

## **James Rosengren – Community Member (*Incumbent*)**

- **What is your connection to Odyssey Academy?**

I was first involved as a parent of two girls when the school was forming. I have been an active volunteer for many positions throughout the years, a board member since 2009, and the board chair for the last two years. My wife taught several grades at Odyssey Academy.

- **How will your service with other Board Members help fulfill the mission of Odyssey?**

As a board member I would continue to ensure that all members are provided an opportunity to succeed in their learning at Odyssey. By providing a safe place, quality teachers, and instructional material for the students to learn. An important part of being a board member is to be fiscally responsible to our Committee, Authorizer, and the State of Minnesota by creating and reviewing a yearly budget and maintaining a fund balance.

- **What strengths and skills do you bring to the Odyssey community?**

The skills I bring to Odyssey is 12 years working as a software technician with Pitney Bowes. In supporting PB software I work with customers to resolve issues they are having in a timely matter, carefully documenting how the issues were resolved. As a board member for the past six years I have assisted the School Board to increase Odyssey's fund balance from \$70,037 in 2009 to \$568,907 in 2014. The current fund balance is 18%. I also assisted the school board in the purchase of our current building and the 1.2 Million renovation of the building.

I have a passion for the students at Odyssey Academy and have seen many young men and women come into the Odyssey Academy with issues preventing them from learning, overcoming those issues, leave Odyssey and excel in the other schools they continue into. There have been class presidents, valedictorians, and school leaders becoming what they have become because the staff and school board went above and beyond teaching the "three R's" by providing a safe environment that many students do not want to leave at the end of the day.

- **What is your vision of a "nurturing, innovative, and challenging environment that emphasizes independent thinking, active learning, high academic achievement, and social responsibility"?**

My vision of a nurturing innovative and challenging environment comes from the way my wife taught her fourth and fifth grade class, the student fully welcomed into the classroom, the teacher strives to understand the student's needs both emotionally and academically, in order to encourage the student to take control of his or her learning. When each student's needs are understood then true differentiation in the curriculum can take place. The entire staff needs to work towards making each student feel that she or he is the most important person in the school.

- **How do you see the school administration and Board of Directors working cooperatively to keep alive the vision that started Odyssey?**

This next year will be an important one, with Mr. Sedey retiring and a new executive director being hired the school board needs to be vigilant in insuring that the learning culture and mission statement are carefully followed at Odyssey Academy, but also allow the new executive director to make Odyssey theirs.