

Odyssey School of Denver Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 18, 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 = Amanda Brown, Paul Cindric, Travis Haley, Alex Hannum, Kelley Krupicka, Ryan Lally, Laurel Lenz, Pete Martinez, Melia Repko-Erwin, Erin Peikin-Sekar, Clarissa Pohlman, Caitlin Vaughan Sekar, Jeff Williams.
 - b. Absent = Emily Wheat, Patrick Lane
 - c. No conflicts
3. Move to approve agenda
 - a. Caitlin moves and Clarissa seconds. Passes.
4. Vote to approve February minutes.
 - a. Caitlin moves, Jeff seconds. Passes.
5. Public comment
 - a. None
6. ED update
 - a. Highlights
 - i. Middle school dance was well-attended and successful
 - ii. Student led conferences have been completed
 - iii. NAEP (8th graders) testing. The school was randomly selected for this national test
 - iv. 5th grade crew trip completed.
 - v. Odyssey auction - "Odyssey under the stars" was a success
 - vi. Visit by Dr. DJ Torres and Amy Klein Molk from the DPS school board
 - b. Looking ahead
 - i. Spring break coming up on March 30-April 3
 - ii. CMAS (April 7-24th)
 - iii. Spring crew trips continue (3rd, 1st, 7th grades)
 - iv. Assistant Principal Week (April 6-10th)
 - v. Hiring to fill vacant positions
 - c. Enrollment
 - i. Results from Round 1 were released
 1. 332 is current total enrollment. The budgeted goal is for 329.
 - a. Do not plan to not fill vacancies above goal.
 2. Increased elementary enrollment due to Palmer closure = bubble crew.

- a. Crew size now 21 per crew (42 per grade) for all other elementary grades.
 - 3. 6-8th = 26 students per grade.
 - a. 21-23 returning from 5th grade.
 - b. Strategic over-enrollment may occur to backfill for vacancies in 7th and 8th grade going forward.
 - 4. DPS previously withheld placeholder spots entering K students that schools were not allowed to fill until August. This practice will no longer occur.
- d. Staffing vacancies to be filled:
 - i. 1st grade crew leader
 - ii. 5th grade crew leader (literacy)
- e. EL work plan update
- f. Staff council update
 - i. Mid-year staff survey results
 - ii. ILT shared structural items
 - iii. Coverage support on Thursday of conferences
 - iv. Re-calibrating on weekly family updates
 - 1. Minimizing overlap of information and maximizing sustainability for teachers
 - 2. Discussion of using a common format for all teachers to use
 - 3. Communication plan going forward (e.g. using DPS app).
- 7. Finance Committee update
 - a. Small positive change in projected fund balance (projected to be \$256,000, versus \$249,000 last month)
 - b. Reserves are being retained to budget for future building expenses.
 - c. Data this month does not yet reflect auction proceeds/costs.
 - d. Planning for April meeting = budget approval expected, but could be in May.
 - i. Projecting a loss beginning in 2027-8
 - ii. Planning for strategies to offset these losses to balance budget
 - iii. Five levers = PPR, expenses, facility costs, fundraising, enrollment numbers.
- 8. Development committee update
 - a. Auction
 - i. \$3285 increase from last year
 - ii. Thank you for the board paddle match
 - iii. Costs were reduced vs. last year.
 - 1. Decorations
 - 2. Catering
 - 3. Facilities
 - 4. Fewer vacation packages (which incur expense as percent of revenue).
 - iv. Breakdown of different categories
 - 1. Sponsorships increased
 - 2. Buy-a-shares tripled
 - 3. Reduced revenue from live auction.
 - v. Location was comfortable and spacious
 - vi. Discussion of formalizing the auction chair position for continuity - could be modeled similar to the board chair position.
 - vii. Discussion of other ideas for adjustments to how the auction is organized.
 - b. Teacher appreciation in May
 - i. Travis will organize = one day (e.g. Monday) coffee or burritos for lunch
- 9. Executive Committee update
 - a. Board vacancies
 - i. Discussion of members whose terms are ending in June.
 - ii. Process for filling vacancies.
 - 1. Think of people you know who would be good members
 - 2. Particular interest in people with expertise in fundraising/development and non-profit and/or corporate real estate.

3. Let interested individuals know that letters of interest will be accepted April 15-May 5.
 4. Vacancies will also be advertised in Thursday folder
10. Wrap up and topics for future meetings.
- a. Next month we will need to discuss finance and budgeting levers
 - b. Auction discussion
 - c. Date for board retreat
 - d. Caitlin moves to adjourn, Ryan seconds. Passes.
 - e. The meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.



4/15/2026

Caitlin Vaughan Sekar, Board Chair