

Minutes for Public Meeting of the Odyssey Board of Directors

Date: August 21, 2024

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), Treasurer Helen Anderson (HA), Secretary Joel Porter (JP), Bridget Davis (BD), Costas Fountzoulas (CF), Eva Jannelli (EJ), Georgia Halakos (GH), Georgia Kollias (GK), Kristen Turner (KT), Valerie Caras (VC)
- **Absent:** none

Agenda¹

- Call to Order - 6:04 PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Standard Order of Business
 - No Public Comments
 - Previous minutes for July
 - **Motion** to approve the minutes for the July 17th meeting as presented. EJ 1st and BD 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
 - Head of School report – Elias Papas
 - Academic and Behavioral reports suggested during the July 17 meeting will be prepared for September meeting
 - Goal #1 - Project updates and approvals
 - Submitted final site plans and good to move forward with the next phase of the fields project.
 - Work being done over Labor Day weekend should not disrupt start of school
 - Playgrounds remodel under way – huzzah for retained trees!
 - Goal #2 - Summer Planning
 - New weight room and locker room 90% complete
 - Elevator project nearing completion
 - New spaces in building 20 to facilitate enhanced education
 - Programming to incorporate 7th grade immersion
 - Finalizing drop-off/pick-up route contingencies for ongoing construction
 - Professional development finalized
 - Goal #3 - Hiring/Staff Planning for '24-25
 - 154 Positions, total
 - 186 offers extended

¹ All agenda items are potential action items for which a vote may be taken.



- 145 New Hires/Position Changes Completed
- 9 Positions actively being filled
- Welcome Amanda Leighty, HS Assistant Principal
- Filled: Greek Program Instructional Coach, 6-12 Instructional Coach, SPED Instructional Coach, three Greek Educators from Greece & one from the Ministry
- Filotimo Fellowship Program launching 8/19
- Handbook revisions under review with Legal for submission for Board approval
- Goal #4 - Culture Focus: Beginning of Year Activities
 - Planning for Fall Gala under way
 - YAZ Prize foundation will be in attendance
 - Finalizing formal application with the Longwood Foundation
 - Applying for another grant through the Building Hope Foundation
 - High School offering experience trip for incoming freshmen emphasizing HS culture, values, engagement, and relationship-building
- Questions:
 - Request for copy of org chart (HA); Mr. Pappas affirmed that will be provided.
- School reports:
 - Lower School: Hrysoula Davis
 - Welcomed more than 10 new academic staff members
 - Added another classroom
 - Both new teacher orientation and first staff meeting after return from summer break were successful
 - Intermediate School: Dr. Mark Phelps
 - Welcoming several new staff members
 - Moved multipurpose space and music classes away from quieter academic classes
 - Added two cohorts to 3rd grade bringing total to 10
 - New flooring installed in main lobby
 - Middle School: Adriane Rodriguez
 - Starting the year fully staffed and welcoming new staff members
 - High School: Ashley Lipson
 - Freshmen & New Student Orientation complete!
 - Lobby facelift in-progress
 - 4 new AP classes for Calc BC, Physics I, Music Theory, Comparative Government & Politics.
 - New Dual-Enrollment: Bio 115 Nutrition
 - Camp Odyssey at Camp Saginaw in Oxford, PA
 - August 26-28: all Freshmen and OHA students
 - September 4th: all Seniors to kick off their senior year
- Professional Development
 - Teachers' professional development
 - New platform: **Vidigami**
 - Parent portal to allow parents to see visual media content their kids may be in



- Assessments:
 - iReady testing in mid-September
 - DIBELS testing second week of September
- Financial Update | Grants:
 - Awarded Rodel MS CTE Program Grant for \$75k
- Transportation
 - New Routes & Stops added
 - Updated routes available via email and on OCS website
 - Student Transportation agreement required for students and parents/guardians
- IT
 - 10Gbps fiber project to be completed by 8/30
 - Chromebooks are configured & ready for deployment
 - Infinite Campus ready to go
 - Vidigami rolling out
- Safety and Security
 - August 22 – ALICE training
- Board Approvals
 - Aug 26-28: HS - 9th and OHA to Camp Saginaw in Oxford, PA
 - Sep 4: HS – 12th grade to Camp Saginaw
 - Oct 14: HS – Food Studies/Environmental Science to Longwood Gardens in Longwood, PA
 - **Motion** to approve out of state travel | JP 1st and HA 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- Greek Program Report – Ioanna Lekkakou
 - New Greek Coach
 - 3 New Greek Teachers from Greece for K-5
 - New Greek music teacher in Intermediate school
 - Now we need a proper auditorium
 - Exam results: overall 90% pass rate and 100% of immersion students passed!
- Financial Report – Jeff Koss
 - Preliminary budgeted revenues: \$58M
 - Revenues collected to date: \$26M million, 44.9% of budget
 - Preliminary budgeted expenditures: \$51M (including contingency)
 - Expenses to date are \$5M and Encumbrances of \$0.5M, 10.9% of budget
 - Turf field project underway
 - Playground relocation underway
 - Building 27 Project under evaluation with contractor, DCI. Will reconvene next week to coordinate next stage.
 - Water bottle refill stations set to be completing in next week
 - **Motion** to approve July monthly web report. EJ 1st and HA 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- 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
 - No update
- PTO
 - Back-to-school bash
- Old Business
 - none
- New Business
 - None
- Good of the School
 - Title IX Ruling
 - This is geared toward enhancing protections for LGBTQ community.
 - Copies of OCS's updated Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy that aligns with the new Title IX ruling were distributed to board members this afternoon (August 21, 2024 @ 4:39PM EDT)
 - Most schools implemented on August 1
 - Did not get implemented at OCS as there is currently a lawsuit against the federal government from many states and Moms for Liberty and there is an injunction that protects schools from Federal DOE penalties for non-adherence in other states (not including DE) as well as schools attended by students whose parents are members of Moms for Liberty. Most schools in our position are voluntarily adopting the new rule.
 - Voting to approve the updated policy was requested to align OCS with other schools in a similar situation
 - **Motion** to approve GK 1st and EJ 2nd
 - A request was made (JP) to postpone the vote to allow the board time to read the updated policy prior to voting on it. The original document is 12 pages long and there are 4 pages of additions/edits.
 - **Motion tabled**
 - An agreement to postpone voting on the updates to the document, giving board members an opportunity to read the document and provide comments/feedback/questions by the end of the weekend.
 - Vote will be held at a special board meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2024, @ 6 PM along with a vote on the 2024/25 Code of Conduct.
- A In lieu of Executive Session the board received details about a lease agreement



- **Motion** to approve agreement EJ 1st and BD 2nd
- Approved unanimously
- **Motion** to Adjourn HA 1st and JP 2nd
 - Approved unanimously
- Meeting adjourned 7:20 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: August 21, 2024

Topic: OCS Monthly Board Meeting - Public Session

Time: August 21, 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)