

**Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2024**  
**4:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Remote access:**

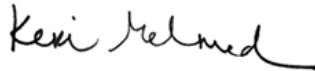
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<b>Our Mission:</b> Odyssey School of Denver is a diverse, public, K-8 Expeditionary Learning school. We teach students how to learn through a focus on academic achievement, critical thinking and social responsibility, preparing them for high school 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 - 4:04 pm
2. Roll call & acknowledgments of conflicts of interest
  - a. Present = Amanda Brown, Alison Hadden, Kelley Krupicka, Travis Haley, Laurel Lenz, Ryan Lally, Dawn Loge, Keri Melmed, Kathryn Martinez, Caitlin Vaughn Sekar, Alicia Smith, Kaylie Titus.
  - b. Absent = John Brewer, Juana Rosa Cavero, Nadja Cockrell, Theodosia Cook.
  - c. No conflicts
3. Approve agenda - Travis moves, Ryan seconds, passes
4. Approve February minutes - Kelley moves, Travis seconds, passes
5. Public comment - none
6. ED, Board Committee and Council Updates
  - a. ED update
    - i. Celebrations - Sneaker Ball.
    - ii. Community Circle - poet visit and poem about Odyssey
    - iii. Positions - Many open positions are in the final interview stages.
      1. Levi is leaving. Em Lederer will be the new adventure director, Search open for new Adventure Coordinator..
      2. Lisa Chen will move to 5th grade literacy.
      3. Alora is leaving as 7th-8th math lead.
      4. Odyssey is initiating a student teacher program next year.
    - iv. Middle school (6th grade) enrollment in 2025-26 year
      1. Currently, 6th grade is limited to 26 student slots
        - a. In 2025, 40 students will graduate Odyssey from 5th grade
        - b. Typically, 50-75% of 5th graders choose to continue at Odyssey from 5th-6th.
      2. How might we resolve the potential gap?
        - a. Option A: Commit to enroll all current students who want to stay for 6th.

- i. If > 26 students choose to stay, increase the class size, possibly not filling any vacated 7th/8th grade slots.
    - ii. Move either the middle school or all students to a new building. (Would need to identify appropriate and available location).
    - iii. Challenges include:
      - 1. Can only apply for new DPS district space in the fall and may not learn results prior to school choice date.
      - 2. A school move change drop off location(s), etc. for families.
  - b. Option B: Use the DPS choice system to fill all 6th grade slots. Odyssey 5th graders enter choice at the top of the priority list (with all other current priorities unchanged).
    - i. Would need to set this lottery up in September.
    - ii. This option is not exclusive to enrolling a larger 6th grade class (though not greater than 30 without charter/space changes).
    - iii. Challenges include:
      - 1. Without more space, not all 5th graders attending Odyssey could be guaranteed a spot in the MST.
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Moving the school may be strategically and logistically beneficial. More space would provide flexibility to better accommodate current school size.
    - ii. No harm to inquire next fall with DPS about options?
    - iii. The current 6th grade waitlist is >100 students.
    - iv. Need to gather more data about enrollment and consider options further by next fall.
- b. Finance Committee Update
  - i. Recommending purchase of two new 12-passenger vans for adventure program.
    - 1. Proposal is to have a final fleet of 3 buses and a gear van.
      - a. Provides capacity for double crew trips, up to 54 people per trip and provides a back-up vehicle.
    - 2. Total cost of \$120-130K.
      - a. Expect ~\$20K of this will be recovered by selling bus #2
    - 3. Requires a board vote to approve due to cost.
  - ii. Finance update:
    - 1. Project the year-end budget balance will be +\$19,991 (after bus purchase).
  - iii. Vote to approve purchase of two buses (paused until after the executive session).
    - 1. Laurel moves, Travis seconds, passes.
  - iv. Carol will be here next month for discussion and approval of the 5 year budget plan
  - v. PPR increases by \$700 / student next year.
- c. Development Committee Update
  - i. Auction goal was \$50,000 (net).
  - ii. Currently over \$72,000 (gross).
  - iii. Board members please make gifts to cover their pledges (contact Ali or through Colorado Gives website).
- d. Equity working group
  - i. Draft document was shared.
  - ii. Currently seeking feedback from board, students, community
- e. Executive Committee Update
  - i. Board recruitment:
    - 1. Seeking 3 new community members.
      - a. Seeking diverse individuals/perspectives.
      - b. Skills desired:

- i. Equity, nonprofit
      - ii. School data person
      - iii. Marketing, communications, fund-raising
    - c. Interested individuals who cannot commit to the board might also consider volunteering for the school accountability or finance committees.
  2. Seeking a family representative to replace Ali (Family Council).
  3. Seeking a faculty rep to replace Kaylie (Family Council)
6. Other Board Business
- a. Executive session under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f): Personnel matters.
    - i. Amanda moves, Laurel seconds, passes.
    - ii. Enter executive session at 4:55 pm
    - iii. Invited Kathryn, Dawn, Kailey, and Mike Richie from HYA (search firm).
    - iv. Vote to leave executive session: Amanda moves, Alicia seconds, passes.
    - v. Exited executive session at 5:27 pm.
8. Wrap Up & Upcoming Agenda Items
- a. Continue discussion of rising 6th grade / MS enrollment.
  - b. Plan to elect board officers in May (incoming chair, etc).
  - c. Plan to set date for summer board retreat in May.
  - d. First board meeting next August should not be on the first day of school
9. Adjournment
- a. Ryan moves to adjourn. Alicia seconds. Passes.
  - b. Meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm



Keri Melmed, Board Chair \_\_\_\_\_

04/17/2024