

Odyssey School Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Present:

Board Attendees: Jason Fritz / Marcia Fulton / Chris Herndon / Heather Lamm / John Liu / Andrew Mohraz / Illana Poley / Peter Sherman / Justin Silverstein / Erin Wilhoite / Eric Williams /

Also Present: Erin Miller and Kindra Padget

Approval of Minutes

In an effort to expedite the release of approved Board minutes, the Board will be reviewing the Board minutes by email and taking a vote by email to approve the minutes. Last month, the Board reviewed the minutes from the Meeting of the Board of Directors on October 9, 2013. On October 10, 2013, motion to adopt the minutes by Jason Fritz and seconded by Eric Williams. Motion approved on October, 2013.

Erin Wilhoite opened the meeting by providing an outlined meeting agenda

Motion to approve June Board Retreat made by Heather Lamm and second by Peter Sherman
Erin to sign and have posted by Elki

School Updates:

Marcia

Back to school night had a lower turn out this year. The late date change due bad weather created some confusion for families.

Common Core sessions had mixed attendance but seemed to go over well. The power point from the sessions will be put up on the Odyssey Website.

1st round of assessment are almost complete except K-1

The adventure program received approximately \$33,000.00 in pledges for the 2013-14 school year.

Colorado Gives day coming in December. Nilmini and Fundraising Committee working on communications plan in partnership with Family Council.

Kindergarten tuition landed exactly on budget. This was the first year for the sliding scale for tuition payments.

Financial Update:

Heather Lamm presented the new financial statements being provided by Kindra Padget was in attendance to answer any questions on the new financial statements

New financial presentation

Finance committee met and is pleased with the initial presentation of the financial statements. Future statements will be presented in summary format for ease of reading.

Changes in the new financial statement presentation are:

- actual v. budget
- actual v. previous year
- projected end v. we are on projection revenue and expense to date
- Breakout of mill levy line items
- The color coding in the financial presentation ties corresponding revenue and expense items

Odyssey received mill levy reserve dollars in this fiscal year. This line item was not in the final budget and will be a variance for this fiscal year. The mill levy reserve payments are a onetime allocation for this fiscal year and will be slightly less than \$50M.

Timing of the buy and selling of the bus influenced the reserve balances as this event occurred over to separate fiscal periods. This timing event will also create a variance to budget for this fiscal year.

The Audit is complete and has been forwarded to the school district. Odyssey received a Clean opinion.

Academic Performance Overview

Communications:

Illana

An email will be sent to the school community about board members background. Each board member will provide Illana with three sentences about them in the first person due Sept 25.

November election amendment 66 school funding:

A question is before the board on whether to endorse the legislation. Executive committee had a conversation about this issue. Colorado Commits to Kids reached out Odyssey and asked for an endorsement. The board and Marcia do not believe it is in our best interest to endorse candidates or amendments, but rather to provide information and resources to our families to educate and inform and encourage them to vote.

Issues:

This is a tax increase and it is unclear how the fund will be allocated.

Revenue distribution will not be even

Change in how funds will be distributed to charter schools

What is our responsibility to the school community?

Instead it is the board's stance to be a conduit and provide information by pointing the community to resources i.e. ED News. Also let the community know this is an important election.

Illana will draft a memo with communication for the October 10th Thursday Folder.

In addition to amendment 66 there are meaningful DPS school board elections this year. A similar strategy to amendment 66 is being adopted on the School Board Elections.

DPS Board Elections:

2 emails will be sent to families. The first will include dates & locations of upcoming debates and events. The second will include an overview of each candidate – tone will be neutral, no endorsement.

Survey results:

Illana

Completed two surveys at the end of the year

- Parent
- Alumni

The alumni survey had a low level of participation. The board will need to consider spreading out the alumni survey schedule to improve participation.

A majority of households participated in the parent surveys. Most families give a grade of A more B than previous years comments were provide to each teacher. Results will be uploaded to Google docs.

Erin raised the issue of needing to establish a calendar for board community sessions in partnership with Family Council.

The following topics have been agreed upon and will occur during Family Council Meetings:

- Academic grading and reports – October 16th
- The Middle School Experience – November 7th
- Finance and Development – November 20th
- Board Recruitment (Jan/Feb 2014)

Marcia identified that benchmarking should be ready next week, which is timed nicely with the October 16th session (above).

Board Recruitment:

Heather Lamm raised the suggestion of engaging Christina Carlson for a board seat. The board requested that she submit a nomination form and selected two Board Members to meet with Cristina, in addition to having Marcia take Cristina on a tour. The Board Members who will meet with Cristina are Peter Sherman and Illan Poley. Several board members know Christina. She has extensive experience in development. She worked as the development roll for the Logan School and is currently Head of Development for DSST. Next step is to discuss her nomination at the next Board meeting in October once Cristina has toured the school and met with additional Board members.

Academic Performance Overview:

Erin Wilhoite

TCAP and SPF results are back for the 2013-13 school year.

SPF (“State Performance Reference”). Each school gets a SPF rating

Accountability plan stated goal/expectation is for Odyssey to be in the “Distinguished” classification.

In order to obtain this distinction the school will need to meet:

Goal: 8th grade 85% proficient 25% advance

Improved from last year; however, advanced dropped and the goal was not met.

3rd grade data (not an Accountability Plan goal – used for benchmarking)

Below goal 73% proficient 23% advanced

Regression from 3rd grade to 4th grade

Overall School Proficient and Above

73% elementary

75% middle

74% total school

Goal: Overall Growth Score of 65

Elementary 29%

Middle School 69%

Total 49% (did not achieve goal)

Assessments had a wide degree of variability. The School size drastically affects results. The board had detailed discussions on the methodology of the assessments.

Goal: One of the three top K-8 schools on SPF

SPF school rank fell from #3 to #7

Did not meet goal

Results are driven through the growth score. All of the schools with better scores than Odyssey were bigger schools with a larger population to normalize the results. The push for common core and platooning are expected to improve results for the 2013-14 school year.

The full presentation is posted to Google Docs.

Approved on 11th day of October 2013

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Erin Wilhoite", is written over a horizontal line.

Erin Wilhoite

Board Chair