

In The Matter Of:
Department of Education
In Re: Odyssey Charter School

Hearing
April 1, 2014

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THE STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Odyssey Charter School)

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Department of Education
The Townsend Building
2nd Floor Cabinet Room
401 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Wednesday, April 1, 2014
6:50 p.m.

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BEFORE: Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director
Charter, Office, Department of Education

Donna Johnson, Executive Director
State Board of Education

ATTORNEY: Catherine T. Hickey, DAG
Attorney for Department of Education

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-- Transcript of Proceedings --



1 MS. NAGOURNEY: Good evening. I
2 declare this public hearing to be open. My name
3 is Jennifer Nagourney. I'm the Executive
4 Director at the Charter School Office at the
5 Delaware Department of Education. I've been
6 appointed by the Secretary of Education to
7 conduct this public hearing. Odyssey Charter
8 School has filed an application for charter
9 modification seeking a location change. I will
10 now ask the others with me to introduce
11 themselves.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Donna Johnson,
13 Executive Director of the State Board of
14 Education.

15 MS. HICKEY: Catherine Hickey,
16 Deputy Attorney General and counsel for the
17 Department of Education.

18 MS. NAGOURNEY: This joint public
19 hearing is being held by the Delaware Department
20 of education. The State Board of Education
21 gives the school the opportunity to provide
22 information about and comment upon the
23 application and also to receive public comments.
24 I would like the record to reflect that the



1 notice of the time, date and place of today's
2 hearing was published in the News Journal and
3 the Delaware State News.

4 In addition, notice was posted in
5 the Charter School Accountability Committee's
6 official place of business, the Department of
7 Education's official website and the State's
8 public meeting calendar on the State's official
9 website. Further, the applicant was personally
10 notified of the time, date and place of today's
11 public hearing. A court reporter is present so
12 a record of this hearing will be made. It will
13 be necessary for each speaker to clearly
14 identify himself before beginning to speak so
15 the court reporter will be able to note who you
16 are.

17 The record of this hearing will be
18 provided to the Secretary of Education and
19 Members of the State Board of Education together
20 with any written or electronic comments received
21 at or before this hearing. We will proceed in
22 the following manner. First, we will hear from
23 any representatives from the charter school who
24 has a desire to comment on the application.



1 There's a sign-up sheet out in the hallway
2 outside.

3 I tend to be as liberal as time
4 and reason allow in accepting comments.
5 However, I do reserve the right to limit
6 comments if it is clearly repetitive or
7 cumulative. At this time we will accept
8 comments from any representatives of the school.

9 MR. CHAMBERS: Thank you. My name
10 is George Chambers. I'm the Board president of
11 Odyssey Charter School. I want to thank the
12 State Board of Education, the Department of
13 Education Accountability Committee for Charter
14 Schools for their consideration and support of
15 our application or request for modification of
16 our location. The objective is to provide
17 adequate facilities to sustain the growth that
18 we've been approved by the State Board of
19 Education and the Department of Education to
20 attain.

21 This is an interim step. Our
22 long-term goal is to have a consolidated
23 campus. We currently occupy two campuses. One
24 off of Bayard Road and one off of Lancaster



1 Avenue. The proposed building is a larger
2 building that we will be moving our K through 4
3 Grades into, consolidating those which is in a
4 neighboring building to the one we currently
5 occupy on Lancaster Avenue. It's part of the
6 Barley Mill complex Building No. 1. It
7 represents a very positive opportunity for the
8 school with minimal renovation requirements. It
9 has the size to handle us for the 2014-2015 and
10 2015-2016 years along with our campus on Bayard
11 Avenue.

12 The reason why it's not only a
13 positive from the size standpoint but
14 economically it's a lower cost per square foot
15 than what we currently occupy. So as an interim
16 facility, it represents a very positive move for
17 Odyssey and positions us well to continue to
18 pursue our longer-term consolidating campus
19 opportunities. I'm happy to answer any
20 questions. Otherwise, that will be all I need
21 to say. Thank you.

22 MS. HICKEY: Thank you.

23 MS. NAGOURNEY: Is there anyone
24 else who wishes to speak? If not, I want thank



1 you for participating today. The Secretary will
2 consider your comments as part of the decision-
3 making comments and the comments will also be
4 available for the State Board to consider. This
5 hearing is now closed.

6 MR. CHAMBERS: Thank you.

7 (Hearing concluded at 7:00 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Taneha Carroll, Professional Court Reporter, certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the foregoing proceeding.

I further certify that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor related to nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this proceeding was taken; further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

Taneha Carroll

/s/Taneha Carroll
Taneha Carroll

Professional Reporter and Notary Public



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