

Carwell John

From: Bruce Fox <bruce.richard.fox@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 12:47 PM
To: infocso
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

Dear Delaware Department of Education Officials:

I am a parent of a rising fourth grade student at Odyssey Charter School and I would just like to stress how great the school has been for our family. OCS does an excellent job educating a diverse student body. It has been a huge factor in keeping our family in Delaware. My daughter's teacher this year, Michelle Kornrich, was such an important person to all of us. She certainly attended to the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of our child more than any teacher ever did for me when I was a kid. In advance of this evening's public hearing, please keep in mind the lives of the students, families, and employees of this exceptional school. It is a vibrant community and, with the exception of some questionable acts by the board, a model for other schools.

Thank you for your time.

Bruce Fox
bruce.richard.fox@gmail.com
302-757-4923
1903 Lovering Ave, Wilmington, DE 19806

From: CHRISTOPHER SARMOUSAKIS <csarmousakis@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 1:59:00 PM

To: Travers Leroy; Bunting Susan; Longfellow Chuck

Subject: Re: OCS parent Odyssey charter school

>

>

> To whom it may concern,

My daughter is going into the with grade this coming year. Please see my letter below:

>

> “Don’t throw away the baby with the bath water”, is a phrase that perfectly describes what we are risking doing if we remove Ahepa’s majority from the OCS board. While it sounds like there were certainly mistakes made in accounting, there is no evidence to indicate that these were of unethical intent nor that these are regular acts of incompetence.

>

> AHEPA has been the brain of OCS and the Greek program has been its heart. That’s what attracted us to this school. The fact that our children along with all their other subjects, have daily classes in Greek language and math is so important to us. This is a unique opportunity that simply does not exist in the tri-state nor any other neighboring states that I’m aware of.

> It breaks my heart to read all the bad publicity about this awesome school and its leadership. People would have you believe that the school became successful despite of AHEPA’s leadership. This is laughable considering that the school literally would not exist without their efforts. We need to consider what would happen if AHEPA withdrew its support from Odyssey; The money the DOE allocates to OCS covers certain expenses, but it far from covers everything. It has only been through AHEPA’s support that we have achieved all we have to this day. While the PTO’s efforts should not go without mention, there is no other group to have dedicated any amount even remotely comparable to our efforts at the school.

>

> Let’s correct whatever errors need to be corrected and keep AHEPA’s leadership and support intact. We owe it to our kids.

>

> Thank you.

> Chris Sarmousakis

>

Carwell John

From: Colm DeAscanis <cdeascanis@cdaengineering.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Bunting Susan
Cc: infocso
Subject: Odyssey Charter School Support

Dear Secretary Bunting-

Good Morning. I am writing in support of AHEPA's current role on Odyssey's Board and in support of all the guidance and assistance AHEPA has provided since the School's founding.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dimitri Dandolos and the Odyssey Charter School (OCS) Board, in the purchase and financing of the 36-acre portion of the Barley Mill campus, and in securing the Land Use Zoning approvals to allow for occupancy as a K-12 Public Charter School. During this challenging endeavor, I witnessed the expert leadership and guidance of the OCS Board, practicing under the AHEPA majority. I experienced firsthand, AHEPA's and the Board's boundless dedication, loyalty, and tireless service on behalf of the school and the Odyssey community.

Moreover, as a parent of four daughters currently attending OCS, I believe the Charter that AHEPA has founded, provides an environment in which our children and many others have thrived and flourished. Under the Board's leadership, together with the wonderful teachers and staff, Odyssey affords our children unique academic and cultural opportunities that continually exceed our expectations. I firmly believe AHEPA'S majority involvement is critical to secure necessary fundraising and to maintain the invaluable benefits of the Greek Program as it currently exists; which I believe is a critical component of the overall's schools success and is a major reason why we confidently send our children to this school.

I, like so many others, hope to see the School continue to operate and flourish under the Boards current configuration, and believe AHEPA will continue to act in the best interest of the School and its students, and the overall Community.

Best Regards,
Colmcille DeAscanis

CDA Engineering Inc.

Colmcille DeAscanis, PE, LEED AP
6 Larch Avenue, Suite 401
Wilmington, DE 19804
TEL: 302.998.9202
FAX: 302.691.1314
cdeascanis@cdaengineering.com

www.cdaengineering.com

From: corey fischer <coreyfisch@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2019 4:53 PM

To: Travers Leroy

Subject: Odyssey Charter School Appeal

Dear Mr. Travers:

I am writing regarding the formal review of Odyssey Charter School. I am writing to recognize the support that AHEPA has given to the school and to state that the school could not be one of the best in Delaware had not been for the vision, support, and leadership of AHEPA. The school is what it is today because of the concerted efforts of the faculty, the parents and the Odyssey community under the guidance of school leadership, and AHEPA. It was the vision of AHEPA that provided the direction for the school. And it was the countless hours of hard work by AHEPA members to raise (and continue to raise) funds for the betterment of the school. Odyssey has an amazing record of success in the areas of enrollment, academics, Greek program, and school leadership. I strongly stand by the mission and vision of the school. I trust the OCS Board to manage the future of the school. I believe that the actions taken by the Board were in good faith and were the right decisions for the long-term benefit of the school. I support the OCS Board and believe that it is in the best interest of the school to retain the AHEPA majority.

