

**Odyssey Community School - Board of Trustees
Meeting Agenda
Monday, March 29, 2021
4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

Time 4:31 pm

By Miriam Lewis

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

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. Review/Approve February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes and March 15, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Board members were unable to open documents virtually- minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

4. Executive Director Report

- a. Connecticut's Charter Schools Best Practices Annual Report
-Dr. O'Reilly and Kaiya Hill (Business Manager) featured in Charter School Best Practices Annual Report.
- b. [Review of Metrics/Reopening Discussion](#)
-Dr. O'Reilly presented the current Manchester metrics.
-Annie Busby reported that one of the biggest challenges has been supporting both remote and in-person learners. Another teacher has been hired for in-person 3rd grade as Meghan Foley moves to become the 3rd/4th grade remote teacher. 5th-8th grade teachers will have schedule changes to be able to meet with both in-person and remote students.
-Data from the teacher survey about re-opening presented by Kevin Bieler and Lisa Kimyachi: Teachers see incredible benefit of having students in person five days per week. Some concerned about students' plans outside of school with April Break approaching and feeling like it is being rushed.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

-Final decision: Phase 2 with Grades 3-6 will re-open April 5 and Phase 3 with Grades 7-8 will re-open on April 19.

c. ESSER II Funding

Dr. O'Reilly reported last meeting of \$188,500 grant funding. This has changed to \$199,500 to target our students' academic and SEL needs.

d. Financial Report

- i. Upgraded online banking
- ii. 3/29/21 Financial Report

e. Midwest Food Bank

Currently in negotiation for a lease of the rest of our first floor with Sapphire Properties.

f. Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget (first reading)

Dr. O'Reilly presented next year's budget for board members to review. 5.4% increase which is significant but due to increased revenue in grants there is enough to cover this increase. Operations budget is lower due to re-negotiated lease agreement price (\$62.6k). Insurance costs are subject to change as they do increase each year- estimated at least 10%. Other federal money is expected through the *American Recovery Act*. 85% of the budget is devoted to salaries and benefits. Dr. O'Reilly presented highlights which included a proposal for one full-time World Language teacher. Technology Expenses including upgraded old infrastructure and new devices for staff.

5. Principal Report

a. Minority Teacher Recruitment

Annie Busby presented that next year the school will be hosting 2 teacher residents from within the CT Minority Teaching Program who will be placed with mentors for a rigorous 18 month program. If they successfully complete all requirements and there are open positions, they are guaranteed a position. Funding is awaiting legislature approval.

b. Reopening Phase 2 & 3

(See Executive Director Report)

6. Teacher Report

-General update: Snacks from administration, Diversity spotlights - Nancy Nordheim has worked so hard to incorporate more diverse information from our students' heritage in the morning announcements, Annie Busby featured in the CT Charter School Association social media pages.

7. Parent Report

No report

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

8. Executive Session for the Purpose of Conducting Mid-Year Evaluation of the Executive Director/discussions regarding possible real estate transactions

MOTION by Walter King

SECOND by Sarah Althen

VOTE unanimous

Enter Executive Session at 6:01 pm and exit Executive Session at 6:24 pm.

MOTION by Kevin Bieler

SECOND by Cynthia Merrill

VOTE unanimous

9. Adjournment

MOTION by Cynthia Merrill

SECOND by Walter King

VOTE unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm