

Odyssey Charter School Board Meeting Summary

May 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Odyssey Conference Room & Zoom

The Odyssey Charter School Board of Directors met on May 20, 2026, with President Ken Przywara calling the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board approved the April meeting minutes as presented. There were no public comments.

Head of School Report

School leadership provided updates aligned to the school's strategic goals, including continued progress on the Building 27 second-floor renovation, staff appreciation initiatives, student recruitment efforts, and school culture and academic improvement planning.

The Building 27 renovation remains on schedule, with permits approved and significant construction milestones completed, including framing, roof replacement, HVAC installation, and successful completion of the first county inspection. Interior finishing work is underway, with completion anticipated between late May and mid-June.

Recruitment efforts for the 2026–2027 school year continue following the completion of the lottery process and family notifications. Additionally, staff and administrators received Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training focused on de-escalation strategies and student support.

Academic and School Updates

Building-level reports highlighted the successful completion of state testing and continued preparations for the end of the school year.

Elementary Schools (K–5) reported ongoing planning for staffing, scheduling, summer learning opportunities, and student support services for the upcoming school year. Schools are preparing for end-of-year events including Field Day, Kindergarten Graduation, Step-Up Days, PBIS celebrations, and family engagement activities. Developmental screenings for incoming kindergarten students continue, and enrollment remains open in lower grades.

Middle School completed SBAC testing and is finalizing I-Ready diagnostic assessments. Planning is underway for the 2026–2027 school year, including scheduling improvements, team development, and new course offerings. Students participated in career exploration opportunities, athletic competitions, and several upcoming educational field trips.

High School celebrated strong academic growth, with over half of tested students improving their PSAT/SAT scores by at least 50 points. Discipline referrals have decreased significantly compared to the previous year, contributing to improved school climate and staff morale. The Class of 2026 will graduate on June 3 at The Playhouse on Rodney Square, marking the largest

graduating class in school history with 94 seniors. Students and athletic teams also earned notable achievements at the state and national levels.

Special Education

The Special Education Department continues its Standards-Aligned IEP Initiative in partnership with the University of Delaware. Staff professional learning focused on goal writing, progress monitoring, specially designed instruction, and data-driven decision making. Planning for the 2026–2027 school year includes articulation meetings, literacy training, refinement of MTSS systems, and improvements to evaluation and reporting processes.

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction

Odyssey continues to invest in instructional leadership development through partnerships focused on strengthening professional learning communities and leadership practices. Curriculum teams are preparing instructional budgets, summer curriculum projects, and academic initiatives for the upcoming school year.

SBAC testing concluded successfully, and the Multilingual Learner Department has resumed regular instructional support following completion of ACCESS testing.

Operations Updates

Operations reports focused on student and family engagement, infrastructure improvements, and preparations for the upcoming school year.

Highlights included:

- Expanded partnerships with community organizations to strengthen mental health and family support services.
- Continued hiring efforts to ensure full transportation staffing for the upcoming school year.
- Ongoing technology installation in Building 27, including network infrastructure, cameras, Wi-Fi, digital signage, and classroom technology.
- Completion of major facilities projects, including Biomedical Lab flooring improvements and preparation for graduations and end-of-year events.
- Continued progress on campus-wide safety enhancements, including door replacement projects, camera upgrades, and access control improvements.

Fundraising, Development, and Community Engagement

The school successfully hosted and participated in several major community events, including the Academic and Art Fair, Charter Rally in Dover, the Philadelphia Greek Parade, and Staff Appreciation Week activities.

A major highlight was the success of the 4th Annual Odyssey Gala, which raised approximately \$50,000 in support of school programs and initiatives.

Additional updates included:

- Continued development of the redesigned Odyssey website, scheduled to launch in June 2026.
- Ongoing grant applications supporting leadership development and literacy initiatives.
- Strong enrollment results, with acceptance rates significantly exceeding the prior year and more than 87% of families already committed to returning next year.

Teacher and Athletic Recognition

Middle School science teacher Matthew Sturdivant was named Odyssey Charter School Teacher of the Year and was submitted for Charter School Teacher of the Year consideration.

Athletics celebrated one of the most successful years in school history, highlighted by the boys volleyball team's state semifinal appearance, multiple All-Conference recognitions, and Coach Stephanie Carini being named Coach of the Year. Planning continues for expanded athletic branding, facility rentals, and implementation of the "Win the Day" student-athlete planner program.

Greek Program Report

The Board received updates on the continued growth of the Greek Immersion Program. Leadership reported positive feedback regarding the new immersion classrooms in Building 27 and ongoing recruitment efforts for Greek teachers through the J-1 visa process. The Department of Education will sponsor two visas to support staffing needs.

The Greek Immersion Program will continue its planned expansion into 5th grade and will extend into 9th grade during the 2026–2027 school year.

Financial Report

The Board reviewed the March 2026 financial report, which reflected a strong fiscal position. Revenues exceeded budget projections while expenditures remained below budget, resulting in a positive year-end outlook and continued financial flexibility.

Key financial highlights included:

- Total revenues of approximately \$62.7 million, representing 102.4% of budgeted revenue.
- Total expenditures and encumbrances of approximately \$46.5 million, representing 89% of budgeted expenditures.

The Board unanimously approved the financial report as presented.

Board Actions

The Board unanimously approved the following out-of-state travel requests:

- Elias Pappas and Dr. Ioanna Lekkakou to attend the Charter School Summit in Athens, Greece (June 30–July 2, 2026).
- Joshua Baran to attend the School Bus Fleet Connex Award Ceremony in Arizona (September 21–23, 2026).
- Camp Odyssey leadership retreats for freshmen and seniors at Camp Saginaw in Oxford, Pennsylvania (August 2026).

Committee Reports

The Finance Committee reported continued progress toward implementing a new financial reporting model. Initial testing has produced positive results, and additional updates regarding system enhancements and banking options are expected in the coming months.

No report was provided by the Citizen Budget Oversight Committee (CBOC).

Executive Session and Adjournment

With no additional business before the Board, members voted unanimously to enter Executive Session. Following Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.