

Odyssey Charter Schools Public Board of Directors Meeting

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Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Minutes

Open Session – 5:15 p.m.

Call to Order:

Time: 5:08pm

1. Roll Call

Michelle Battle – Board Secretary

Absent/Present

Board Members:

Larry Moulton Present

Dr. Candace Kant Present

Richard Douglas Present

Lisa Foland Present

Sue Huff Present

Mario Gatto Present

Staff:

Tim Lorenz Present

Superintendent of Schools

Shelli Guthrie Present

Executive Director of School
Operations

Gerry Born Present

Elementary School Principal

Dr. Julie Charles Present

Middle School Principal

Rob Carter Absent

High School Principal

Robin Cunningham Present

Director of Business & Employee
Services

Stephanie Han Present

Human Resources Specialist

Michelle Battle Present

Board Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Carried over from budget hearing.

3. Introduce Guests: Tonya Burkhardt & Jim Cunningham

Discussion & Action: 4. Accept Agenda

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: 5. Public Comments

None

6. Superintendent's Report

- Tim thanked the entire staff for another successful year and all their hard work.
- Glenn was recognized for his contributions in the professional development department. He thanked both Glenn and Andrea for their rigor in staying up to pace with the new standards.
- Robin was recognized for her efforts in dealing with fiscal changes pertaining to the average daily enrollment, and in staying abreast with upcoming changes in special education funding.
- Devon Bolliger was recognized for her presentation at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference.

Discussion & Action: 7. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of February's Minutes
- b) Approval of Financial Statements through February, 2016
- c) Approval of Enrollment from February ~ May 2016
- d) Approval of 2015 ~ 2016 Employment Contracts
- e) Approval of 2016 Summer School Extra Duty Stipends

Motion: Dr. Candace Kant

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: Items were reviewed and approved.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 8. Approval of 2016 ~ 2017 Final Budget

This agenda was posted on the Odyssey Charter School Web Page and in the following libraries: Las Vegas, Sahara, Clark County, Sunrise, Spring Valley, Whitney, West Charleston, Rainbow and W. Las Vegas.

Motion: Lisa Foland
2nd: Richard Douglas
Board Discussion: Further discussion was given to the changes in funding from average daily enrollment, and future changes in special education funding.
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 9. Approval of 2015 ~ 2016 Amended Budget

Motion: Richard Douglas
2nd: Mario Gatto
Board Discussion: We amend the budget with \$300,000. in extra revenue. This revenue will be used on the construction expenses which were originally scheduled to be taken out of our savings. This will leave us with \$110, 000 carryover into next year's budget.
We have implemented CCSD's teacher salary scale and benefits increases.
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 10. Approval of Financial Statements through April, 2016

Motion: Lisa Foland
2nd: Richard Douglas
Board Discussion: Financial statements were reviewed and approved
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 11. Approval of June 30, 2016 Financial Audit Engagement Letter

Motion: Dr. Candace Kant
2nd: Richard Douglas
Board Discussion: Larry Moulton asked if we should use another accounting firm for procedure purposes. Richard Douglas suggested that the current firm we use is very reputable, and foresees no problems in continuing to use their services.
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 12. Approval of 2015 ~ 2016 Education Services Contract Performance Reviews

Motion: Lisa Foland
2nd: Sue Huff
Board Discussion: All reviews are positive.
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 13. Approval of 2016 ~ 2017 Education Services Contracts

Motion: Richard Douglas

2nd: Lisa Foland

Board Discussion: Contracts have been reviewed by legal counsel.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 14. Approval of Grant through the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation

Motion: Sue Huff

2nd: Mario Gatto

Board Discussion: Devon Bolliger and Laurie Howard ~ Malm were approved for a Summer School, Special Education grant. This program will help high school students with transition, career choices, self-advocacy, and an understanding of their own IEP's.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 15. Approval of Alternative Schedule Application (School Calendar)

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: The application to NVDOE shows the change of days noted in 2016-2017 school calendar. The 3 days prior to Thanksgiving and day before Veteran's Day will be exchanged for an earlier start date to accommodate an early enrollment for students and families. CCSD will be utilizing the same 4 days by adding professional development time after hours to their regularly scheduled days.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 16. Approval of 2016 ~ 2017 School Calendar

Motion: Richard Douglas

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: The revised calendar was reviewed and approved.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 17. Approval of Read by Grade 3 Grant

Motion: Sue Huff

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: We would use this grant for the following:

- Continue with Learning Strategist Cynthia Darcy
- Professional Development
- Intervention

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- Testing Suite
- Tools for monitoring progress
- Attending a literacy conference for 4 people
- Supplemental reading software

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: 18. Rogers' Foundation Grant

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: This grant for \$100,000. would have helped with:

- Cultivating the gift of imagination
- Eliminate the achievement gap

We were denied the grant but are looking for support from sources like PBS.

Vote:

Discussion: 19. ROCKSTAR PBL

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: Project Based Learning (PBL) helps students develop more advanced thinking skills by:

- Asking open ended questions
- Asking students how can they write/ record their own songs

The goal would be to encourage parent and child to work side by side 3 hours/day.

Vote:

Discussion: 20. Cost of Living Adjustment

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: We aligned with CCSD's salary scale and Odyssey absorbed the PER's increase.

Teacher COLA raises have been put on hold pending the outcome of:

- The fiscal impact of average daily enrollment
- Special education funding changes
- Hiring of additional teachers

This will be a recurring agenda item.

Mario Gatto expressed concern for support staff employees. We are awaiting the conclusion of CCSD negotiations with their support staff.

Vote:

Discussion: 21. Superintendent Presentation of Self-Evaluation

Motion:

2nd:

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Board Discussion: Tim thanked the staff for all their support, and stated that Odyssey could not be where it is without a team approach. He emphasized the importance of having strong, effective recruitment practices to bring in the very best in the educational field. He emphasized that the school was built on strong student advocacy and recognized the need to continually strengthen the instructional core. Mr. Lorenz has developed an educational culture that is welcoming, inclusive, and non-judgmental. He emphasized that the entire community has been empowered to meet the needs of all students.

Vote:

Discussion: 22. Board Discussion (Closed Session)

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: Closed session board discussion.

Vote:

Action: 23. Citizenship Participation

None

Action: 24. Adjournment

Motion: Richard Douglas

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Time: 8:00 p.m.