

## Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: June 26, 2024

Location: Odyssey Conference Room and Teleconference

Start Time: Public Meeting at 6:00 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), Bridget Davis (BD), Georgia Halakos (GH), Joel Porter (JP) Absent: Valerie Caras (VC), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Georgia Kollias (GK), Kristen Turner (KT)

### Agenda<sup>1</sup>

1. Call to Order 6:11 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Standard Order of Business
  - Public Comments
    - Patty Nerwinski, speaking on behalf the West park Civic Association – The neighborhood which borders the campus along the railroad tracks. Speaking regarding the special use permit for the lighting for the field project. The closest light would be 150 feet away from their properties, rather than the 500 foot requirement. The neighbors are concerned about the evening use of the field. The neighbors were made aware of the project through the NCC notice. The neighbors were not engaged by Odyssey. The civic associate sent a letter of concern to NCC, Mr. Pappas, and their representative. This was followed up by a meeting with Odyssey and some members of the civic association. The civic association informed Odyssey the unrestricted use of the special use permit was not acceptable. They are concerned about future use of fields and the use by others in the community. The civic association has presented a set of proposed guidelines as a binding memorandum of understanding. NCC hasn't filed their approval yet, and the civic association is still considering a formal appeal. They are hoping to avoid an appeal if Odyssey is agreeable to coming up with some guidelines and documenting them
    - Brian Wagner – Neighbor – He is unsure how he feels about the lights going in. His driveway looks directly into where the fields are going. He is unsure how the 80 foot lights would affect his property value and how that would look to potential buyers in the future. He thinks we should still consider appealing the decision.
    - Anteneh Zewde – parent – Our chemistry and biology course was taught by a math teacher who seemed unprepared. He was asked to speak with Ashley Lipson

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<sup>1</sup> All agenda items are potential action items for which a vote may be taken.



- Previous minutes for March
  - **Motion** to approve the minutes for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Approved unanimously
- Head of School report – Jeff Koss
  - Graduation for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade was a success, and we wish them all success
- Middle School – Mark Phelps
  - Report cards went home last week
  - Working on enrollment, grouping, and teacher assignments
  - Putting together the master schedule with the expansion, while considering interventions and maximizing students growth
  - Interviewing and hiring teachers for next year
  - Maximizing space, traffic flow, and efficiencies
- High School – Ashley Lipson
  - Celebrated our new alumni with graduation at The Grand
  - Many students are travelling internationally this summer, the first trip took students to Japan, another trip went to southern Italy
  - Summer work can be found on the website, with new orientation invitations going out shortly
  - The transition from eSchool to Infinite Campus is taking place until July 9<sup>th</sup>, so no access to student management until that is complete
- Curriculum Instruction Assessment - Juliana Sheehan
  - Our 10 year charter renewal is due this December, so that work is underway
  - The instructional budget has been submitted to finance for review
  - Developing a K-5 grading policy
  - Final results from standardizes testing results will be received in July
- Finance – Jeff Koss
  - Awarded the summer supplemental support grant which will help with learning leap program
  - We have some additional grants due in July and Longwood in September
- Transportation
  - New busses will be delivered in the end of July
  - Interviewing for new drivers for the fall
- Student Services
  - Special Education is operating the ESY program and hiring new staff
  - Learning Leap will be like it has been during the last two summers



- Information Technology
  - Working on the fibre upgrade and the IT portion of the fields project
  - Coordinating the conversion to Infinite Campus
- Facilities
  - Preparing for summer projects, renovations of building 20, and deep cleaning all buildings
- Food Services
  - Ordering a new serving line for building 20
  - Demo and rebuilding the student space
- Fundraising
  - Save the Date for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala went out for the September 27<sup>th</sup>
- Out of state travel
  - Ms Gemell is leading our tour to Greece in 2025, and will do her EF Tour training in Paris from Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>
    - **Motion** to approve travel as mentioned JP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
      - a. Approved unanimously
- Greek Program – Ioanna Lekkakou
  - Attended a 4 day conference in Boston on teaching Greek language in the states, with national k-2 schools, including 3 charter schools
  - Presented our dual language program to the conference attendees, including university professors, and it was well received
  - Started a new collaboration with The University of Western Macedonia, with a focus on teacher training and including Odyssey students in their summer programs
  - Summer work for all students' grades 1-12, and all tasks assigned are similar to what is covered in school. Please don't use Google translate. If the students do not know how to complete it, save it for September.
  - One of our high school student will be attending the Harvard program in Greece this summer.
  - We are recruiting, and our first visa was approved, we expect the last 2 to be clearing July, for a total of three
  - The visa program is proceeding more smoothly this year than last
- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
  - Monthly finance report May
    - Revenues are \$49 million with 98.9% collected
    - Final load from the Yaz prize was received
    - Substitute service lagged in invoices, with them running .57% higher