Sincerely,
Corey Fischer

From: Kaija Miller <kaijamiller@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 1:56:53 PM
To: Travers Leroy; Bunting Susan; Longfellow Chuck
Subject: Re: Odyssey charter school parent

I sent you this letter earlier this month, and I do not see it posted on the DOE website. Please ensure this is done.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 20, 2019, at 11:25 PM, Kaija Miller <kaijamiller@icloud.com> wrote:

>

>

> Hello,

> My daughter has attended OCS for approximately 7 years. I cannot say enough about the excellent education she has received at OCS so far. What makes this school so successful and so beloved to families like ours is the fact that the students learn the Greek Language from the first day they start kindergarten. While knowledge of another language is extremely valuable on its own, learning Greek makes students comprehend English better because so many of the English words have origins/roots within it.

>

> We are extremely grateful for the people who had the idea about a school like Odyssey and who worked tirelessly to materialize it. These people are the members of AHEPA. They put down the initial capital to start the school and they have been supporting OCS ever since.

> The recent bad publicity has been caused by a small number of individuals who have personal issues against some of the board members. Some of these people decided long ago to have their children attend a different school next year. It seems to me, that they do not mind destroying this wonderful school, over personal vendettas, especially since their children will no longer be at OCS. Please do not allow that to happen! OCS would not have its success without AHEPA. Please maintain their majority on the board of this school that they put together! The students, the teachers, the parents - we all love OCS and we owe it all to AHEPA for starting this great school.

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> Kind regards,

>

> Mrs Miller

> Sent from my iPhone

From: Karen Miller <karenakkola@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 1:55:08 PM
To: Travers Leroy; Bunting Susan
Cc: Longfellow Chuck
Subject: Re: Odyssey charter school grandparent

I do not see my letter posted on the DOE Website, so I am sending it to you again:

Good morning,

I am writing to you to express my support to Ahepa's majority on the OCS board of directors.

My granddaughter is in eighth grade at OCS.

AHEPA has done so much for our granddaughters school, and we greatly appreciate it. Here are just a few.

1. The vision and the mission of the school, we owe to AHEPA;
2. The money to start the school, we owe to AHEPA;
3. Ongoing fundraising from AHEPA for (buildings, facilities, etc);
4. Countless hours of volunteer work of AHEPANs as board members, as chairpeople in various committees, etc.;

Without them, our teachers and students would not enjoy the academic success we have - as the school itself would simply not exist. Our school is not like any other because our focus is our Greek. However, none of the members of our administration even speak Greek (except for one who is a native speaker and is here temporarily). Who will support the Greek program if AHEPA does not have the majority on the board? Please do not change my granddaughter school. She loves her school and the atmosphere.

Thank you

Karen Akkola

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Carwell John

From: Kelly Ellis
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 1:40 PM
To: infocso
Subject: Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from teacher/staff

Dear DOE,

I am a teacher at Odyssey Charter. This was my first year at the school after 18 years previously at a private school. I love this school and the people that work there. The students are cared for and taught amazing things by an amazing staff. I support this school 100% and want to see it stay open to keep doing the great things they do (the Green Team, the upcoming sports teams, the book clubs, the OCS garden and chicken coops). This school has so many great things to offer!

Sincerely,

Kelly Ellis

6th-8th grade Physical Education Teacher

Odyssey Charter School

Building 21

Barley Mill Plaza

4319 Lancaster Pike

Wilmington, DE 19805

302-516-8000 (ext.688)

Fax 888-780-5962

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Carwell John

From: Lois <loiscard@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 11:40 AM
To: infocso; Bunting Susan
Cc: Travers Leroy
Subject: Odyssey charter school grandparent concern

Please post this letter to your website for public view.

Dear Secretary Bunting,

I am writing to express my full support to AHEPA's current role with the Odyssey Charter School Board.

My granddaughter has been a student at OCS for the past 8 years. I feel forever indebted to the AHEPA organization for their role in creating this exceptional school.

My granddaughter's education at OCS so far has been excellent, and I have every reason to believe that it will continue this way for the years to come. In order for that to be achieved, I believe that an AHEPA majority on the School's Board is necessary. The AHEPA School Board members and volunteers have worked tirelessly to create, and expand this school. Furthermore, they also have worked hard to ensure that their vision of a Hellenic based education is implemented in a meaningful way and it is beneficial to all children attending.

I think the AHEPAns have earned the right to continue in this capacity as a majority on the school's board. I, as an involved grandparent have faith in them. Please feel free to reach out with me any questions or concerns.

Sincerely

Lois Card

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Charter School Accountability Committee
Delaware Dept. of Education
The Townsend Building
401 Federal St., Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

VIA EMAIL

June 5, 2019

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee Members,

We, the undersigned, are members of the Odyssey Charter School community, and we are writing this letter in support of Odyssey Charter School, the current board, administration, the staff and students and to recognize the foundational and mission-critical support AHEPA has provided to the school since its inception. We are a diverse community – some of us are Greek, but most of us are not. Some of us knew about AHEPA before coming to Odyssey, but most of us did not. Some of us are Odyssey teachers and staff, some of us are parents, and some are both.

