

Odyssey Academy
6201 Noble Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Wednesday July 18, 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: Julie Billups – Parent

Ara Gunusen – Parent

Kimberline Wesseh - Parent

Guest Visitors: Chris Nordmann - 6/8 Social Studies Teacher

Lisa Sedlock – 6/8 Math Teacher

1.0 Call to Order: Board Chairperson, Jodie Hardenbrook, called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Odyssey Academy at 6:03 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Jodie Hardenbrook; and Members; Alicen Thorstad, James Rosengren, Pa Modou Ann, Danielle Gruber, Anna Morpew, John Sedey, Executive Director, ex-officio member.

Absent: Barb Newbauer, Kris Lawrence-Anderson, Faaria Husain.

2.0 Additions to Agenda – Made at Board Meeting: The Board agreed to hear agenda item 11.1.2 Consideration of Uniforms at the beginning of the meeting, in consideration of the community members that were present to provide comments regarding the issue.

3.0 Approval of Agenda: July 18, 2012

Motion: Rosengren moved, seconded by Morpew, to approve the July 18, 2012 agenda with noted adjustment.

Motion carried.

4.0 Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the June 20, 2012 minutes and made the following adjustments: all motions were updated with Member names and the misspelling of Christy Fehr was corrected to read Kristy Fehr.

Motion: Rosengren moved, seconded by Modou Ann, to approve the June 20, 2012 Board Meeting minutes with noted changes.

Motion carried.

5.0 Community Comments:

Julie Billups – Commented on the consideration of school uniforms.

Ara Gunusen – Commented on the consideration of school uniforms.

Kimberline Wesseh - Commented on the consideration of school uniforms.

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

7.0 New Business: Sedey noted that July 1, 2012 marked the new School Board year.

7.1 Installation of Board Members:

7.1.1 Board Norms/Protocols: Hardenbrook reviewed Board Meeting protocols and norms, focusing on Board Meeting structure, time limitations for discussion topics and Members being recognized by the Chair prior to speaking on a given topic.

7.2 Election of Board Members: Modou Ann recommended the Board Officers continue in their current offices.

7.2.1 Chairperson: Hardenbrook

7.2.2 Vice-chairperson: Thorstad

7.2.3 Clerk: Gruber

7.2.4 Treasurer: Rosengren

Motion: Rosengren moved, seconded by Modou Ann, to approve the election of the Board Officers.

Motion carried.

7.3 Board Meeting Schedule: Sedey proposed a Board Meeting schedule based on the current schedule of meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm.

The Board agreed to accept the proposed 2012-13 Board Meeting schedule with a correction to the August Meeting date, which read as August 26th, to read as August 22nd.

Motion: Morphey moved, seconded by Rosengren, to approve the 2012-13 Board Meeting schedule with the noted correction.

Motion carried.

7.4 Board Training Schedule: Sedey informed the Board that training for “Governance” and “Personnel Matters” needed to be completed by October 31st for the Members who had yet to complete the training. The Board agreed that all Members would benefit from attending the trainings, and decided to have them scheduled to coincide with an already scheduled Board Meeting.

It was agreed that “Governance” and “Personnel Matters” training would be scheduled for the months of September and October allowing for a two-hour time-block prior to each month’s Board Meeting.

7.5 Resolution Providing Limited Authorization for Executive Director and Business Manager to Sign Contracts:

Motion: Rosengren moved, seconded by Thorstad, to approve the resolution providing limited authorization for the Executive Director and Business Manager to sign contracts.

Motion carried.

7.6 Authorization to Approve and Pay Vendors Before Board Meetings and Use Wire Transfers:

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Morphey, to provide the Business Manager the authorization to approve and pay vendors before Board Meetings and use wire transfers.

Motion carried.

7.7 Selection of Park Midway Bank as the School Depository:

Motion: Rosengren moved, seconded by Gruber, to approve the selection of Park Midway Bank as the school depository.

Motion carried.

7.8 Flexible Spending Plan Consent Resolution and the 125 Plan Amendment:

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Rosengren, to approve the Flexible Spending Plan and the 125 Plan amendment.

Motion carried.

7.9 Selection of MMKR to Complete the FY12 Audit:

Motion: Morphey moved, seconded by Modou Ann, to approve the selection of MMKR to complete the fy12 audit.

Motion carried.

7.10 Authorization for Business Manager to Transfer Funds:

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Gruber, to approve the authorization for the Business Manager to transfer funds.

