

Odyssey Academy
6201 Noble Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Wednesday January 11, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Odyssey Board Mission

The purpose of the Board, on behalf of Odyssey Academy membership, is to create sustainable conditions in which Odyssey Academy achieves desired results for students, parents, and staff in a financially responsible manner.

Community Members: None

Guest Visitors: None

1.0 Call to Order: Board Chairperson, Jodie Hardenbrook, called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Odyssey Academy at 6:09 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Jodie Hardenbrook; and Members; Alicen Thorstad, James Rosengren, Kris Lawrence-Anderson, Pa Modou Ann, Faaria Husain, Anna Morphew, John Sedey, Executive Director, ex-officio member.

Absent: Barb Newbauer, Danielle Gruber

2.0 Additions to Agenda – Made at Board Meeting: None.

3.0 Approval of Agenda: January 11, 2012

Motion: Lawrence-Anderson moved, seconded by Thorstad, to approve the January 11, 2012 agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4.0 Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2011 – Thorstad noted a correction to grammar in the minutes.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Rosengren, to approve the December 14, 2011 Board Meeting minutes with the noted correction.

Motion carried.

5.0 Community Comments: None.

6.0 Closed Meeting as Needed: A closed meeting was not called.

7.0 New Business: None

8.0 Committee Reports:

8.1 Community Action: Thorstad reported that the committee had yet to meet for the month.

No report given.

8.2 Health and Wellness: No Board Representation for this committee.

No report given.

8.3 Finance: Rosengren reviewed the Cash Flow and Balance Sheet, stating that Odyssey was now receiving the IDEAS money. He pointed out that the reason that the amounts located under payroll and taxes appeared high was because they reflected three payroll periods. He noted that the next report will only reflect one. He added that, at the time, the state had yet to provide the lease-aid payments. Rosengren concluded by saying that, overall, the numbers were looking positive and that the committee did not foresee having to use the line of credit until March.

8.4 School Improvement: Meeting scheduled for January 12, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

No report given.

8.5 Technology: Committee meetings on hold.

No report given.

8.6 Marketing: Lawrence-Anderson reported that the committee had met and engaged in several productive discussions including, how to effectively market Odyssey and its events and identifying that increasing enrollment will be one of the committee's main goals.

8.7 Facilities/OSBO: Sedey reported that the search for possible buyers of the building was continuing and stated that Paul Donovan was currently working with Ziegler to try and put together a purchase deal.

9.0 Director's Report:

9.1 Enrollments: Sedey reported that enrollment was at 278 students, noting that it was an increase from last meeting's enrollment update of 270.

9.2 Extended Day Programming: Sedey reported that the extended day program was growing and a second 4 / 5 grade teacher had to be added due to the increase in enrollment.

9.3 Strategic Planning: Thorstad reported that the committee had worked on brainstorming Odyssey's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, with the goal

of meeting together and discussing the information at the next meeting in February. She noted that the committee was still only meeting once a month and that she would discuss with Steve Skramstad the possibility of the committee meeting twice a month, to assist in reaching Odyssey's strategic planning goals. Thorstad reported that the Board will be provided with an update of the committee's progress at the February Board meeting.

9.4 2012-13 Calendar Process/Input: Sedey and the Board discussed surveying the staff in order to get their feedback regarding the next school year's calendar.

The Board agreed that a paper survey should be given to parents during Trimester II conferences based on the low turnout last year to having parents go to the media center to complete a survey. Sedey added that the Board would discuss the results at the February meeting.

10.0 Consent Agenda:

10.1 Payment of Bills Including Payroll:

10.1.1 Approval of Checks #20971 through #21039 Disbursements:

Motion: Morphew moved, seconded by Husain, to approve checks #20971 through #21039 for the payment of bills including payroll.

Motion carried.

10.2 Personnel Action: None

10.3 Receipt of Donations: None

11.0 Old Business:

11.1 Set 2012 Board Meeting Schedule: The Board agreed to continue with the current meeting schedule of meeting on the third Wednesday of the month for the 2012 Board calendar.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Rosengren, to approve the proposed 2012 Board Meeting schedule.

Motion carried.

11.2 Religious Policy: It was brought to the attention of the Board, certain concerns of staff members, parents, and Board Members regarding the use of Christian themed songs in the school's Winter Program. A discussion followed examining possible ways to honor the appreciation of holidays and continue to be inclusive of all of our students and their families. Lawrence-Anderson suggested that the holidays and traditions of our Odyssey students could be researched, presented and celebrated by Odyssey's students in the form of academic projects. Modou Ann expressed his admiration for being part of a Board that works hard to bring together their students and families.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Lawrence-Anderson, to approve the Religious Policy, as written.

Motion carried.

11.3 Student Dress and Appearance Policy: The Board clarified that the policy does address the acceptance of all religious forms of head covering.

Motion: Rosengren moved, seconded by Morpew, to approve the Student Dress and Appearance Policy, as written.

Motion carried.

11.4 Equal Access to School Facilities Policy: Hardenbrook noted that in the regulations for the policy, it should state that a staff member is on site when any group uses the facility after hours, to ensure that the policy is being followed.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Lawrence-Anderson, to approve the Equal Access to School Facilities Policy as written.

Motion carried.

11.5 Wellness Policy: The Board decided to table the adoption of the policy to allow for further discussion of points #2, #4, and #11.

11.6 Director Performance Review: Rosengren, Thorstad and Hardenbrook volunteered to perform this year's performance review. It was decided that they would meet in the upcoming month.

11.7 Change Board Year to Coincide with Fiscal Year: Sedey noted that the Board will have to change the by-laws to reflect that the current Board calendar will be for a year and a half with the new term following the fiscal year, starting in June 2013.

12.0 Action to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 P.M.

Lawrence-Anderson moved, seconded Morpew.

Motion carried.