

**Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

**4:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Odyssey School of Denver**

**Remote livestream link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89860263427?pwd=SG5ybGd1c3hpdTBXUDdEL0treXV1UT09>

<b>Our Mission:</b> 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.	
<b>Our Vision:</b> Odyssey School of Denver students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take risks and innovate;</li><li>• Lead with integrity and compassion;</li><li>• Be civically and socially engaged;</li><li>• Push themselves to exceed expectations;</li><li>and • Embrace learning as a life-long adventure.</li></ul>	<b>Board Responsibilities:</b> 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.

1. Call to order - 4:00pm
2. Public comment - none
3. Roll call & acknowledgments of conflicts of interest
  - a. Present = John Brewer, Amanda Brown, Christina Carlson, Juana Rosa Cavero, Travis Haley, Brian Johnson, Laurel Lenz, Dawn Loge, Danielle Lucas-Adam, Kathryn Martinez, Alisha Smith.
  - b. No conflicts.
4. Motion to approve and/or amend February minutes
  - a. Alisha moves to approve minutes, Danielle seconds
  - b. passes
5. ED update
  - a. Celebrations. Parent emailed with kudos to Caitlin RE: positive interactions with 2nd grade students. Another parent wrote about the positive impact of an impressive fifth grade exhibition night. Second graders lobbying at the capital to advocate for a bill on pesticide controls. Middle schoolers did a walk out to bring attention to gun violence. Odyssey and Kathryn selected as mentor school/leader through EL.
  - b. Teacher appreciation next week. Danielle and Alisha will lead coordination of board's effort.
  - c. Request for board participation in upcoming passages (May 26). Email Elki for details/volunteering.
  - d. Hiring updates. Katie Shenk = new K-4 Assistant Director. Ali Morgan = 4th grade crew lead. Chris Robinson = 6-8 SPED. Alora Riley = 7th and 8th math. Searches for music teacher and 6th grade lead are still ongoing.
  - e. Technology use. Rare to see kids on computers in the classroom. Devices are shared in K-2. 10-15 minutes/day in early grades. Students in grades 3-8 have computers assigned (1-to-1). Computers used for iReady, research, writing essays, teacher/student communications. Rules on computer use in math are in progress; will conform with the school-wide vision for math.
    - i. Currently no expedition for math. But looking at incorporating this in the future.
    - ii. Timeline for math revisioning = started after spring break this year. First meeting of math teachers last Friday. Will refine in 2 weeks and meet in June to set up for a relaunch of math next year. There will be 15 days of EL math PD for teachers.
  - f. Safety and security

- i. School has an emergency response plan that is reviewed by DPS and with staff annually and as needed. DPS provides additional emergency training. Review and revise procedures as needed. School is currently exploring additional safety measures and will be adding additional mental health support.
  - ii. DPS superintendent is also updating a safety plan, which could impact Odyssey. Details expected in June.
  - iii. Individual students can be placed on a safety plan for a variety of reasons. When a student is placed on a safety plan this is not communicated to community families. Were a serious and genuine threat identified, this information would be communicated to affected parties.
  - iv. Facilities and DPS charter contracts impact the implementation of any building modifications. Considering hiring a security expert for evaluation, ensuring this is not redundant with what DPS is already doing. A subgroup of the board/leadership will be tasked with exploring options.
6. Council, Committee and Working Group updates
  - a. Finance Committee
    - i. Use of extra funds this year
      1. Currently project adding \$316 into fund balance.
      2. Adjustments since last month:
        - a. Increase in income (auction brought in \$16K more than anticipated)
        - b. Paying end-of-year bonuses to staff.
        - c. Moving eligible revenue/costs to/from next year's budget.
    - ii. Proposed 2023/2024 annual budget.
      1. Expect to have a \$17.6K increase in fund balance next year.
      2. Includes:
        - a. Modest increase in PPD.
        - b. Increased teacher compensation to ensure equity with DPS.
        - c. Increased costs from DPS.
    - iii. Board vote to approve preliminary 2023-4 budget.
      1. Travis moves to approve budget, Danielle seconds.
      2. Passes.
  - b. Other Committee/Working Group updates
    - i. none
  - c. Update on strategic plan process
    - i. Draft plan was shared with families for additional feedback. Will advertise and solicit feedback, incorporate suggestions.
    - ii. Board will discuss/vote on the final plan at the next meeting (May).
7. Wrap up and future agenda items
  - a. Three nominees to replace community representatives who cycle off the board this summer.
    - i. Information for each nominee will be sent out to the board for review prior to May meeting.
    - ii. Board will vote on the nominees at the May meeting.
  - b. Family survey results and ED evaluation are scheduled to occur at the board retreat in July.
  - c. Suggested that we discuss board communication policies at the next meeting.
8. Adjournment -
  - a. Dawn moves to adjourn the meeting, Danielle seconds, passes.
  - b. Meeting is adjourned at 5:15 pm

AMB

---

Board Chair, Amanda Brown

Date