Although the school has an amazing record of success in the areas of enrollment, academics, Greek programming, and school leadership, there have been complaints raised about AHEPA, the members of the OCS Board and certain individuals. The actions alleged in the Public Integrity Commission findings sound inappropriate, and the public and community view of those actions has been made worse through the media and a lack of communication by the OCS Board.

However:

- We believe the actions taken by the OCS Board were taken in good faith, having consulted with lawyers and experts, in the belief that they were both compliant with law and, more importantly, the right decisions for the long-term benefit of the school and the students. We believe that those complaints are addressed by the proposals in the OCS Board's answer to the Public Integrity Commission, and we believe the CSAC and the Board of Education should accept those proposals.
- We strongly stand by the mission and vision of this outstanding school as it was laid out by AHEPA. OCS has our unwavering support – we trust the teachers and the administration with our children, and we trust the OCS Board as it is currently configured to manage the future of the school.
- We also believe that there has been insufficient focus on the incredible support provided to the school by AHEPA and its members who have donated time, money, energy and significant resources to OCS. Without those contributions the school would not even exist, let alone be the success that it is today.

The contributions from AHEPA have had a positive impact on and outcomes in every aspect of the school –

- Strategic planning, including the vision, mission of the organization and support of its unique educational model;
- Networking with multiple strategic partners that aids the school and creates unique international opportunities for the students and the entire Odyssey community;

- Ongoing commitment from AHEPAns who serve on the board and volunteer for the school in other ways;
- Organizational sustainability, continuity and ongoing commitment from AHEPAns to serve on the board and volunteer for the school in multiple other ways;
- The acquisition of the campus and its facilities – including the foresight to designate two buildings to serve as ongoing sources of rental revenue for the school’s operations;
- Money provided to start the school and ongoing allocation of needed resources to support and operate Odyssey and its newly acquired campus; and
- Ongoing fundraising to retrofit the school buildings and create new educational spaces.

When we chose Odyssey – either as a job or for our children, or both - we chose based on the Greek language and mathematics model, with an understanding of the contributions Greek culture has made to Western civilization and the United States. What we have found at Odyssey is so much more than that in large part because of AHEPA and the efforts spearheaded by Dimitri Dandolos. AHEPA and its members have not overtly publicized their contributions, choosing, instead, to allow the results to speak for them. We think those who are complaining about AHEPA’s role in the governance of the school are not aware of many of the things that AHEPA has done for the school.

The primary driver of the academics at Odyssey is the incredible teachers, and Odyssey’s academic results speak for themselves. However, there are essential and foundational aspects to the framework in which those teachers operate that were created by AHEPA that deserve note. Examples of those are listed in Appendix 1 to this letter.

Without AHEPA there would be no place for those academic opportunities to flourish. Examples of AHEPA contributions to the campus and facilities are listed in Appendix 2 to this letter.

The academics and the campus require money to operate beyond state funding. In addition to helping the Odyssey get teachers from Greece paid for by the Greek Ministry of Education and other cost reduction activities, AHEPA and AHEPAns have been critical to the fundraising that is essential to the school. Examples of AHEPA donations and monetary contributions to Odyssey are listed in Appendix 3 to this letter.

There is no other entity that has made such a commitment to the school or has the resources of this almost 100-year old philanthropic organization to continue such sustained, innovative and highly productive efforts on behalf of Odyssey. Our main concern as members of the Odyssey community is that if AHEPA leadership is changed or removed, these connections will be lost.

Many negative things have been said about the relationship between AHEPA and Odyssey. Rather than being a detriment, Odyssey has only benefitted from those relationships and many others – both Greek and non-Greek.

We ask that you strongly consider the overwhelming contributions of AHEPA and its members for the benefit of Odyssey when completing the formal review process. The results for the last 14 years speak for themselves. We believe that it is in the best interests of the students and the school for you to accept the proposals made by the OCS Board allow AHEPA to retain its majority on the board.

Sincerely,

Members of the Odyssey Charter School Community

Signatures received via email, text or FB:

