparation is in progress with added resources (e.g., LUMOS).
 - Successful annual talent show held before spring break.
- Events:
 - Multiple upcoming field trips, PBIS events, award ceremonies, academic showcases, and community events scheduled through May.
- Middle School
 - Academics:
 - SBAC test prep is underway across subjects, with Social Studies and Science supporting ELA and Math through daily practice.
 - 3rd quarter report cards will be distributed by the end of the week.
 - Students earned notable achievements, including two 7th graders placing at the Delaware Valley Regional Science Fair and strong performance from the Science Olympiad team at the county level.
 - Behavior:
 - Progress updates are being shared with families of students previously on probation.
 - Positive trends reported: 54% improved behavior, 66% improved GPA, and 75% improved attendance.
 - Events & Celebrations:
 - Staff defeated students in a schoolwide flag football game before break.
 - Upcoming Students of the Quarter Assembly (4/23).
 - Cultural exchange underway with visiting students from Greece, including shared activities and a field trip to Philadelphia.
 - A group of students will travel to Greece next week for an immersive experience.
- High School
 - Academics:
 - Students completed PSAT/SAT testing; scores expected this summer.
 - 3rd marking period report cards were distributed, and students reviewed the HS Course Catalog with upcoming family events to support course planning.
 - Schedule adjusted for Biology and 11th Grade History testing on April 28, with asynchronous learning for non-testing students.
 - Behavior & Climate:
 - Upcoming PBIS event planned for late April.
 - End-of-year PBIS trip scheduled to Dorney Park on June 1.
 - Events & Celebrations:
 - Work-Based Learning program partnering with New Castle County Youth Employment to offer paid summer positions on the urban farm.
 - 3rd Marking Period TRIDENT Awards scheduled for April 17.
- Special Education
 - Ongoing partnership with the University of Delaware on standards-aligned IEP implementation.
 - April focus includes PLC work on SEL standards, counseling goals, and progress monitoring.
 - Continued training for staff on SDI implementation, documentation, and consistency across services.
 - Emphasis on aligning related services and counseling with IEP goals and DE standards, along with improved collaboration among case managers and providers.
- Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction



- Professional Development: Charter Con and on-campus sessions focused on multilingual learners, math instruction, CKLA curriculum, school culture (Panaptic), and special education strategies for standards-based IEPs and progress monitoring.
- Curriculum: Multiple pilot programs underway, including Amplify Desmos (math) and BSCS Biology. Continued expansion of career-connected learning, including OSHA 10 certification opportunities for students.
- Instruction: Targeted support in Math and ELA to improve standardized test performance. Increased use of SBAC-aligned resources (Lumos, IABs, Khan Academy, College Board tools). Strong emphasis on embedding rigorous, standards-aligned tasks into daily instruction. Ongoing planning to expand credentialing opportunities for middle and high school students.
- Assessment: DeSSA testing (grades 3–11) and AP exams scheduled for April–May. High school piloting Edmentum diagnostics and Exact Path for personalized learning.
- Multilingual Learners (ML): ACCESS testing completed. ML team resumed push-in and pull-out support to meet student learning needs.
- Operations
 - Culture and Climate
 - Core Values & Culture: Strengthening the “Odyssey Way” across K–12 through consistent language, modeling, and daily practice. Launching a 12-week affirmation initiative and increasing visibility with posters, banners, and schoolwide integration.
 - Climate, Culture & Engagement Survey: Developing and administering surveys for students, staff, and families focused on belonging, engagement, staff support, and family connection. Data will guide interventions, identify trends, and inform decision-making and continuous improvement.
 - Autism Awareness & Inclusion: Aligning district-wide efforts to promote inclusive practices, staff awareness, and student empathy. The goal is to move beyond awareness toward meaningful inclusion and support for all learners.
 - Family & Community Engagement: Expanding communication and visibility of school culture initiatives to strengthen partnerships with families and the broader community.
 - Transportation Report
 - Social media campaigns are underway to recruit additional bus drivers to strengthen staffing for this year and next.
 - IT Report
 - Working consistently on meeting the Bldg. 27 tech needs
 - Getting ready for next year, ordering devices
 - New payroll time clock system
 - Facilities
 - Spring break projects included removal of old signage, installation of a new water line for the school garden, and addition of a speed bump behind Building 23.
 - Custodial staff completed deep cleaning across all buildings.
 - Preparations are underway for the upcoming Greek Ambassador visit to ensure campus readiness.
 - Food Services
 - Food Service will be catering the 4th annual Gala on April 25th
 - Safety & Security
 - Door replacement projects are on track for completion by April 2026.
 - Remaining safety budget funds will be directed toward enhancements such as upgraded cameras and improved access systems.
 - Recent infrastructure updates include repaired and added speed bumps.
- Human Resources
 - FY27 staffing work continues
 - CBA unit contracts will be issued by May 15, 2026.
- Fundraising and Development Report
 - Events



