

The Odyssey School
Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 17, 2013

Board Attendees: Jon Exall, Marcia Fulton, Heather Jovel, Andrew Mohraz, Rufus Nagel, Illana Poley, Peter Sherman, Jason Shiroff, Justin Silverstein (by telephone), Erin Wilhoite, Eric Williams,

Also Present: Stephanie Williams, Joan Fritsche, Lori Deacon

1. Public Comment

Stephanie Williams and Joan Fritsche requested that the Board consider getting the school involved in Denver Parks to Ski. The program is designed for recreation centers and schools. The Parks Department can get free lift tickets to Winter Park. The Learn to Ski program is run through same group. Included for \$10 per child are: a lift ticket, rental equipment (helmets, ski pants, gloves included), and full-day instruction from Winter Park ski instructors. There are two support staff that help during the day. There are Odyssey families that want their children to learn how to ski. The program is particularly good for students in 2/3 and 4/5. Recently, approximately 30 students participated in a day program. Each family paid \$35 for a bus plus \$10 for the program. Most of these students were non-skiers. The feedback has been positive from families. The program fits with Odyssey's mission. The goal would be to do the program through Odyssey (and have Paul coordinate and use Odyssey's buses) as part of the Adventure Program.

2. Marcia's Updates

Marcia updated the Board on the following topics:

- *Enrollment.* There is no information on kindergarten enrollment. The school is in negotiation with the District to fill the slots. The District overenrolled kindergarten by one student and shorted the school one FRL spot.
- *Performance Evaluation.* There was a thoughtful conversation with the Staff about performance evaluation. The Staff provided helpful feedback. The hope is to have a working draft of the performance evaluation and compensation policy for the May meeting.
- *Auction.* The auction was a great event and yielded \$25,000 in donations (about the same as last year).
- *Revenue.* Additional funds that have come in include \$6,000 from Whole Foods and \$2,500 from the Stapleton Foundation.

- *Adventure Program.* Trip season is under way. One trip had to turn around earlier in the week due to weather (and is being rescheduled for June 3-7).
- *Full-Time Intern for 2013-14.* The District is providing Odyssey with an intern for next year. The intern will serve as a full-time assistant director. The idea behind the program is to cultivate leadership between the District and its charters. The intern will observe and be a part of the Odyssey culture.
- *Security.* The security is working well during the day, and the school is trying to make more efficient the time after school.

3. Lori Deacon's Report

Lori reviewed the current budget-to-actuals with the Board. The school operates more on a cash basis than accrual. Total revenues are at 94% and auction activities have yet to appear in the books. The budget is trending correctly. Expenses are at 78% currently, but that includes the 100% line items that have already been paid to the District. The District has not spent all of the mills. There will be a one-time reserve payment along with the 2012 portion of the mill.

4. Update on Staffing Decisions

Marcia presented a proposal for the K-5 team to shift from four assistants to a shared assistant in first grade and designated math assistants for K/1, 2/3, and 4/5. The goal is to have every student in K-8 to receive skill blocks in math and literacy instruction in small groups of 12 students. Hiring would be for two part-time positions instead of three teaching assistants. The proposal would help in the following ways: (1) better personalize instruction with a 25-member class size and (2) reduce the top heavy model in terms of equity of resources for K through 8. It would also take platooning to a new level. The proposal would require the school to (i) figure out staffing on trips and for field work and (ii) scheduling for students with intervention support.

The staff spent much time in teams wrestling with these issues. The K-5 teachers are in agreement to try the proposal. Marcia stressed no final decision has been made and asked for input from the Board. The Board agreed that ultimately this is a decision for the Executive Director to make, though the Board approves a budget which would need to support the Executive Director's decision.

5. Class Size

The Board discussed the option of moving class size from 25 to 26 students per class by adding an extra student for every crew for K through 7. The question for 8th grade is whether a student could get to standards in one year). The school increased class size from 24 to 25 about nine years ago. Some staff have expressed a concern about whether there will be future increases if class size goes to 26.

Following discussion, the Board considered a proposal to increase class size to 26 students per crew (i) for kindergarten through 7th grade during the first year and (ii) for kindergarten through 8th grade during the second year. Motion made by Jon, seconded by Erin. **Motion approved.**

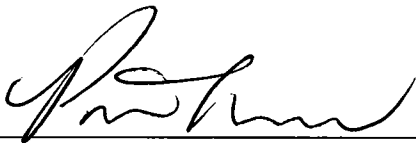
6. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the Meeting of the Board of Directors on March 20, 2012. Motion to adopt the minutes by Jon and seconded by Erin. **Motion approved.**

7. Board Retreat

Board members need to look for and respond to an email to schedule the all-day Board retreat this summer. At the retreat, the Board will elect new executive officers for next year, including chair-elect, secretary, and treasurer.

Approved on 14th day of May 2013 by:



Peter Sherman
Board Chair