1.	John Nicholson Wilmington, DE 19803	Jonas Acquah Middletown, DE 19709	Maryann Yarram Newark, DE 19702	Michael Roussos New Castle, DE 19720
2.	Estelle Nicholson Wilmington, DE 19803	Irene Acquah Middletown, DE 19709	Anna Roussos New Castle, DE 19720	Dr. Marina Mattheoudakis Dean of the Greek Program Wilmington, DE 19807
3.	Kaija Sarmousakis Wilmington, DE	Mike Napier Bear, DE 19701	Marco Boyce New Castle, DE 19720	Chris Sarmousakis Wilmington, DE
4.	Eva Jannelli Wilmington, DE 19810	Konstantinos Stogiantsakis Wilmington, DE 19801	Heather Cloud, Wilmington, DE 19809	Mary Righos Wilmington, DE 19808
5.	Angelina Thomas Wilmington, DE 19810	Dino Charalambides Hockessin, DE 19707	Marina Lurz, Newark, DE 19711	Noelia Mejia Newark 19702
6.	Alexandra Tsitsimpeou Bear, DE 19701	Chandu Yarram Newark, DE 19702	Dimitris Vafeiadis Wilmington, 19807	Lois Card Wilmington, DE 19803
7.	Karen Akkola Wilmington, DE 19803	Yanna Hatzopoulos Newark, DE 19711	Athanasios Kalampakas Newark, DE 19711	Maria Stogiantsakis Wilmington, DE 19801
8.	Richard Thomas Wilmington, DE 19810	Nia Charalambides Hockessin, DE 19707	Anthony Miller Wilmington, DE 19803	Leonidas Vosdou Wilmington, DE 19807
9.	Zafeirios Ntouvis Wilmington, DE 19807	Michael Padovani Wilmington, DE 19808	Kelly Padovani Wilmington, DE 19808	Jocelyn E. Scott Newark, DE 19711
10.	Dr. Georgia Nikolaou Wilmington, DE 19807	Shawn Martyniak Newark, DE 19711	Paige Martyniak Newark, DE 19711	Vicky Goulis Wilmington De, 19803
11.	Voula Farfaras West Chester, PA 19382	Stacey Stewart Wilmington, DE 19801	William Stewart Wilmington, DE 19801	Paul Brooks, II Wilmington, DE. 19808
12.	Jennifer Brooks	Anshika Srivastava Newark, DE 19711	Manish Srivastava	Krista D Pilichowski

	Wilmington, DE 19808		Newark, DE 19711	Wilmington, DE 19806.
13.	Thomas Patton Wilmington, DE 19810	Matthew Gatta Wilmington, DE 19810	Angela Gatta Wilmington, DE 19810	Partima Chava Newark, DE 19702
14.	Rao P Ganta Newark, DE 19702	Subhadaa Reddimasi Newark, DE 19702	Ankur Kulshreshtha Newark, DE 19702	Sujatha Kotaru Newark, DE 19702
15.	Srinivas Potluri Newark, DE 19702	Sreenivas Avula Newark, DE 19702	Sugunasree Avula Newark, DE 19702	Sarath Bandla Newark, DE 19702
16.	Vijaya Bandla Katukuri Newark, DE 19702	Pavithran Guija Newark, DE 19702	Simy Simon Newark, DE 19702	Ganesh Chirumamilla Bear, DE 19701
17.	Lakshmi Damineni Bear, DE 19701	Maheswari Yamali Newark, DE 19713	Ragunath Yamali Newark, DE 19713	Parag Bhasvar Newark, DE 19702
18.	Baskaran Jayaraman Newark, DE 19702	Sumathi Murugan Newark, DE 19702	Kiran Mudunuri Bear, DE 19701	Ravi Midunuri Bear, DE 19701
19.	Alwin Thomas Newark, DE 19702	Anju John Newark, DE 19702	Prakash Sharma Bear, DE 19701	Megha Khandelwal Bear, DE 19701
20.	Maria Gourgouliatou Baltimore, MD 21217			

Additional physically-collected signatures on following pages:

Walter Housas Wilmington 1971
Evelina Vokar Kocinis 1980
John Kocinis 1980
MARIKA SAMOUSAKI's Wilmington 1980

Elene Hill Wilmington DE 1980
Tim Lutz Baltimore 21334

Arthur Housas Wilmington 1980
John Housas Wilmington 1971

Vigoria Karthacas Wilmington 1980
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Laura Wills Wilms 1980
Andre Wills Wilms 1980

Nick Gerasimakis Philadelphia 1970

Katerina Katerakou Wilmington 1980
Kam Carlow Wilmington 1980
Sharon Carlisle Bear, DE 1970
Russell Carlisle Bear 1970
David Vance Poole Hockessin DE 1987
Evelina Guizade Wilmington, DE 1982
Tara Van Housas Bear, DE 1985
Charles Debra Jr. Wilmington, DE 1982
Dante Debra Wilmington 1985
XXXXXXXXXXXX Wilmington 1980

PHILIP HALL WILMINGTON DE 1961
Armenian Catholicos Gen. DE 1970

Thomas Hunt, Wilmington DE 1980
Katerina Yacubinas Wilmington DE 1980
Judy Ann • Wilmington DE 1981

Andres DeSena Wilmington DE 1988
Susan Ann Wilmington DE 1982
Pat Long Wilmington DE 1982

Thomas Francis Wilmington DE 1980
Katherine Vlasovs Newark, DE 1971

Pop. Kuznetsov Newark, NJ 08040
Michael Frangos W. Deptford NJ 08048
John Kuznetsov W. Deptford NJ 08048
John Perros Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Lore Ann Haverly, NJ 1983
Dany Kuznetsov Milltown, NJ 08056
John Kuznetsov Wilmington DE 1971
Craig Kuznetsov Middleton DE 19709

