

Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors

Wednesday, January, 21 2025

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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: • 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 - 4:03 pm
2. Roll call & acknowledgments of conflicts of interest
 - a. Present = Paul Cindric, Travis Haley, Alex Hannum, Kelley Krupicka, Ryan Lally, Patrick Lane, Laurel Lenz, Pete Martinez, Melia Repko-Erwin, Erin Peikin-Sekar, Clarissa Pohlman, Caitlin Vaughan Sekar, Emily Wheat, Jeff Williams.
 - b. Absent = Amanda Brown
 - c. No conflicts
3. Move to approve agenda
 - a. Jeff moves and Alex seconds. Passes.
4. Vote to approve December minutes.
 - a. Caitlin moves, Alex seconds. Passes.
5. Public comment
 - a. None
6. Executive session under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e): Determining contract negotiation strategies
 - a. Staff board members were invited to stay for the executive session.
 - b. Jeff moves, Alex seconds
 - c. Enter executive session at 4:08 pm
 - d. Caitlin Moves, Emily seconds
 - e. Exit executive session at 4:35 pm
7. ED update
 - a. Highlights
 - i. New expeditions launching
 - ii. Lots of field work
 - iii. Staffing changes
 - iv. Adventure trip planning
 - v. Leadership crew
 - b. Upcoming
 - i. Integrating new staff
 - ii. Mid-year staff survey - will share data next month
 - iii. Staff intent to return
 - iv. Family intent to return
 - v. Round 1 of choice closed yesterday

- c. Staffing updates were shared in the Thursday folder two weeks ago.
- d. EL work plan update
 - i. MIS#2 - Integration of Habits of a Learner into academic work
- e. Adventure strategic planning
 - i. Katherine Rocco - selected for the evaluation and future planning
 - ii. Goal of this process is to determine where the program is heading, including sustainability issues, per pupil cost calculations, partering/funding opportunities
 - iii. Work starts next week, Katherine will visit school in February.
- f. Facility updates
 - i. Explored possibility of purchasing St. Elizabeth's school
 - 1. Worked with Kin commercial to investigate
 - 2. Cost was determined to be beyond the reach of Odyssey. There would be several needed renovations with additional costs incurred beyond the purchase price.
 - ii. Pivot towards evaluating strategy to update/expand the current facility to best ensure the school can continue meeting the needs of students.
- g. Staff council
 - i. New calendar
 - ii. BESS
- 8. Finance Committee update
 - a. Year to date financial update
 - i. Projections for end of year increase to reserves of \$249K (+\$144K)
 - ii. Changes reflect the final PPR amounts, an accounting error correction by DPS, and PERA rates that were reduced in July but not accounted for in the budgeting previously.
 - b. Carol introduced amended budget
 - i. Line-by-line budget was shared with the board
 - ii. Discussion of pros and cons of increased fund balance.
 - 1. Greater reserves will assure lenders of financial health
 - 2. Thus lower interest rates if there are facilities purchases in the future.
 - c. Vote on approval of budget
 - i. Needs to be submitted to DPS after approval
 - ii. Alex moves, Jeff seconds, passes
- 9. Development committee update
 - a. Colorado Gives Day
 - i. Emily shared cards for board to write thank you cards.
 - ii. Discussion of details for sending the thank you cards.
 - iii. Update on proceeds.
 - b. Auction
 - i. Request for volunteers, acquisitions, donations.
 - ii. Emily shared information with the board.
 - iii. Board gift ideas.
- 10. Approval of 2026-7 calendar
 - a. Pete introduced the calendar
 - i. Committee includes Elki, staff, two family representatives
 - ii. The committee evaluated past calendars, DPS calendar, and polled the community to recommend the new calendar.
 - iii. The calendar will align strongly with the DPS calendar. Later start date, for example.
 - b. Discussion with staff representatives about their thoughts on approval.
 - c. Kelley moves to approve, Emily seconds, passes.
 - i. Discussion of ideas for compensating, release of time, early release on conference day.
- 11. Wrap up and topics for future meetings.
 - a. ED evaluation was shared with Pete
 - b. Our next meeting is on February 18.

- i. Data on student performance (iReady)
- ii. Data from staff survey
- iii. Facilities update
- iv. Revisit auction
- v. Deans of culture, deep dive on other perspectives
- vi. End of year staff survey will come directly to board.

12. Jeff moves to adjourn, Alex seconds. Passes.

- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.



2/18/2025

Caitlin Vaughan Sekar, Board Chair