- Greek Independence Day was successfully celebrated with a flag raising ceremony in Wilmington, highlighting student involvement and cultural pride.
- Greek Ambassador Antonis Alexandridis and Consul Michalis Skopelitis will visit Odyssey for schoolwide observations and a K–12 photo.
- Upcoming major events include the OCS Gala (April 25), Philadelphia Greek Parade (April 26), Staff Appreciation Week (May 4–8), Academic & Art Fair (May 6), and Annual Golf Outing (June 15).
- Marketing
 - Website redesign is in progress with a planned launch in June 2026.
 - Gala and Golf Outing sponsorships continue to grow, with ongoing outreach for additional support.
- Grants
 - Multiple grants submitted, including Laffey-McHugh and federal/state applications.
 - Implementation underway for Bridge to Practice grant and Strategic Staffing Grant planning for SY26–27.
 - Continued participation in Delaware Principal Pipeline Project with leadership professional learning.
- Enrollment
 - Enrollment outlook is strong, with acceptance rates up over 150% compared to last year.
 - Re-enrollment survey shows 87% returning, 7% not returning, and 5.5% undecided (many in transition grades).
- Teacher of the Year
 - OCS Teacher of the Year will be announced during the Ambassador visit.
 - Filotimo Awards will recognize staff achievements across the organization.
- Athletics
 - Annual Golf Outing scheduled for June 15 at Delcastle Golf Course.
 - Planning underway for upgraded sponsorship signage and branding across athletic facilities.
 - Student-athlete highlights include 4 wrestlers earning Academic All-State honors and senior Anastasia Thomas receiving All-State Honorable Mention and selection for the Blue-Gold Game.
 - Summer facility rentals are being scheduled.
 - Launching “Win the Day” planner program in Fall 2026 to support student-athlete goal setting and time management.
- PTO
 - Successful “His & Hers Bingo” event hosted with PTO, featuring designer items and strong community turnout and fundraising.
 - Spring Fling (K–5) held March 31 as a school-day celebration and fundraiser.
 - Book Fair scheduled April 24–May 1, along with “Reading Under the Stars” family night on April 29.
 - Upcoming events include the Guys and Girls in Ties and Pearls Dance (May 9) and “Treats with a Special Person” (date TBD).
- Greek Report
 - Greek Ambassador visit tomorrow 4/16- teachers will showcase student’s ability and knowledge during his visit
 - 7th grade immersion students and visiting Pierce students took a field trip to Philadelphia today, same OCS students will have an opportunity to visit Greece next year
 - Parade in Philadelphia on Sunday the 26th at 2 o’clock (sign up for transportation will be shared)
- Financial Update
 - Revenues
 - Preliminary Budgeted Revenues: \$61,170,392
 - Revenues to date: \$63,065,587, which represents 103.1% of the total budgeted revenues for the year
 - Expenditures
 - Preliminary Budgeted Expenditures: \$51,933,293 (including contingency).



- Expenses to date: \$41,848,156 and encumbrances of \$544,086 which represents 81.63% of the budget.
- 77.64% in March 2025
- Other/miscellaneous – This section was added because of additional expenses for B;dg. 27 as a place to capture those additional Misc expenses
- **Motion** to approve the web report as presented 1st (CF) 2nd (ML)
 - Approved unanimously
- Board Approvals
 - Out of State Travel:
 - Joshua Baran to Arizona Sept. 21-23 for School Bus Fleet Connex award ceremony.
 - 3rd grade field trip to Franklin Institute (4/23)
 - K field trip to Longwood Gardens (5/14)
 - **Motion** to approve OOS Travel as presented 1st (BD) 2nd (CF)
 - Approved unanimously
- Committee Reports
 - CBOC: no April meeting
 - Finance Committee: did not meet- Ken will touch base with Debra to schedule out meeting till EOY
- New Business/Good of the School
 - Non-AHEPA needs to get together discuss upcoming opening positions
 - Bridget will reach out to schedule with non-AHEPA members
 - AHEPA nominees, 2 coming in June, 1 possibly pushed to August
- **Motion** to move to executive session- (BD) 1st and (EJ) 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- **Motion** to adjourn- (ML) 1st and (CF) 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Meeting adjourned at 08:38 pm