John (Suzanne) Newark NJ 1981

John & Sarah Kinnis @ Wilmington, DE
Marta Remondet Bellmore NJ 08031
Jennifer OHS Wm DE 19701

Ara Panchakis Wilmington DE 19810

Evan Jackson Wilmington DE 19860

Ben Bishop Felton DE 19943

Demetrius Alexander Haguenau DE 19707

Caron Alexander " " " "

John Alexander " " " "

E Jean Alexander " " " "

Kathleen Hulse Bear DE 19701

Sharon Hulse Bear DE 19701

Global Buger 405 Raleigh 19802

Angel Buger 405 Raleigh 19802

Lynda Faler 439 Fort Ross DE 17543

Evan Faler 439 Fort Ross Ave 17543

Michael Mack 107 Norris Rd.

Juan La Wilmington DE 19803

A. Kumpungu Wilmington DE 19808

Y. Kumpungu 20 Northway 1730

20 Northway 1730

Merry Ellen Fakis wife De 1971

Mrs. Mary Fakis De 19703

Set

JOANNE DIVORCED Bellman

Melba's Memories	W. Langston	DC 1971
Joy's Book	W. Langston	DC 1973
Christmas Bookings	W. Langston	DC 1975

Nicole Flaherty wife De 19703

APPENDIX 1
AHEPA Influence on Academics

- AHEPAns have served as both teachers and administrators for the school **on a volunteer basis**.
- AHEPA pioneered at Odyssey and coordinated with the Delaware Department of Education on the design of an original model for the teaching of Foreign Language to Elementary Students (FLES) in American schools. This program was fully developed for K-5 instruction and has become a model of teaching for other foreign language programs in Delaware and the nation.
- AHEPA collaborated with the Hellenic Link on the development of Greek Language Standards for Grades K-16, in cooperation with the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), a first ever initiative for the Greek Language in the US.
- Over the past 12 years, AHEPA has maintained the relationship between Odyssey and the Greek Ministry of Education through which the Ministry assigns educators to Odyssey **at the Ministry's cost**. This amounts to a financial contribution by the Ministry to Odyssey so far on the order of **over \$2 million dollars**.
- In addition, through a relationship cultivated by Dimitri Dandolos, in 2017 the University of Thessaloniki assigned the University's Chair of the School of Modern Greek, Dr. Marina Mattheoudakis, to coordinate the Greek language program at Odyssey, update and integrate the curriculum, and create the Immersion Program that began in the 2017-18 academic year. All would agree on the incredible impact Dr. Mattheoudakis has had on the school and she would not be there without AHEPA.
- In 2010, through the efforts of Dimitri Dandolos, the school began a partnership with Harvard's Center of Hellenic Studies, in Nafplio, Greece. In recent years, through Harvard, OCS students have been doing collaborative projects with the students of public schools of the Prefecture of Argolida.
- Last year, Harvard invited an Odyssey student to Harvard's Summer Study Program in Nafplio, Greece, and she was accompanied by one of the OCS High School teachers. Odyssey is the only American school to have been invited to this prestigious program, and this summer another student and teacher will participate at the program.

That list could go on for another page, and AHEPA's contributions to education through Odyssey do not end with the students.

- AHEPA worked with Dr. Mattheoudakis to develop "The Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification (ARTC) program for teachers of Greek" at the University of Delaware. Through ARTC, qualified individuals will complete certification requirements while they are employed as full-time teachers, through a state-approved program of professional education coursework, accompanied by intensive, school-based supervision and mentoring in lieu of student teaching. World Languages is one of the ARTC subjects which is also considered a "Critical Need subject" in Delaware.
- Since 2009, through the initiative of AHEPA, the Clinical Studies program at the University of Delaware's College of Education and Human Development has used Odyssey as a quality school site for their student's practicum, and it provides Odyssey students with access to University resources.
- Odyssey is currently working on a proposal with Aristotle University in Greece to create a Center of Aristotle University on the Odyssey campus via their School of Philosophy and Modern Greek Studies.

There is no other entity or group with the connections and resources to make these things possible for Odyssey students and teachers.

APPENDIX 2
AHEPA Influence on the Campus and its Facilities

- AHEPAns were instrumental in the acquisition, permitting and retrofit of the St. Thomas’s Property, which supported the Elementary and Middle school expansion.
- George Righos, an AHEPAN who helped found the school, volunteered at the school and handled the finances, all of the payroll and HR for the first **9 years at no cost to Odyssey**.
- AHEPAns led the effort to purchase the Barley Mill property to give Odyssey a campus that encompasses 36 acres and six buildings that total more than 360,000 square feet of usable educational space and athletic fields, including two buildings that have the potential to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in rent for the benefit of Odyssey.
- AHEPAns convinced Du Pont to “sell” for \$1.00 the furnishings and equipment of Building 20, as well as the kitchen and cafeteria equipment, for a **cost avoidance to Odyssey of approximately \$2.75 million**.
- AHEPAns, as part of the campus-wide “Green Initiative” energy savings program), helped Odyssey obtain a \$65,000 grant from the State of Delaware to introduce LED lights throughout the interior and exterior spaces of the campus. The savings generated from the reduction in electric bills will allow for a payback of approximately 3-5 years.

