

Odyssey Online Learning

Board Retreat Minutes

July 13, 2023

**Location: Wingate By Wyndham, 108 Saluda Pointe Ct., Lexington SC
(Meeting Room A)**

1. **Call to Order** - Tracey Stuckey at 9:00 am
Present: Tracey Stuckey - Board Chair
Kendal McCarty - Vice Board Chair
Penny McDaniel - Board Secretary
Marquis Flemings - Board Member
Mario Williams - Board Member
Viktoria McKenna - Board Member
Ashley Owings - Executive Director
Rocky Cooper - Assistant Administrator
Andrea Amburn - Director of Operations & HR
Holly w/ Sharper Together
Brian Steff w/ Sharper Together
2. **Welcome & Purpose of the Day** - Holly w/ Sharper together & Tracey Stuckey
 - This is the annual meeting of the board to discuss the previous year, upcoming school year and future of the school.
3. **Update from Executive Director Ashley Owings & Tracey Stuckey**
 - Ashley Owings:
Discussed the Race to 40 Project:
 - Discussed that the team met and goal that we had set to reach for academic performance needed to keep moving forward.
 - Discussed that goal for 2023-2024 school year is 600 students
 - Discussed graduation and testing
 - Tracey Stuckey - Congratulated everyone on the success of the Race to 40 Project and reiterated the that we need to keep that moving forward for Odyssey's academic scores.
-In January 2023 at our last board meeting Odyssey was told that they needed to become a full AEC school or get to 40 to keep running at current plan. Odyssey reached the goal and exceeded to end up with 50.72% by deadline.
Students' grades and scores are improving and they are succeeding at Odyssey.
4. **Board Present and Future Needs**
 - In September we will have 3 Board Openings
 - Tracey Stuckey - Board Chair - will not be running again
 - Kendal McCarty - Vice Board Chair - will not be running again
 - Discussed that once elections have ended and the three members are voted in the Board will need to elect a new Board Chair & Vice Board Chair.

- Discussed potential candidates and what we need in a potential board member.
 - The board should always have someone on the board that has some of the following background and credentials:
 - Education
 - Financial
 - Business
 - Legal
 - A Parent or Parent of a student within the Odyssey learning environment
 - Marketing
 - Community
- Discussed future numbers and how the Board would like to see Odyssey Board grow in numbers and leadership.
- Discussed the 4 W's of a Board Member and what they should be/have:
 - Willing to work
 - Wisdom
 - Wit
 - Witness to Everything
- Discussed putting together job descriptions for the Board Chair and Board Vice Chair so that anyone interested in those positions will have an idea of what to expect taking on those roles.

5. Enhancing Virtual Engagement Experiences: Brian Steff w/ Sharper Together

- Ideas on how to keep students engaged in a virtual setting
- Discussed Edmentum - thoughts and recommendations.
 - In contract with Edmentum for another year
 - Edmentum hires the teachers and they are staffed by Edmentum
- 2024- 2025 school year Odyssey is planning on bringing all teachers back in house and under Odyssey. Odyssey currently has several inhouse teachers, counselors and staff for education.
- Discussed different platforms that Odyssey can use to enrich the learning experience
 - Enrich
 - Intervention Central
 - IXL
 - Easy CBM

Odyssey is currently utilizing a lot of these platforms now.

- Discussed ways to get students to want to come to class and participate.
 - Canvas, Blackboard, Google Classroom
 - Nearpod or Pear Deck
 - Have more interactive instruction
 - Break the learning up into small chunks
 - Clarity - let the students know what is expected of them and the parents
 - Include the students in the learning process and make the classes fun to come online.
- Currently utilizing Blackboard with all inhouse teachers
 - Get parents involved with learning what Blackboard is and how they can get

engaged in their students' lives.

6. Financial Report:

- Colby Southers - gave a breakdown and updated on financials on hand and year to date.

7. Board Broke for Lunch 11:45 a.m.

8. Board Came back into Session - 12:25 p.m.

9. Board entered executive sessions at 12:30 p.m.

- Motion made to go into executive session by Kendall McCarty. Second by Marquis Williams.
- Discuss Personnel/Financial/Engagement Aspects
 - All Board members entered the executive session except Amy Cox (who was not present for the meeting), Ashley Owings, and Andrea Amburn.
 - All others went to the waiting area to wait for the meeting to resume. The meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m.

-Executive session adjourned.

-General session resumed. - called to order by Tracey Stuckey

10. Examining Future Physical Space Needs & Elevating Parent Student Engagement:

- Discussed that we need to keep moving the PD learning to different areas around the state.
- Discussed the office space we have right now is small and need to look into expansion in the future.
 - Discussed need for space to store records - potentially a brick and mortar type place with some learning areas to bring students in.
 - Potential Hubs throughout the state
 - discussed renting space as needed vs permanent spaces.

- Lease is up in June 2024 - discussed that current lease is a 5 year contract - need to address space issues before the lease is up next year.

Parent Engagement -Lead by Brian w/ Sharper Together

- Involvement vs engagement
 - Involvement - means to participate and be active
 - Engagement - Home & School work together
- within the 1st year of high school 35% of all students fail at least one class (this is for 9th graders)
- What has brought students to Odyssey
- It is recorded that students whose parents stay involved in school both attend classes better and the grades stay up.

How do we get parents Involved:

- Town hall meetings (once a month)
- Required Orientation each year
- Weekly or monthly E newsletters or calls
- Have Regional Events that Parents and Students come to

- Meet parent's needs:
 - Workshops that could help them both as parents and in their everyday lives.
 - Academic needs - technology skills
 - Social/Emotional Needs both parents and students
 - Career Readiness (parents/students)
- Have Training classes that may interest and be of subject matters for parents.
- Yearly kickoff event in a central location
- Field Trips or tours of prospective careers and colleges around the state.

11. Created Board Action Plan for next 90 Days

- Hire a Community Outreach Coordinator
- Get Parent Ambassadors to work with the Community Outreach Coordinator (need one for each Region of the state)
- Find and recruit Board Members (elections in September 2023)
- Discussed potentially quarterly meetings in person somewhere.
- Set up Engagement Teams
 - Academic Team
 - Ashley Owings
 - Rocky Cooper
 - Marquis Fleming
 - Financial Team
 - Amy Cox (Nominated - absent)
 - Tracey Stuckey
 - Viktoria McKenna
 - Andrea Amburn
 - Parent & Family Engagement Team
 - Mario Williams
 - Penny McDaniel
 - Kendall McCarty
 - Rocky Cooper

12. Closing Remark: Tracey Stuckey

- Keep pushing forward with academics
 - Focus this year is going to be academics & parent/family engagement/involvement.

13. Adjourn: 4:00 p.m.