



## **Board of Directors**

### **Board Retreat APPROVED Minutes**

January 9, 2024

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82975897760>

The mission of Odyssey Online Learning is to provide a high-quality education for a wide variety of students by offering alternative solutions to traditional schooling while assisting students in achieving the knowledge and skills to reach their highest potential within a flexible and tailored educational program that fosters lifelong learning.

- 1) **Call to Order** by Vice Chairman Marquis Flemings at 9:03 am
- 2) **Pledge** by Ashley Owings
- 3) **Roll Call** - Marquis Flemings, Amy Cox, Penny McDaniel, Robert McKenzie, Joe Bowers, Ashley Owings, Andrea Amburn, Rocky Cooper, Bill Roach and Alyssa Blitch. Mario Williams joined at 9:15 am. Amy Cox exited the meeting at 9:57 am. Joe Bowers exited the meeting at 10:47 am.
- 4) **Consent Calendar** -Joe Bowers asked for change to the December 5, 2023 minutes of the meeting that the OOL Financial Policies was the 1st of 3 readings. – accepted. Motion made by Penny McDaniel to accept Board Retreat Agenda & Board Meeting Minutes Motion 2nd by: Marquis Flemings. Roll Call taken and all in agreement accepted.
  - A. January 9, 2024-Board Retreat Agenda
  - B. December 5, 2023-Board Meeting Minutes
- 5) **Public Comments** (Must sign-up prior to start time). Please contact the Director of Operations & HR if you would like to sign up. **NONE**
  - Each speaker has (3) three minutes.
  - Speakers may not ask questions of Board Members.
  - Board Members may not engage speakers in discussion.
  - Disruptive behavior is not permitted.
  - Personal attacks aimed at students or staff are not permitted.
  - Scurrilous, obscene, or recklessly defamatory language aimed at any Board Member is not permitted.
  - The Board will follow up on all matters that speakers present.
- 6) **Reports**
  - A. **December 2023 Financial Report** - Prestige School Solutions- Alyssa Blitch reviewed the December 2023 Financials in detail with the OOL Board. The school is projecting a year-end net loss of -\$147,859.00 due to adding additional teachers at the direction of the board. The board previously approved utilizing the school's fund balance to cover the additional teacher. 9:25 a.m. – Alyssa Blitch, Prestige School Solutions left the meeting.
  - B. **Report by Executive Director** - Ashley Owings  
2023-2024 school year mantra words **Empower. Achieve. Succeed.**



*This is what Mrs. Owings is encouraging all staff and teachers to reach for this year. This year we are pushing for 50+ on the overall school report card.*

*Keep moving the needle forward to reach and exceed the school goals. Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Mrs. Owings is meeting on Thursday and everyone will be coming together to look at the data and where we are moving forward from here. Mrs. Owings went over the EOC (End of Course Exams) scores from 2021 through present. 95% of the students population should be tested for EOC exams and this is reported By the 9GR cohort.*

- *Majority of the required students for testing came. We had 30 students who missed the test but are scheduled for make-up testing sessions this week and next week.*
- *EOC Exams include Algebra , Biology, English 2 and US History*
- *Testing for Spring 2024 has more students scheduled to take the EOC exams than the fall testing as this is based on enrollment.*

*Amy Cox departed the meeting at 9:57 a.m.*

- *Mario Williams asked the exact total number of students that took the EOC testing. It was 183 students total that took the test.*

*Mrs. Owings discussed numbers and the complete score card with regards to how we are working to improve the schools and bring the students that did not make a D or above up to passing. Mrs. Owings explained that the courses that the freshman take coming in all depend on their scores from middle school coming in and where they are at with those scores as to courses lined up and taking.*

*Mrs. Owings explained in detail changes from last year's report card rating (FY23) to the report card for the FY24 school year.*

#### *College & Career Readiness (CCR)*

- |   |                            |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| • | <i>FY23 January 2023</i>   | <i>FY24 January 2024</i>                        |
|   | <i>Projected 24.64%</i>    | <i>52.1% as of 1/8/2024</i>                     |
| • | <i>FY23 ended with 53%</i> | <i>FY24 is pending based on testing results</i> |

#### *OOL Enrollment*

- *Last year: 1/4/23*  
*9th Grade = 117*  
*10th Grade = 148*  
*11th Grade = 66*  
*12th Grade = 155*  
*Total students = 486*
- *This year: 1/4/24*  
*9th Grade = 118*  
*10th Grade = 130*

11th Grade = 147

12th Grade = 107

Total student = 502

- There are 57 OOL students graduating in January 2024.
- OOL Graduation Rate:  
2021 – 2022 = 63.5%  
2022-2023 = 76.2%  
Projected 2023-2024 Graduation Rate = 80.5%