Motion carried.

8.0 Committee Reports:

8.1 Community Action: Thorstad reported that the committee had been discussing the possibility of combining with the Marketing and Health and Wellness Committees to create a more functional committee.

The Board discussed and agreed to restructure the Community Action Committee to include, as sub-committees, the Health and Wellness and Marketing Committees. The overall goal will be to become more efficient, as well as, eliminating any overlap that occurs between the committees when it comes to event planning and funds.

The Board agreed that AYP would become a sub-committee of the School Improvement Committee.

The Board agreed that Technology and OSBO would become sub-committees of the Facilities Committee.

The Board agreed that the Finance Committee did not need to be restructured.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Morpew, to approve the noted reorganizing of the Board Committees structure.

Motion carried.

8.2 Health and Wellness:

No report given.

8.3 Finance:

No report given.

8.4 School Improvement:

No report given.

8.5 Technology:

No report given.

8.6 Marketing:

No report given.

8.7 Facilities/OSBO:

No report given.

9.0 Director's Report:

9.1 Enrollments: Sedey reported that enrollment for fall was at 305 students.

9.2 Extended Day Programming: Sedey reported that the Summer Program enrollment was at 169 students.

9.2.1 Coping with High Temperatures: The Board discussed safety concerns and options for keeping students and staff cool during upcoming high temperatures.

9.3 Building Renovations/Purchase Status: Sedey updated the Board on a possible agreement with CSDC to have them purchase the building and then lease it back to Odyssey with a purchase option once the lease is completed.

He noted that improvements around the building would be occurring over the summer:

- lockers were going to be repainted green and blue
- the reserved and visitor signs in the parking lot were going to be removed
- new sod in the front of the building
- new phone system and internet provider

10.0 Consent Agenda:

10.1 Payment of Bills Including Payroll:

10.1.1 Approval of Checks #21394 through #21450 Disbursements:

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Morphey, to approve checks #21191 through #21252 for the payment of bills including payroll.

Motion carried.

10.2 Personnel Action:

10.2.1 Teacher Agreement Renewals:

10.2.2 Para Professional Renewals:

Sedey reviewed with the Board the pay structure and corrections to salary disparities in each proposal.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Rosengren, to accept the proposals set forward.

Motion carried.

10.3 Contracts:

10.3.1 Catholic Charities (Counselor/Social Worker):

Motion: Morpew moved, seconded by Gruber, to approve the counselor/social worker contract with Catholic Charities.

Motion carried.

10.4 Receipt of Donations: None

11.0 Old Business:

11.1 Strategic Plan:

11.1.1 Approval of 6-8 Plan: Sedey reported on the various ideas revolving around the strategic plan to engage students and provide for individualized learning. He discussed the idea to create a computer lab for the 6-8 classes and the plan to bring technology current to allow Odyssey to become competitive with other area schools.

The Board directed questions to Nordmann and Sedlock, Odyssey 6/8 teachers, and discussed technology and budget concerns. Sedey noted that the budget does include funding for a computer lab, software and furniture for the 6/8 program.

Motion: Thorstad moved, seconded by Modou Ann, to approve the 6-8 Plan as presented.

Motion carried.

11.1.2 Consideration of Uniforms: Thorstad spoke on behalf of the Uniform Task Force. She reported that the task force found that there were too many variables and a very limited time frame for the uniform requirement to be successfully implemented by the beginning of this school year. She stated that the task force was not suggesting that the uniform requirement be eliminated; only placed on hold for the next year to allow time for research and conversation with families as to the most successful and affordable way to implement a uniform requirement for our Odyssey students. The task force suggested that the Board set a benchmark of implementing a uniform requirement for the 2013-14 school year which would provide a year of research and gathering information to ensure a successful uniform implementation.

Motion: Modou Ann moved, seconded by Thorstad, to accept the recommendation made by the Uniform Task Force, that the Board retract the uniform requirement for the 2012-13 school year and set a benchmark of the 2013-14 school year to allow for additional time to organize and provide all information necessary for a successful uniform implementation.

Motion carried

11.3 Staff Agreement and Professional Dress Code: Sedey provided to the Board a copy of the Staff dress code that will be given to all Odyssey staff for the 2012-13 school year.

11.4 Action Plan: Sedey provided to the Board a copy of the Action Plan to review for discussion at the August Board Meeting.

12.0 Action to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 P.M.

Grubermoved, seconded Morphew.

Motion carried.