



Odyssey School of Denver
6550 East 21st Ave
Denver, CO 80207

**Meeting of the Governance Committee
of the Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors
Friday, November 18, 2016
3:30 to 4:45 at the Odyssey School**

AGENDA

1. Meeting was called to order at approximately 3:35.
2. The committee discussed the inputs received from all sources, as summarized on the attached chart.
3. The committee members in attendance (Illana Poley, Ami Desai, and Brian Moore) voted unanimously to recommend to the board that it amend the Bylaws and Articles of the school as summarized on the attached chart.
3. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45.

Our Mission: Odyssey School of Denver is a diverse, public, K-8 Expeditionary Learning school. We teach students how to learn through a focus on academic achievement, critical thinking and social responsibility, preparing them for high school and beyond.

Our Vision: Odyssey School of Denver students will:

- Take risks and innovate;
- Lead with integrity and compassion;
- Be civically and socially engaged;
- Push themselves to exceed expectations; and
- Embrace learning as a life-long adventure.

Board Responsibilities: We ensure Odyssey's compliance to its contract with the Denver Public Schools, set and monitor the implementation of school policies, manage the school's annual budget and financial planning, and hire and evaluate the performance of our school's Executive Director.

**ODYSSEY DENVER GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF INPUTS RECEIVED
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issue	Current	Michelle	Nora	Family Council*	Staff Council	11.18.16 Committee Decisions
Board Composition						
Size of Board	10-15, usually is near the high end	Her ideal is 7, maybe 5 to 9	Her ideal is 9; 10-15 is common in larger organizations			9 as the norm, with three rolling off each year. Can range from 7-11.
Family Reps	3 "parent directors", elected by "parents"	Fine to have some separately elected; "outside" at least 1 less than half	Fine to have some separately elected, but can also just designate seats; if elected, need to provide board can appoint if no one runs; likes balance between family and outside members			2 family reps elected directly by families. Board responsible for election but can delegate to a family organization. ¹
Staff	2 "teacher directors," elected by "teachers"	Strongly discourage voting memberships; liaisons; if voting, bylaws should recuse from some subjects	Strongly discourage voting memberships		Strong desire to keep voting membership; okay with spelling out recusal	1 teacher rep directly elected by staff. ^{1,2}
Term	3 years	2 or 3 years	3 years, staggered			3 years
Term limits	None	No opinion; sees with a minority of boards; sees 4 to 8 years	Somewhat favors – maybe limit of 2 continuous terms, can serve again after break	Mixed; strong support for allowing exceptions if there are term limits		No term limits
Officers						
Offices	Chair, past chair, chair elect, treasurer, secretary		Eliminate past chair			Eliminate past chair

¹ Recommend that the Bylaws clarify that in voting, all board members have a duty to vote what in their personal judgment they believe to be in the best interest of the school, and not based on the direction or vote of any group.

² Recommend that the Bylaws require recusal of staff board member as follows:

- Things that involve direct oversight of ED—recuse from voting and discussion
- Votes that directly affect their pay—can be part of the discussion but recuse from vote
- Any executive session to discuss a personnel matter

³SAC to consist of:

- Executive director;
- 2 staff members elected by staff;
- 1 community board member, selected by board;
- 1 family board member, selected by board;
- 2 family members, selected by family council, or by board if family council fails to select.
- Chaired or co-chaired by family member (per statute)

⁴SAC, Finance Committee, and Development Committee standing committees per bylaws
Treasurer is chair of finance committee

Other committees formed and disbanded by board.