7) **Action Items**

- Approval of December 2023 Financials** - A motion was made by Penny McDaniel to accept the December 2023 Financials as presented. Motion 2nd by Marquis Flemings. Roll call taken and Motion passed unanimously.
- OOL 2024-2025 School Calendar** - Presented by both Ashley Owings and Andrea Amburn. This is the 1st of 3 Readings. Reviewed and a motion was made to accept the 1st reading of the school calendar by Marquis Flemings. The motion was 2nd by Penny McDaniel. Roll call of board taken and motion passed unanimously.
- OOL Financial Policies** - 2nd Reading of 3 Readings It was questioned by Joe Bowers if legal counsel had reviewed yet. It was decided at 1st reading that legal counsel would not review until after Board's 2nd review of policy. Viktoria McKenna, Board Member, requested copies of the travel policy and OOL Employee handbook as referenced in the Financial Policies. Those were uploaded in December to the drive. A Motion was made by Penny McDaniel to accept the 2nd reading of the OOL Financial Policies. Joe Bowers 2nd Motion. Roll call of board taken and motion passed unanimously.
- Executive Director Goals**-Presented by Mario Williams, Board Chairman. Joe Bowers requested that this be handled in Executive Session. Several Board Members disagreed that this was not a contractual or salary matter and did not contain anything that would need to be discussed in Executive Session. Board decided to table the discussion until the next meeting in February. Motion made by Penny McDaniel to table Executive Director Goals until next meeting. Marquis Flemings seconded the motion. Roll call of Board taken and unanimously agreed.
- OOL Board Goals** - Presented by Marquis Flemings, Vice Chairman as internet connection went down for Mario Williams, Board Chair, Mario Williams' internet and connection came back up within 2-3 minutes and he took over presenting. Discussed By-Law review annually. Discussed the 10 year wait in the By-Laws for an employee to not be allowed to join the school board until they have been disassociated with the school for 10 years. It was posed by Marquis Flemings to reduce this to 5 years. Joe Bowers felt that this should be a 1-2 year time period. After extensive discussion on time a Motion was made by Marquis



*Flemings that would require a 5 year gap. The Motion was 2nd by Penny McDaniel. Roll Call taken as follows:*

*Robert McKenzie – yes (I)  
Joe Bowers – No  
Marquis Flemings – yes (I)  
Penny McDaniel – yes (I)  
Mario Williams – yes (I)  
Proxy vote to Mario Williams by Amy Cox – yes (I)  
Total I's (yes) passed the motion.*

*Next up discussed the 5 year gap for any teacher or other employee in an non-executive/administrative roll time period before coming back to the school as a school board member. Motion was made by Penny McDaniel to keep it at 5 years. Marquis Fleming 2nd this motion. Roll Call taken as follows:*

*Robert McKenzie – yes (I)  
Joe Bowers – No  
Marquis Flemings – yes (I)  
Penny McDaniel – yes (I)  
Mario Williams – yes (I)  
Proxy vote to Mario Williams by Amy Cox – yes (I)  
Total I's (yes) passed the motion.*

*The board discussed increasing Board membership from 7 members to 9 members. Mario Williams & Marquis Flemings agree that at this time we should keep the 7 members. Joe Bowers stated that since we have been trying to increase from 7 to 9 members and discussing this for some time, we should go ahead and change this in the By-Laws. Penny McDaniel sees both the 7 members aspect presented by Mario and Marquis and also Joe's thoughts on moving forward with 9 members. Discussed pros and cons among the Board members present and with Bill Roach, Erskine Charter Alliance. Bill stated that the majority of the charter online schools have 7 members. Motion was made by Marquis Flemings to keep the Board at 7 members. Joe Bowers departed the meeting at 10:47 am. Robert McKenzie 2nd this motion. Roll Call taken as follows:*

*Penny McDaniel – No  
Marquis Flemings – yes (I)  
Robert McKenzie – yes (I)  
Mario Williams – yes (I)  
Proxy vote to Mario Williams by Amy Cox – yes (I)  
Motion passed with majority vote agreeing to keep 7 Board Members.*

*The board discussed what Board Members are due up for re-election or appointment next year and need for us to have good geographic spread of all Board Members up for re-election or appointment in the fall:*

*Mario Williams  
Amy Cox*



*Penny McDaniel*  
*Viktoria McKenna*

*The board discussed the OOL mission statement and changes we are looking for in the By-Laws. This was tabled until another meeting. The board would like to increase their community outreach and parental engagement. Andrea Amburn will coordinate with Janna DeCamps, Community Outreach Manager, on planning regional events with the OOL Board and parents of OOL students.*

*The board reviewed the OOL Student Event Page that highlights student events. All board members are invited to attend. Mario Williams asked if there was anything additional to discuss. Board Members had no more questions, discussions.*

- 8) **Adjourn-** *Motion was made by Marquis Flemings to adjoin. Motion 2nd by Penny McDaniel. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.*