APPENDIX 3
AHEPA Fundraising

- To date, AHEPAns have raised **over \$2.7 million dollars in grants and donations** for the benefit of Odyssey.
- The AHEPA Gala raised **over \$100,000** for the school.
- AHEPA has committed to raise **\$2,000,000 for the Gymnasium**.
- AHEPA is working to raise **the \$400,000 needed to pay for the Building 23 High School expansion** through a nationwide fundraising program.
- AHEPA and AHEPAns have networked to solicit high net worth individuals in the Greek community to donate to the school.

There is no other entity that has made such a commitment to the school or has the resources to continue such efforts, and these are just the large-scale items. AHEPA’s contributions even extend to things like purchasing tickets for the Phillies game on May 29 for the Lower School Greek Choir members singing the National Anthem for the game.

Carwell John

From: Mr & Mrs Veney <theveney@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 8:09 PM
To: Carwell John
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

6/5/19

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee Members,

We, the undersigned, are members of the Odyssey Charter School community, and we are writing this letter in support of Odyssey Charter School, the current board, administration, the staff and students and to recognize the foundational and mission-critical support AHEPA has provided to the school since its inception. We are a diverse community - some of us are Greek, but most of us are not. Some of us knew about AHEPA before coming to Odyssey, but most of us did not. Some of us are Odyssey teachers and staff, some of us are parents, and some are both.

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However:

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- We support the mission and vision of this unique school as it was laid out by AHEPA. OCS has our support - We trust the teachers and the administration with our children, and we trust the OCS Board as it is currently configured to manage the future of the school.
- We also believe that there has been insufficient focus on the incredible support provided to the school by AHEPA and its members who have donated time, money, energy and significant resources to OCS. Without those contributions the school would not even exist, let alone be the success that it is today.

The contributions from AHEPA have had a positive impact on and outcomes in every aspect of the school -

- Strategic planning, including the vision, mission of the organization and support of its unique educational model;
- Networking with multiple strategic partners that aids the school and creates unique international opportunities for the students and the entire Odyssey community;
- Ongoing commitment from AHEPAs who serve on the board and volunteer for the school in other ways;

- Organizational sustainability, continuity and ongoing commitment from AHEPAns to serve on the board and volunteer for the school in multiple other ways;
- The acquisition of the campus and its facilities - including the foresight to designate two buildings to serve as ongoing sources of rental revenue for the school's operations;
- Money provided to start the school and ongoing allocation of needed resources to support and operate Odyssey and its newly acquired campus; and
- Ongoing fundraising to retrofit the school buildings and create new educational spaces.

When we chose Odyssey – either as a job or for our children, or both - we chose based on the Greek language and mathematics model, with an understanding of the contributions Greek culture has made to Western civilization and the United States. What we have found at Odyssey is so much more than that in large part because of AHEPA and the efforts spearheaded by Dimitri Dandolos. AHEPA and its members have not overtly publicized their contributions, choosing, instead, to allow the results to speak for them. We think those who are complaining about AHEPA's role in the governance of the school are not aware of many of the things that AHEPA has done for the school.

The primary driver of the academics at Odyssey is the incredible teachers, and Odyssey's academic results speak for themselves. However, there are essential and foundational aspects to the framework in which those teachers operate that were created by AHEPA that deserve note. Examples of those are listed in Appendix 1 to this letter.

Without AHEPA there would be no place for those academic opportunities to flourish. Examples of AHEPA contributions to the campus and facilities are listed in Appendix 2 to this letter.

The academics and the campus require money to operate beyond state funding. In addition to helping the Odyssey get teachers from Greece paid for by the Greek Ministry of Education and other cost reduction activities, AHEPA and AHEPAns have been critical to the fundraising that is essential to the school. Examples of AHEPA donations and monetary contributions to Odyssey are listed in Appendix 3 to this letter.

There is no other entity that has made such a commitment to the school or has the resources of this almost 100-year old philanthropic organization to continue such sustained, innovative and highly productive efforts on behalf of Odyssey. Our main concern as members of the Odyssey community is that if AHEPA leadership is changed or removed, these connections will be lost.

Many negative things have been said about the relationship between AHEPA and Odyssey. Rather than being a detriment, Odyssey has only benefited from those relationships and many others - both Greek and non-Greek.

