

**The Odyssey School
Board Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2010**

In Attendance: Amy, Anne, Andrew, Billy, Carolyn, Heather E., Heather L., Illana, Jessica, Marcia, Peter, Donny

Presentation from Bennett, Wagner & Grody

Anne Weber-Williams presented the design for a new Odyssey school that will be submitted for the BEST application. In addition to discussing the new building that we hope to construct, part of the application will involve talking about Odyssey's new location at Philips. Philips has a high-need rating on the BEST assessment. The school classroom arrangement is not ideal for the Odyssey program and there is no room for Odyssey to grow beyond its current size. There are other concerns as well, including its age.

The architects will take the design for a new building to a building contractor for a cost estimate to construct the building as the design envisions. Pinkard Construction is providing these cost estimates at no charge to Odyssey. Mechanical engineers will also review the design to provide feedback and information on what would be needed in the construction process. Landscape architects are also reviewing the plans and will attend site visits at two different possible locations that are scheduled for this Friday.

The construction costs will be based on what would be needed for a five-acre site, location to be determined.

DPS has committed to providing at match to Odyssey's BEST application of one-third of the cost of the final construction project, up to a maximum of \$3.5 million.

One consideration for the construction plans as well as the BEST application is the Board's commitment to maintaining capital improvements over time. The BEST review committee does not want to support projects if capital improvements will not be made over time. The Board should consider a plan to set aside a yearly dollar amount in the budget for capital improvements and expenditures (including both ongoing and long-term maintenance needs) to indicate its commitment to these needs.

A proposed timeline for the design and construction of the project should be based on the BEST recommended timeline.

Fifteen years after construction of the building is complete, the state will sign the deed for the building back to the school with the contingency that if that school closes, the building goes back to the district (in our case, DPS).

Our application will include indicators of the need for additional K-8 seats in Stapleton and demand for Odyssey, including our wait list. Stapleton United

Neighbors (SUN) has data on demand and capacity for school seats in Stapleton.

The application should also include information on Odyssey's teacher retention and student performance.

To keep with industry standards and BEST expectations, the goal is for the total cost of the project to be under \$14 million.

Next week, the architects will focus on finalizing the design and completing the BEST application.

Tom Boasberg, Superintendent of DPS, has also offered to set up meetings with the Piton Foundation and the Gates Family Foundation to further support fundraising efforts for the new facility.

Minutes approved

Andrew moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Justin seconded and all approved.

Budget

The Board reviewed major changes in revenues for the next fiscal year (decreases) and expenses (increases) leaving a difference from this year to next of roughly \$100,000. This amount is still in flux based on how state funding decisions will be resolved.

Related to this is the issue of school lunch and staying with Revolution Foods or going back to DPS (for this last fiscal year, there has been a small budget impact by using Rev Foods). Odyssey's 7th and 8th graders held a tasting last week with DPS and the feeling was that the overall quality of the food and the experience was not of the same quality as what Rev Foods provides.

Marcia has had conversations with Rev Foods that have been encouraging. Currently the cost to Odyssey is \$2/student/month to process the federal reimbursements through the SFA. This is a contract that is managed by the Colorado League of Charter Schools. Marcia believes that next year, the total cost will be anywhere from \$0 - \$1,500 (based on current projections) to Odyssey.

Carolyn motioned that the Board ask Marcia to move forward in using Rev Foods as Odyssey's school lunch provider next year, while continuing to pursue strategies to increase participation and bring reduce or streamline costs. Billy seconded the motion and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned.