

Odyssey Charter Schools Public Board of Directors Meeting

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Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Minutes

Open Session - 5:15 PM

Call to Order:

Time: 5:20pm

1. Roll Call

Michelle Truman - Board Secretary

Absent/Present

Board Members:

Larry Moulton

Present

Dr. Candace Kant

Present

Richard Douglas

Absent

Lisa Foland

Present

Sue Huff

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

Middle School Principal

Rob Carter

Present

High School Principal

Robin Cunningham

Present

Director of Business & Finance
Services

Stephanie Han

Present

Human Resources Specialist

Michelle Truman

Present

Board Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Stephanie Han

3. Introduce Guests: None

Discussion & Action: 4. Accept Agenda

Motion: Dr. Candice Kant

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: 5. Public Comments

None

6. Superintendent's Report

Tim expressed his gratitude to the board, and the entire staff for another great year.

Discussion & Action: 7. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of February's Minutes
- b) Approval of 2017 ~ 2018 School Calendar
- c) Approval of Enrollment from February ~ May 2017
- d) Approval of 2016 ~ 2017 Extra Duty Stipends
- e) Approval of Returning Administrator Contracts
- f) Approval of Financial Statements through February, 2017

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: The above items were reviewed and approved.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 8. Approval of 2017 ~ 2018 Final Budget

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: This item was previously reviewed, and discussed in depth at the Finance Committee meeting, and reviewed again at the budget hearing.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 9. Approval of 2016 ~ 2017 Education Services Contract Performance Reviews

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: Dr. Candace Kant
2nd: Lisa Foland
Board Discussion: Contracts were reviewed, and any individual who received below average rating will not be returning.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 10. Approval of 2017 ~ 2018 Education Services Contract

Motion: Lisa Foland
2nd: Dr. Candace Kant
Board Discussion: Contracts were reviewed, and leasing contractors for these positions results in a considerable savings to the school. It not only provides services to the students that would otherwise leave us with positions difficult to fill, but it costs 18% leasing vs. 35% hiring of a full-time employee.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 11. Approval of Grant through the Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation

Motion: Lisa Foland
2nd: Sue Huff
Board Discussion: Devon Bolliger applied for this grant to use funds towards providing life skills, and self-advocacy tools for students with IEP's, and 504s. This is Devon's second year providing this valuable service.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 12. Approval of Retention Policy ~ Tabled

Motion:
2nd:
Board Discussion: This policy is still being developed.

Vote:

Discussion & Action: 13. Approval of Educational Conference Policy

Motion: Sue Huff
2nd: Lisa Foland
Board Discussion: The Educational Conference policy outlines the approval process and restriction of the number of days for educational conferences that may be requested by Odyssey staff. The policy also specifies the expectations of employee behavior during all conferences and/or trainings.

The policy has been reviewed by Odyssey's legal counsel.

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Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 14. Approval of Fingerprinting and Criminal History Reporting Policy

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: Odyssey has maintained compliance with the Nevada Department of Public Safety requirements of fingerprinting our employees, contractors, vendors, and Board members and the requirements of dissemination and storage of the criminal history reports. During our last audit, they have requested that we create a policy that outlines these requirements and procedures for compliance.

The policy has been reviewed by Odyssey's legal counsel.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 15. Approval of Retirement Transition Policy

Motion: Dr. Candace Kant

2nd: Lisa Foland

Board Discussion: This new policy will provide a formal notification process and timeline for the transition to an employee leasing agency.

This policy has been reviewed by Odyssey's legal counsel.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 16. Approval of Critical Labor Shortage Re-Designation – AP Calculus Teacher

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: Odyssey Charter Schools is requesting that the Board of Directors re-designate the position of AP Calculus Teacher as a Critical Labor Shortage position. The position was originally designated as a Critical Labor Shortage position on May 15, 2013 and re-designated on May 20, 2015. The position must be reviewed every two years.

The need for the position and shortage of candidates has not changed since the last designation.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 17. Approval of Critical Labor Shortage Re-Designation – Occupational Therapist

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: Odyssey Charter Schools is requesting that the Board of Directors re-designate the position of Occupational Therapist as a Critical Labor Shortage position. The position was originally designated as a Critical Labor Shortage position on May 15, 2013 and re-designated on May 20, 2015. The position must be reviewed every two years.

The need for the position and shortage of candidates has not changed since the last designation.

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Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: 18. Resignation of Board Member ~ Mario Gatto

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: Mario Gatto's resignation letter was reviewed.

