

Meeting of The Odyssey School
Board of Directors

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
4:00pm – 6:00 pm

In attendance:

Christina Carlson, Brenda Bautsch Dickhoner, Jason Fritz, Wes Frakes, Corey Goodrich, Chad Harman, Heather Lamm, Jon Liu, Andrew Mohraz, Brian Moore, Illana Poley, Justin Silverstein, Jen Stefanacci, Christine DeLeon on the phone.

Minutes

- Heather made a motion to approve the November minutes; Andrew seconded. All voted to approve.

Financials

- We are currently exceeding our fund balance.
- The revenues we are bringing in are on balance with the expenses going out for the year.
- As we do each year, we will be bringing a revised budget for the board to consider in January.
- The finance committee has been looking closely at our facility fee. DPS is increasing our facility fee to be in parity with other charter schools, meaning that we will see increases each year for the next three years. For each of the next two years, it will be an increase of approximately \$100 per student, and the third year will be an increase of \$30, or enough to completely bridge whatever gap remains, per student. The total impact at the end of three years will be an increase in costs of \$60 - \$70,000 per year going forward.
- We have asked DPS to provide more data on what other charter schools are paying in facility costs (e.g. sq. feet per school and per student, age of building, etc.) Heather has offered to help Wes make introductions to the DPS board. This could mean that we would have to cut some programming, so we want board members and the public to understand the trade-offs that we may have to make.

Wes' update

- Wes provided an overview of enrollment openings based on the survey that went out to families. We are inline with data from previous years, but the data is preliminary – the choice deadline is not until January and we won't have final numbers until March.
- Question – how accurate has been the data at this point historically? We can only compare back to when the new choice process went into place. Last year the early projections were pretty inaccurate – we expected three or four fifth graders would leave and we lost nine.
- Staffing – we know that two staff (Jon and Lori) are leaving at the end of the year.

- Looking at Odyssey student performance data:
 - Wes met with Charlie from SchoolRunner. They provide a robust system for data reporting that is customizable. The cost is about \$3/student per month (\$8,500 per year) and there is no limit to support or customization. We could incorporate the functionality of JumpRope, making that subscription duplicative.
 - Wes also talked to Kurtis from ANet. He seemed to know more about EL. It would cost \$31,000 for a partnership.
 - Brenda has worked with ANet as a partner with the state, primarily for turnaround schools. ANet is very intensive.
 - ANet also includes PARCC-aligned benchmarks.
 - Wes is also scheduling a meeting with Illuminate Education.
 - Brian has talked to Doug Ferguson at DPS. He is currently working on developing data reporting systems.
 - We want the data to be able to show us the trends that allow us to make instructional plans.
 - Wes will be having a similar data conversation with Family Council. (*An accompanying handout is attached.*)
 - Spending time helping people look at data in a group format builds transparency by teaching interested people in looking at something in a similar way.
 - There is a range of formats for looking at data. Excel is a pretty basic way of looking at data; Tableau is a more sophisticated, more industry-standard type system.
 - We can identify variables and look at a report comparing those variables, e.g. geography, school design, FRL status, etc.
 - Next data steps include:
 - Additional analysis
 - Action planning
 - Calibrating and comparing data systems to STAR and JumpRope.
 - JumpRope collects data on students including but not limited to STAR and attendance.
 - A work group has looked at various tools
 - Jump Rope was rolled out with a thoughtful approach but there is more that could be done with it.
 - We should plan for additional messaging to the broader community about data.
 - Official PARCC reports are due to schools on January 15th.
 - Wes is also working on intentional culture building with staff including through PD time.
 - The board is conducting a survey for staff.
 - Kicha had a healthy baby boy!

Executive Session

- Heather moved to hold Executive Session on personnel matters, per 24-6-402(4)(f)(i), C.R.S. as cited in the agenda; Andrew seconded and all approved.

Angela Carlson

President of the Board

1/27/16

Date