We ask that you strongly consider the overwhelming contributions of AHEPA and its members for the benefit of Odyssey during the formal review process. The results for the last 14 years speak for themselves. We believe that it is in the best interests of the students and the school that the proposals made by the OCS Board to allow AHEPA to retain its majority on the board **be accepted**.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Veney New Castle 19720

Brendan Veney New Castle 19720

APPENDIX 1

AHEPA Influence on Academics

- AHEPAns have served as both teachers and administrators for the school **on a volunteer basis**.
- AHEPA pioneered at Odyssey and coordinated with the Delaware Department of Education on the design of an original model for the teaching of Foreign Language to Elementary Students (FLES) in American schools. This program was fully developed for K-5 instruction and has become a model of teaching for other foreign language programs in Delaware and the nation.
- AHEPA collaborated with the Hellenic Link on the development of Greek Language Standards for Grades K-16, in cooperation with the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), a first ever initiative for the Greek Language in the US.
- Over the past 12 years, AHEPA has maintained the relationship between Odyssey and the Greek Ministry of Education through which the Ministry assigns educators to Odyssey at the Ministry's cost. This amounts to a financial contribution by the Ministry to Odyssey so far on the order of over \$2 million dollars.
- In addition, through a relationship cultivated by Dimitri Dandolos, in 2017 the University of Thessaloniki assigned the University's Chair of the School of Modern Greek, Dr. Marina Mattheoudakis, to coordinate the Greek language program at Odyssey, update and integrate the curriculum, and create the Immersion Program that began in the 2017-18 academic year. All would agree on the incredible impact Dr. Mattheoudakis has had on the school and she would not be there without AHEPA.
- In 2010, through the efforts of Dimitri Dandolos, the school began a partnership with Harvard's Center of Hellenic Studies, in Nafplio, Greece. In recent years, through Harvard, OCS students have been doing collaborative projects with the students of public schools of the Prefecture of Argolida.
- Last year, Harvard invited an Odyssey student to Harvard's Summer Study Program in Nafplio, Greece, and she was accompanied by one of the OCS High School teachers. Odyssey is the only American school to have been invited to this prestigious program, and this summer another student and teacher will participate at the program.

That list could go on for another page, and AHEPA's contributions to education through Odyssey do not end with the students.

- AHEPA worked with Dr. Mattheoudakis to develop “The Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification (ARTC) program for teachers of Greek” at the University of Delaware. Through ARTC, qualified individuals will complete certification requirements while they are employed as full-time teachers, through a state-approved program of professional education coursework, accompanied by intensive, school-based supervision and mentoring in lieu of student teaching. World Languages is one of the ARTC subjects which is also considered a “Critical Need subject” in Delaware.
- Since 2009, through the initiative of AHEPA, the Clinical Studies program at the University of Delaware's College of Education and Human Development has used Odyssey as a quality school site for their student's practicum, and it provides Odyssey students with access to University resources.
- Odyssey is currently working on a proposal with Aristotle University in Greece to create a Center of Aristotle University on the Odyssey campus via their School of Philosophy and Modern Greek Studies.

There is no other entity or group with the connections and resources to make these things possible for Odyssey students and teachers.

APPENDIX 2

AHEPA Influence on the Campus and its Facilities

- AHEPAns were instrumental in the acquisition, permitting and retrofit of the St. Thomas's Property, which supported the Elementary and Middle school expansion.
- George Righos, an AHEPAN who helped found the school, volunteered at the school and handled the finances, all of the payroll and HR for the first 9 years at no cost to Odyssey.
- AHEPAns led the effort to purchase the Barley Mill property to give Odyssey a campus that encompasses 36 acres and six buildings that total more than 360,000 square feet of usable educational space and athletic fields, including two buildings that have the potential to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in rent for the benefit of Odyssey.
- AHEPAns convinced Du Pont to "sell" for \$1.00 the furnishings and equipment of Building 20, as well as the kitchen and cafeteria equipment, for a cost avoidance to Odyssey of approximately \$2.75 million.
- AHEPAns, as part of the campus-wide "Green Initiative" energy savings program), helped Odyssey obtain a \$65,000 Grant from the State of Delaware to introduce LED lights throughout the interior and exterior spaces of the campus. The savings generated from the reduction in electric bills will allow for a payback of approximately 3-5 years.

APPENDIX 3

AHEPA Fundraising

- To date, AHEPAns have raised over \$2.7 million dollars in grants and donations for the benefit of Odyssey.
- The AHEPA Gala raised over \$100,000 for the school.
- AHEPA has committed to raise \$2,000,000 for the Gymnasium.
- AHEPA is working to raise the \$400,000 needed to pay for the Building 23 High School expansion through a nationwide fundraising program.
- AHEPA and AHEPAns have networked to solicit high net worth individuals in the Greek community to donate to the school.

There is no other entity that has made such a commitment to the school or has the resources to continue such efforts, and these are just the large-scale items. AHEPA's contributions even extend to things like purchasing tickets for the Phillies game on May 29 for the Lower School Greek Choir members singing the National Anthem for the game.

From: Susan Kelleher <greekorth@holytrinitywilmington.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 9:57 AM

To: Travers Leroy

Subject: AHEPA Support Letter

Dear Mr. Travers,

I am writing regarding the formal review of Odyssey Charter School. I am writing to recognize the support that AHEPA has given to the school and to state that the school could not be one of the best in Delaware had not been for the vision, support, and leadership of AHEPA. The school is what it is today because of the concerted efforts of the faculty, the parents and the Odyssey community, under the guidance of school leadership, and AHEPA. It was the vision of AHEPA that provided the direction for the school. And it was the countless hours of hard work by AHEPA members to raise (and continue to raise) funds for the betterment of the school. Odyssey has an amazing record of success in the areas of enrollment, academics, Greek program, and school leadership. I strongly stand by the mission and vision of the school. I trust the OCS Board to manage the future of the school. I believe that the actions taken by the Board were in good faith and were the right decisions for the long-term benefit of the school. I support the OCS Board and believe that it is in the best interest of the school to retain the AHEPA majority.