- K-5 Summer Camp was cancelled, but will be back next year with earlier parental engagement and planning
- Turf field exploratory plan has been submitted to NCC
- Site survey will take place this week
- Contingency plans for the fall sports is underway and alternative carpool lines plans
- Met with the West Park Civic Association and are working on planned usage and their concerns so we can come to agreement
- Playground relocation will begin this week
- Delaware elevator to complete the elevator installation in the high school
- Water bottle filling stations are being installed with state grant money
- **Motion** to approve May monthly web report. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and JP 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Approved unanimously
- FY25 Preliminary Budget
  - Student enrollment is planned for 2,354, with an increase 162
  - State operation budget increase of 5%, with about 7% increase in local funding
  - Federal Covid funds will be spent down by Sept as required
  - St Thomas income includes original lease and additional rent for 6 months
  - The Grail includes an increase in rent and advertising income
  - Includes fundraising income from capital fund, gala, PTO, annual appeal, Green Team grants, and support from Wegmans
  - Expenses include capital funds project income and draw downs
  - Staffing needs includes the additional headcount with temporary staffing costs decreasing to needs based
  - Teacher and staff salary increases, including COLA
  - ESSR funded roles will be absorbed into the regular budget as planned
  - The Grail rentals and advertising will bring a budgeted \$100k, and the gold outing is budgeted to provide \$20k in revenue
  - Food services include new hires and a salary increase and construction
  - Facilities will include new hires for expansion and replace substitutes
  - Transportation will include a new radio-dispatch software
  - Technology will complete a Chromebook refresh and the grant funded fibre upgrade
  - Budget ending will be balanced, with additional opportunities to gain additional income with grants, property sale, and fundraising
  - **Motion** to approve the preliminary budget as presented. KP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - a. Approved unanimously



- Gym uniforms – Jeff Koss
  - There was confusion and miscommunication about the gym uniform, the changes, and the vendors. This was a mistake.
  - The board approved minor changes to the uniform policy
  - We will revert back to our previous vendors and provide the community with the choices and selection they have become accustomed to
  - Land’s End and Tommy Hilfiger will continue to be our vendor
  - Communication will go out to the community which will be clear and concise
  - Plain navy pants or shorts will be the acceptable gym uniform
- Turf Fields Project – Anamaria Anagnostou
  - We want to keep peace with the community, we were sorry that our contractor didn’t suggest meeting with the local neighbors
  - We are looking to balance the needs of our students and the school community while respecting our neighbors to do what is best for all
  - We look to keep the dialog open with our community and neighbors
  - With regard to the memorandum, will we put a time limit so we can review and adjust in the future, in 2, 5, or 10 years, some term for renewal
  - We will plan all we can, but once we actually have lights and games playing what is the impact and how will we adjust as program needs change
  - The lighting goal has always been to avoid the Concord Pike glow of overlight, these lights can be boxed and aimed to maximize field coverage

#### 4. Committee Reports

- Citizens Budget Oversight Committee
  - No meeting
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - No update
- Greek Program
  - Update provided above
- Fundraising Committee
  - No update
- Accountability
  - No update
- Safety and Security
  - No meeting
- Strategic Planning Committee
  - Possible expansion to include past board members and presidents
- PTO
  - Looking to support the new playgrounds



5. Election of Officers and Committee Chairs

- President - non-AHEPAN
  - Erin Allard – Nominated by JP 1<sup>st</sup> and BD 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimously approved
- Vice President – AHEPAN
  - Ken Przywara – nominated GH 1<sup>st</sup> and HA 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimously approved
- Treasurer
  - Helen Anderson – nominated KP 1<sup>st</sup> and GH 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimously approved
- Secretary
  - Joel Porter – nominated KP 1<sup>st</sup> and EA 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimously approved

6. Old Business

- none

7. New Business

- None

8. Good of the School

- Costas Fountzoulas was introduced as the new AHEPAN representative
- Thanks from the board and community to Anamaria Anagnostou for her years of service on the board and leading the board for two years. She has left the school better and it has been an honor to serve with her
- Anamaria Anagnostou thanked the board and community for support her and the school during her six years of service

9. **Motion** to Adjourn JP 1<sup>st</sup> and KP 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Approved unanimously
- Meeting adjourned 7:31 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: July 12, 2024

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: July 26, 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)