

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Odyssey Community School - Board of Trustees  
Meeting Agenda  
Monday, October 26, 2020  
4:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting  
Joining info

**[meet.google.com/jdt-teev-ggr](https://meet.google.com/jdt-teev-ggr)**

**Phone Numbers  
(US)+1 601-908-5008  
PIN: 335 051 848#**

**1. Call to Order**

Time 4:31 pm

By Miriam Lewis

Present: Philip O'Reilly, Cynthia Merrill, Sarah Althen, Jessica Swann,  
Annie Busby, Walter King, Kevin Bieler, Miriam Lewis, Lisa Kimyachi

Absent: Lillanya Dantzler

Invited Presenters: Kaiya Hill, Shannon Hanson, Jane Hylan

**2. Public Comment**

Speakers will be recognized by the President and identify himself/herself by name and address and proceed with his/her comments. All persons will be limited to five (5) minutes. The total time allotted for Public Comment shall not exceed twenty (20) minutes and is at the discretion of the Board and may not address specific personnel issues.

None

**3. Approve minutes of September 28, 2020**

(Attachment 1)

MOTION by Sarah Althen

SECOND by Cynthia Merrill

VOTE unanimous

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### **4. Reopening Odyssey**

#### a. Review of Metrics

Dr. O'Reilly shared the state guidance and map of CT with the 2 week average of new cases as well as up to the minute data from the government. Manchester is currently at a 8.4 rate of rise. Annie Busby shared parent survey results which indicated that parents were split into thirds, almost exactly:  $\frac{1}{3}$  wanting full in-person instruction,  $\frac{1}{3}$  wanting to remain in hybrid, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of parents wanting to keep their students home for full remote learning. Kevin Bieler shared the staff responses: 49% of staff wish to remain in hybrid, 34% voted for full remote, and 17% wish to return to full in-person instruction. Parents on the board expressed how hard it is to go month-by-month in the decision making and expressed that remote learning is very difficult. Discussion around the concern for teachers being able to teach full time in-person students does pose a challenge with then being able to teach to our 40% of remote students. Discussion continued with possibilities of a Virtual Academy or slowly phasing in full in-person learning. Board members were concerned about voting again at the next meeting and how quickly that vote would go into place with winter break only a few weeks later. The decision was made that the school would remain in its hybrid model until January.

### **5. Executive Director's Report**

#### a. Community Health Clinic Presentation by Shannon Hanson & Jane Hylan

It was reported that the School Based Health Care application is in the works and can take up to 3 months for the federal government to approve it.

#### b. Expansion of BOT Membership

The Board is in need of more community members. It was decided that this would be included in the weekly newsletter to families, seeking help in recruiting individuals with backgrounds in education, finance, law, real estate, or technology and who have an interest in the school. This will be added to the next parent meeting agenda as well as the board's next meeting agenda.

#### c. Charter School Annual Report

Dr. O'Reilly reported that this was submitted on time and signed by Miriam Lewis.

#### d. Financial Report

Kaiya Hill shared the financial report spreadsheet. Facilities management and technology are overspent but are COVID related and grants will be used for some of this. The projected overall surplus for the year, due to grant funding, is \$192,204. Next year's budget process will begin in the next few weeks.

### **6. Principal's Report**

#### a. Focus Areas/Goals

Annie Busby reported that the school received a waiver from the state in which school goals can now center around Social Emotional Learning (SEL) as well as a waiver for formal teacher evaluations and summative ratings. Informal observations of teachers will still be done. The fall school climate survey will be sent out this week and results will be presented next month.

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### b. MAP Testing

Jessica Swann shared the MAP scores from the Fall testing in comparison to the fall scores in 2019. All cohorts made progress from the previous year. Teachers will be examining individual student data within grade level meetings.

## **8. Parent's Report**

Many parents from the Executive Board of COOP have decided to step down this year. More recruitment will be needed. Polar Pals fundraiser will also need to be discussed with administration.

## **9. Teacher's Report**

Kevin Bieler & Lisa Kimyachi reported the results of the staff survey sent out by teacher representatives. An increase in stress level among teachers was reported. Common stressors included lack of time, inconsistent communication, worry about health & safety with the upcoming cold/flu season and holiday travel, constant learning of new technology, and new initiatives being rolled out. They reported that they have been in communication with Marisa Conyers, the school counselor, in discussing ways to alleviate stress.

## **10. Executive Session to discuss Potential Real Estate Transaction**

No Motion

## **11. Executive Director - Final Thoughts**

Dr. O'Reilly added to his report by stating that the interview process for a third custodian is still ongoing and a bilingual tutor has been hired, who will begin Nov. 2.

## **Adjournment time 6:18 pm**

MOTION by Cynthia Merrill to adjourn

SECOND by Kevin Bieler