

Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Remote livestream only:

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

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

1. Call to order - 4:06 pm
2. Roll call & acknowledgments of conflicts of interest
 - a. Present = Amanda Brown, Theodosia Cook, Alison Hadden, Kelley Krupicka, Travis Haley, Laurel Lenz, Dawn Loge, Kathryn Martinez, Caitlin Vaughn Sekar, Kaylie Titus.
 - b. Absent = John Brewer, Juana Rosa Caverro, Nadja Cockrell, Ryan Lally, Keri Melmed, Alisha Smith.
 - c. No conflicts noted.
3. Approve agenda - Travis moves, Ali seconds, passes
4. Approve September minutes - Kelley moves, Ali seconds, passes
5. Public comment - none
6. ED, Board Committee and Council Updates
 - a. ED update
 - i. Staff survey results shared.
 1. Results indicated a positive staff culture.
 2. Room for growth to improve professional development sessions.
 3. Thanks to Colin and Katie for their efforts to support other staff.
 - ii. New hires to help with students who have higher needs for behavioral support. The majority of the students with higher needs are enrolled in elementary school.
 - iii. Update on upcoming EL National conference.
 1. Discussion of student involvement.
 2. There is space for a board member to join the team that is representing Odyssey at this conference. Contact Kathryn if interested.
 - b. Finance Committee update
 - i. Travis summarized highlights from most recent financials.
 1. Excess funds projected last month will cover new hires Kathryn noted above.
 2. There is a potential for some future reimbursement of these funds by DPS.
 - ii. Discussion of the auditor letters that were shared with the Board
 1. No concerns were noted by the auditors.
 - c. School Accountability update - Colin and Katie

- i. Fall iReady (baseline) data.
 - ii. Reading
 - 1. Placement by domain shows areas where students fare well or struggle.
 - 2. Breakdown by race/ethnicity shows discrepancy in performance.
 - iii. Math
 - 1. Major discrepancy in performance between white and black students. Only 5% of black students are at/above grade level.
 - 2. This gap is growing. Strong need to address.
 - iv. Implications
 - 1. Intend to focus more on high-quality student work.
 - 2. Additional support/training for math instruction by EL (expeditionary learning).
 - 3. Devoting more time to math each day.
 - 4. Additional staff for SPED and reading intervention.
 - 5. Will also continue to push students at the top end to grow.
 - 6. Academic growth goals shared.
 - v. Black excellence plan
 - 1. Last year the focus was on early (K-2) literacy and MS belonging & BESS.
 - 2. Focus this year - no more than a 10% discrepancy in growth between black and white students in early literacy, K-8 math, and 6-8 belonging & mental health.
- d. Development update
- i. Ali shared current fund-raising goals.
 - ii. Need additional board members to volunteer for (or be assigned to) the Development committee.
7. Other business - Board training session on policy development was led by Alesha Arscott, from the Colorado League of Charter Schools.
- i. Hierarchy of policies.
 - ii. Steps to decide if there is a need for a new policy and how to proceed with developing.
 - iii. Board should incorporate existing board policies into the board handbook.
 - iv. Board should develop a schedule/process to regularly review policies and ensure they are up-to-date.
- b. Future items:
- i. Need to revisit board committees and interests/goals.
 - ii. Further discussion of fund-raising options.
9. Adjournment
- i. Ali moves to adjourn, Amanda seconds, passes.
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm

