

**The Odyssey School
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 20, 2013**

Board Attendees: Alicia Economos, Jon Exall, Marcia Fulton, Nilmini Hecox, Chris Herndon, Heather Lamm, Andrew Mohraz, Rufus Nagel, Illana Poley, Peter Sherman, Jason Shiroff, Justin Silverstein, Erin Wilhoite, Eric Williams

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the Meeting of the Board of Directors by email between January 18-23, 2013. On January 18, 2013, motion to adopt the minutes by Andrew and seconded by Alicia. **Motion approved** on January 23, 2012.

2. Odyssey Bookroom

Julie Neitz-Wielga presented regarding the Partners in Literacy program that she conducts at Odyssey. The program has 120 current volunteers at Odyssey. There is a reading volunteer for every student in grades 2 through 8. There are 10 volunteers in kindergarten and 1st grade. The program started as a remedial program and grew as teachers and students asked for additional volunteers. The program allows students to take behaviors learned in school and use them. Students are in charge of the program with an adult guide. This is particularly important for middle school students.

The program must have resources to support the reading room, the reading choices, and multiple copies of books. The library is required to support 50 reading groups per week. There are 14,000 volumes organized in multi-copies to support the reading groups. Sixteen parents make the library effectively function. The school funds \$13,000 per year for the program.

Julie asked for three things from the Board. First, that the Board know that the program exists, understand that it is important, and understand why it is important. Second, please contact Julie with any leads on grants or financing. Third, talk up the volunteer program to others (next July-September, the program will require 40 new volunteers). The time commitment varies per grade. Typically one hour per week between 8:10 to 9:00 am.

3. Marcia's Updates

Fundraising/Annual Campaign. The school is projected to exceed its target. The Board is not quite at 100% participation.

Silent Auction. April 6, 2013, 6:00 pm, Northfield. Be there and bring people. Think about donations.

Site Seminar. Great success and a powerful two days. 11 individuals on the wait list ended up attending. The school can consider increasing capacity next year, but it will be a push. The school exhibited strength of culture, a feeling of community, and clear takeaways on habit instruction.

Mill Levy. DPS and representatives of the charter community have met to discuss how to allocate the mills. There are no final numbers, but should have an idea soon.

TCAP. Coming up in March.

Enrollment. All the data is not in yet. As of today, there are a total of 611 applications that include first through five choices. There were 287 application for kindergarten, the majority of which were first or second choices. After preferences, there are four FRL spots and one open spot for kindergarten. There were 113 applications for sixth grade with a spread of first through fifth choices. There are first choices for each grade.

4. Committee Updates

A. Finance

Bookkeeper. The school will be switching accounting services. The Board has talked to four or five firms. The Board is looking at enhancing planning/forecasting capabilities. In conjunction, the Board is looking at front office activities to better understand duties and time. In light of changing bookkeepers, the Board intends to keep the same auditor at this time.

Compensation/Performance/Budget. The task force has had a discussion with Staff Council and a working group that met earlier in the week. There is no Staff consensus around the four possible budget scenarios. The working group discussion emphasized that the Board has a decision about how to compensate teachers and other big issues to consider (culture of staff, equity between positions, student outcomes effect, and reward for work as a staff). There is also the issue of the efficiency of an evaluation system. In light of the requirement to send a budget to DPS at the end of May, the Board set a timeline:

- March – Make decisions regarding revenue vs. expenses (mill levy dollars, staff input, class size, and expense cuts)
- April – Present budget for next year and analysis.
- May – Board vote on budget.

Accountability. The committee is planning to update and circulate the parent survey. The committee will also look at either an alumni survey or an alumni event for the spring.

Development. There are 25 people who have responded to the upcoming cocktail party. There is a Century Link meeting in March to get to know Odyssey and seek to focus on technology and blended learning. After discussion, the Board decided to postpone the upcoming State of the School event.

Governance. The committee has put together a framework for a policy to guide nomination, selection, evaluation, and renewal of board members. There will be a draft policy distributed in early March and a vote on the policy at the March Board meeting.

5. 2013-2014 Calendar Review & Approval

The school's calendar committee met with parents and staff representatives. Motion to approve the 2013-2014 school calendar made by Jon and seconded by Erin. **Motion approved.**

Approved on 28th day of February 2013 by:



Peter Sherman
Board Chair