Sincerely,

Susan Kelleher
Office Manager
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Susan Kelleher
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Wilmington, DE 19806
302.654.4446
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Carwell John

From: Skibicki, Tim <Tim.Skibicki@tetrattech.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Bunting Susan
Cc: infocso; Anne Skibicki
Subject: Odyssey Charter School - AHEPA support

Dear Secretary Bunting,

I fully support AHEPA's current role with the Odyssey Charter School Board, here is why;

A little over ten years ago my wife, Anne, and I attended an open house at Odyssey Charter School. The school was small, but the passion, energy and vision that was displayed by the late Tony Skoutelas was inspiring. Tony, at the time was the Head of the School, one of the schools founding members and most notably an AHEPA member. Tony's passion for a school infused with Greek academics and culture was indicative of someone who was working for a cause in which they strongly believe.

I saw this passion again later while working as the architect to support Dimitri Dandolos and the Odyssey School Board as they moved the school out of that small building and into the Barley Mill Campus where the school resides today. That transformation was challenging to say the least, with one obstacle to overcome after another. However, the OCS School Board with its AHEPA majority and tremendous support from AHEPA volunteer members, never wavered from the mission. In fact, this group operated in a persistent, dedicated and professional manner throughout the entire process. Again, that passion that's evident when someone is working for something they believe in, was on display.

I witnessed firsthand how Dimitri Dandolos worked full-time and on a completely volunteer basis for almost four years on the Barley Mill OCS Campus project. During this time he performed multiple roles for the school, not the least of which was the de-facto Director of Major Capital Improvements. While this was not a paid role, he performed his duties most admirably. I've been practicing as a licensed architect for nearly 20 years, focusing almost exclusively on Delaware public K-12 projects. I've worked with countless full-time, highly paid individuals performing the same role which Dimitri performed on a volunteer basis. In my opinion, Dimitri's overall skill level and effectiveness is unsurpassed by any of those individuals. From my vantage point, whether working with professional consultants like myself, other School Board members, other AHEPA volunteers, school administrators, school staff or the greater community in general, Dimitri's efforts towards the Barley Mill project were focused and goal oriented but at the same time, respectful and enthusiastic. He, along with the support of other AHEPA volunteers, provided the vision of the OCS Barley Mill Campus project and pooled the significant resources that were necessary to make the vision a reality.

I've had the privilege of being involved in the OCS Barley Mill Campus project from its earliest planning stages all the way through to seeing "kids in seats". I participated in all of the following steps in some form or another; initial design and testing of the concept, due diligence exploration, property acquisition, the master planning phase, land use planning and regulatory approvals, educational programming, the fit out conversions of the buildings from a business occupancy to an educational occupancy, the systematic phasing and implementation of the master plan, demolition of select buildings to create playing fields and playgrounds, strategic expansions to promote a campus feel and provide greater accessibility. Throughout this lengthy and arduous process, an emphasis was placed on the goal of providing quality learning environments and an atmosphere conducive to student success, health and safety. This goal was no doubt achieved as evidenced by the beautiful campus Odyssey Charter School now enjoys. The campus will only improve as the master plan continues to be developed and implemented. While impressive, the fact that this vision became a reality is not really surprising, knowing the individuals that were behind making it happen. What is surprising and equally impressive is the Capital Improvements budget under which this campus was delivered. In the end, approximately 250,000 square feet of K-12 learning environment, across four buildings was renovated for approximately \$25 per square foot. This staggeringly low amount represents tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers money that was

saved throughout this process. This is the immensely positive impact that the AHEPA majority school board led by Dimitri Dandolos and other AHEPA volunteers had on the development of the OCS Barley Mill Campus project!

My understanding of the successes achieved throughout the Campus development project are further underscored by the Hellenic based education my own family received from Odyssey Charter School. Together, our two daughters attended a total of twelve years of schooling at Odyssey. I feel forever indebted to the AHEPA original founders and the countless AHEPA volunteers for their role in making this education available to our daughters. Zoe and Katie have received an education at Odyssey that has deeply touched our family and will continue to pay in dividends as they move through their schooling and the remainder of their lives.

In order to maintain its current successful trajectory, Odyssey Charter School, no doubt, will need the continued support of AHEPA and the added motivation that a AHEPA Majority School Board can only provide. The AHEPA School Board members and volunteers have earned the right to continue in this capacity as is evidenced by the Odyssey Charter School track record and the OCS Barley Mill Campus that is now in place to assist in delivering quality Hellenic based education for generations to come.

Sincerely, Tim Skibicki

Tim Skibicki, AIA | Project Manager

Mobile 302.420.0192 | Direct: 302.283.2265 | Main: 302.738.7551 | Fax: 302.454.5989

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