

Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Remote access:

<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 - 4:08 pm
2. Roll call & acknowledgments of conflicts of interest
 - a. Present = John Brewer, Amanda Brown, Alison Hadden, Kelley Krupicka, Travis Haley, Ryan Lally, Laurel Lenz, Dawn Loge, Keri Melmed, Kathryn Martinez, Caitlin Vaughn Sekar, Alisha Smith, Kaylie Titus.
 - b. Absent = Juana Rosa Cavero, Nadja Cockrell, Theodosia Cook.
 - c. No conflicts noted.
3. Approve agenda - Amanda moves, Kelly seconds, passes
4. Approve October minutes - Kelly moves, Alisha seconds, passes
5. Public comment - Tara Emrick
6. ED, Board Committee and Council Updates
 - a. ED update
 - i. Updated on school activities over the past month.
 - ii. Halls of school have documentation panels up for expedition nights.
 - iii. Looking ahead -
 1. Native American History month celebration
 2. Annual campaign
 3. Exhibition nights
 4. National Conference - all staff will be attending.
 5. Progress reports.
 6. Auction date - March 16th.
 7. School will reach full capacity K-5 next year = 318 students.
 8. Middle school information, upcoming open houses shared with current 5th graders & families.
 9. Longer term = Enrollment strategy longer term, staffing to support need and middle school staffing. Math instruction, offer accelerated programs? More next meeting and beyond.
 - b. Finance Committee update
 - i. Projects EOY fund balance is now \$20,349

- ii. Carol (CFO) will attend the January meeting to review the amended budget for approval and to administer Finance 101 training.
- c. Development Committee update
 - i. DPS funds provided to the school are short by ~\$500 per student versus costs.
 - ii. \$154,000 goal this year to bridge this difference
 - 1. \$50K - Adventure campaign
 - 2. \$50K - annual campaign (CO gives day)
 - 3. \$54K - auction
 - iii. Asking for board participation
 - 1. Monday Dec 4 - afternoon "grateful for YOU" event.
 - 2. Tues Dec 5 - AM and PM push for donations. Dropoff or pickup.
- d. Executive Committee update
 - i. A grievance was received regarding the drag queen story hour. A resolution team has been assembled.
 - ii. ED evaluation process includes a November check-in. Midyear evaluation with the entire board will occur in February.
- 7. Other business - Session to begin work on equity statement. Led by Kerry Lord.
 - i. Keri started with a summary of the equity audit by Groundswell.
 - 1. Nine key insights for the board. Many have been addressed.
 - 2. Sixteen key findings for the community.
 - 3. Seventeen key findings for the staff.
 - 4. Impact on the equity statement we will be working on.
 - ii. Discussion led by Kerry Lord.
 - 1. Why is an equity audit needed? Who will it serve?
 - 2. Discussed board impressions from article: <https://dueeast.org/equity-visioning/>
 - a. Declaration has many purposes and uses
 - b. It is a way to reflect the core values and goals of Odyssey.
 - 3. Discussion of example statements
 - a. What are we trying to call out and signal to the community?
 - b. Naming has power - e.g. affected groups, responsible people, specific goals.
 - c. Rather than accountability (signifies a forcing or that some do not agree), a promise is something that all can work together to deliver on.
 - d. Discussion of next steps:
 - i. Need 3-4 board members willing to do leg work between board meetings. Email Keri
 - ii. Work to include gathering/reviewing example statements from DPS and EL.
- 8. Future items:
 - i. Board meeting is early next month (Dec. 13) due to holidays.
- 9. Adjournment
 - i. Alisha moves to adjourn, Ryan seconds, passes.
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm

Keri Melmed

Keri Melmed, Board Chair _____ 12/13/2023