Vote:

Discussion & Action: 19. Approval of new Administrator Contract ~ Mario Gatto

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: Mr. Mario Gatto participated in the interview process for the High School Principal position a couple of years ago, and has since been involved with our school as a board member, supporting of our mission and vision. He will be stepping into the role of High School Principal on July 1, 2017.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 20. Approval of Recommendation for Expulsion (middle school)

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: **(Closed Session Discussion)**

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 21. Approval of Charter Agreement Conversion to charter Performance Contract

- Board Approval of Odyssey's Charter Contract Application
- Board Approval to enter Charter Contract with CCSD

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: Approval of this conversion will allow Odyssey Charter Schools to enter a six-year contract without the usage of prior performance data. The following requested charter contract changes have not been approved:

Color key: **Black** - Unchanged **Red** - Proposed deletion **Green** - Proposed addition
Blue - CCSD response

In three separate sections in the contract 1.4.3, 1.5.4, and 7.1.1.3 the language states -Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), **regulations** and Sponsor policies applicable to charter schools that are consistent with federal and state laws, local ordinances, and NAC

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CCSD: We cannot change any of the current language in the current version of the contract because it is already CCSD Board Approved. However, we interpret the word regulations to mean NAC. We also interpret sponsor policies to only be those policies applicable to charter schools that are supported directly by federal and state laws, local ordinances, and NAC.

In sections 1.7.5.2 and 2.4.4 It states that “the Sponsor must deny a request to amend the Charter Contract...if the Sponsor determines that the Charter School is not meeting the requirements of the performance framework concerning...” We requested clarification by stating that, not meeting the requirements of the performance framework as indicated by a rating of red - falls below standards, concerning...

CCSD: We have decided no on this. “Not meeting requirements” can refer to yellow and/or red ratings.

In section 2.9.6 relating to an expelled student. These equivalent services to the expelled student may be defined as charter school provided services or through the charter school’s sponsor, the Clark County School District.

CCSD: Charter Schools do not have an obligation to provide an alternative educational setting. The equivalent services referred to in the contract IS CCSD.

We request the following section be stricken from the contract. We don’t not believe this can be supported by NAC or NRS.

~~The Sponsor may also require the Charter School to assess student learning outside of and in addition to the state’s testing program, and request quarterly student assessment data at any time.~~

CCSD: This was proposed by the state authority because the state framework had not been presented yet and there was a freeze on state data. CCSD stated that they have no interest or intent to require this, and that they believe it exceeds the law by imposing on the charter school’s autonomy to operate the school.

In section 3.4.1 there is language related to special education students and charter schools from NRS that is missing from this section that we request be added.

Pursuant to NRS 388A.453, if the governing body of a charter school determines that the charter school is unable to provide an appropriate special education program and related services for a particular pupil due to the severity of the disability, the governing body may request that the board of trustees of the school district of the county in which the pupil resides transfer that pupil to an appropriate school. This transfer back is consistent with the local education agency’s responsibility and accountability for the achievement of students in the charter schools.

CCSD: Our attorney stated this is already clearly stated in the law so no other language needs to be added.

In section 4.1.10 “Pursuant to NAC 387.770, the Charter School shall maintain a complete and current inventory of all school property and shall perform a ~~physical~~-inventory review annually.”

CCSD: The state and CCSD do not use the federal governments definition of “physical”. They require complete, accurate, and current inventory system to be in place that should be reviewed annually.

7.31. The Sponsor may, at its discretion, conduct school site visits at any time, through coordination with the school’s administration. Such site visits may include any activities reasonably related to fulfillment of its oversight responsibilities including, but not limited to, inspection of the facilities; inspection of records maintained by the Charter School; and, with the Charter Schools administrative oversight, interviews of school and other stakeholders.

CCSD: This is common courtesy and we will always include the administration.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 22. Approval of Epicenter – A web-based Charter Management System Contract

Motion: Dr. Candace Kant

2nd: Lisa Foland

Board Discussion: This management system will be replacing Interact if all the charter schools agree.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: 23. Superintendent Presentation of Self - Evaluation

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: Mr. Tim Lorenz presented his self-evaluation to the Board.

Stephanie Han noted that evaluation forms will be emailed to the Board members. They will be compiled and presented at the next meeting.

Vote:

Discussion: 24. Superintendent Contract Negotiation Committee Recommendations

Motion:

2nd:

Board Discussion: Stephanie Han noted that the Superintendent Contract Negotiation Committee was in agreement to recommend that Mr. Lorenz's contract be renewed for another term. They also recommended that the Superintendent salary scale match the 2.79% COLA that the administrators received at the last meeting and requested that language be included into the contract to review the scale the next time administrators receive a COLA.

Vote:

Discussion & Action: 25. Approval of Revision of Superintendent Salary Scale

Motion: Dr. Candace Kant

2nd: Sue Huff

Board Discussion: A 2.79% cost of living adjustment has been included to the Superintendent salary scale per the recommendations of the committee. The change will be effective July 1, 2016.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion & Action: 26. Approval of Renewal of Superintendent Contract

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Motion: Dr. Candace Kant

2nd: Lisa Foland

Board Discussion: The language recommended by the committee regarding the review of salary scale in the event of a cost of living adjustment for administrators was reviewed by the OCS legal counsel and added to the Superintendent's contract.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: 27. Citizenship Participation

None

Action: 28. Adjournment

Motion: Lisa Foland

2nd: Dr. Candace Kant

Board Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Time: 7:31 p.m.