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Jean A. Astorino, P.C.

JEAN A. ASTORINO, O.D.

Low Vision Services

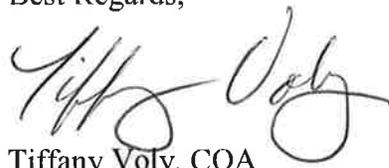
May 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a parent at Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington DE. With recent news of a formal review I felt the need to reach out and express my experience with our amazing school. I currently have 1 child enrolled in the 2nd grade and will have a new kindergartener next year. I literally cried tears of joy when I found out we won the lottery to get in. My oldest has been there since kindergarten and I have been nothing short of thrilled with Odyssey. They have gone above and beyond to help my child grow academically. He struggled personally this year and every teacher and counselor that comes in contact with my son was more than helpful in seeing him succeed. In addition to academics they teach good work ethics, morality, inclusiveness, and community which is more important to me than anything else. I have never once had a bad experience when coming in contact with anyone over the past 3 years. It puzzles me as to what would be so horrible to threaten to shut a school that has such great ratings, that's growing in athletics and extracurricular activities, and constantly hosting events for the families to come together. I hope that you can come to an agreement and keep all 1800 students happily attending come the fall. A shut down would devastate many of us and I honestly think that would be a harsh punishment for every parent that supports the school. Not to mention, I'd think an overcrowding issue could come up if all those children have to disperse to other schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and take my thoughts into consideration. I pray that this makes some kind of positive impact in your decision.

Best Regards,



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Secretary of Education

MAY 23 2019

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Morgan Clark
1714 Gilpin Ave
Wilmington, DE 19806

Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

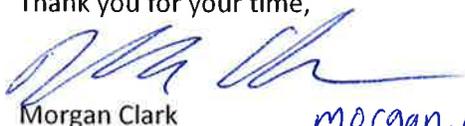
Dear Susan Bunting,

As a happy parent of two Odyssey Charter School students, I wanted to write in to show my support for the school and its board. I have seen the concerns raised by a very vocal minority, but to me they are non-issues. Namely:

- A fundraising position making >\$100K annually which was possibly designed with an AHEPA member in mind: The school needs fund raising, and I do not consider a salary of over \$100K excessive for this position. Since the school has such deep ties with the Greek community I do not think requiring the candidate to have similar ties is unusual. As an example, my father-in-law was in charge of fund raising for Wilmington University for several years. While I do not know his specific salary I'm sure it was in a similar ballpark. He created several fund raising events including the Green and White Ball, and raised a significant amount of money for the university. If successful, a similar position at Odyssey would be extremely beneficial.
- Concerns over the board comprising of a majority of AHEPA members: The school was founded by the AHEPA, and its Greek heritage is a huge part of the school. I do not see them continuing to control the board as an issue, but I could see some benefit from a more diverse board.
- Concerns over the school paying for a fundraising video: I thought the video was excellent and very well done. My understanding is the bulk of the money raised by the gala was directed to Odyssey. I do not see paying for a promotional video in order to raise funds as an issue. If a portion of the funds raised were directed to a sister school, Ithaka, perhaps they should have paid for the same portion of the cost of the fundraising video, but this does not seem like a huge issue to me.

I am sure that you will do your own research and come to your own conclusions, and I do admit that greater transparency may be needed around segmenting contributions to Ithaka Learning Center from Odyssey's pool. Also, diversification of the board may be beneficial. At the same time, I believe that most of the complaints you have heard were from a small number of very vocal members of the community and I wanted to share the viewpoints of a happy Odyssey parent. I believe my opinions are more in line with the majority of parents.

Thank you for your time,



Morgan Clark

morgan.clark.1@gmail.com
302-351-2442

May 24, 2019

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee,

The Odyssey Charter School Education Association (OCSEA) is writing this letter in support of Odyssey Charter School, in particular the staff, students, and families. The school has an amazing record of success in the areas of enrollment, academics, Greek programming, and school leadership. OCSEA strongly stands by the mission and vision of this outstanding K-12 school. OCS has our unwavering support.

In January 2019, the OCSEA offered a collective vote of no confidence in current School Board members Josiah Wolcott, George Hantzandreou, Michael Kirifides, and Michael Klezaras. We respectfully asked for their resignation not due to any bias or dislike against a group or individual, but out of love for our school, our community, and most importantly, our students. Not only were we ignored, we were told it meant nothing.

The concerns were clearly spelled out as follows:

- increasing distrust in certain board members (as members of a private, fraternal organization essentially making all decisions for a public charter school)
- continued and blatant lack of transparency
- the failure to put in place practices that would prevent improprieties or the appearance of improprieties concerning hiring an AHEPAN or financially benefiting AHEPA-affiliated projects
- the Point of Order and resulting recall of the $\frac{3}{4}$ super majority bylaw amendment
- the restructuring to a dual-headed leadership model after stating restructuring would not occur
- the proposal of a possible 3-headed leadership model
- an inadequate and questionable hiring process
- limiting the opportunity for public comment at board meetings
- lack of thorough consideration of opposing points of view
- the inability to communicate a clear vision for future growth and success of our school

Since January, our concerns have continued to increase and now include misappropriation of funds, gender inequality issues when voting on or choosing the majority of board members, actions inconsistent with fiduciary duties, and major violations of the school's conflict of interest policy.

For the record, OCSEA has no interest in changing the mission and vision of our school. We want to see it continue to be a success presently and in the foreseeable future. We are, however, asking the Board to change the Bylaws so that AHEPA members no longer represent a majority. We request a configuration that is more representative of the school community and its stakeholders. While we appreciate the contributions made by AHEPA in the creation and support of OCS, we believe an AHEPA majority or AHEPA-appointed majority is no longer in the best interest of the school.

We stand by ALL staff and, most importantly, our students. Every decision we have made as an Association has been in the best interest of the over 1800 children that enter the doors of Odyssey Charter School each day. Decisions being made now impact the lives of hundreds of families of those students and our staff. We ask that you please consider the concerns presented in this letter when completing the formal review process.

Sincerely,

Odyssey Charter School Education Association

From: [Kelly A. Roberts, Esquire](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Odyssey Charter School
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2019 9:36:51 AM

I am writing to add my opinion regarding Odyssey Charter School's renewal and formal review. I have been a parent at OCS for 5 years with two children currently attending and a 3rd enrolled for K next year. For the most part I have been happy with the school. Its teachers are caring and are able to provide an excellent education to their students. That being said, I am not happy with the schools board and their questionable decisions, Lack of transparency and what appears to be private interests. Although our students exceed academically I can only imagine how much more could be accomplished if our board was comprised of people who had Odyssey's interests solely at heart.

I am grateful for AHEPAs role in starting this school and their continued support. I believe this private organization truly wants Odyssey to not only succeed but to also expand and grow into what could be described as a global campus. However, I feel that their desire to grow and expand together with the majority they hold over OCS's board creates a HUGE conflict. In their attempt to achieve AHEPAs goals they have squandered thousands of dollars of money that belonged to and should have been invested in Odyssey.

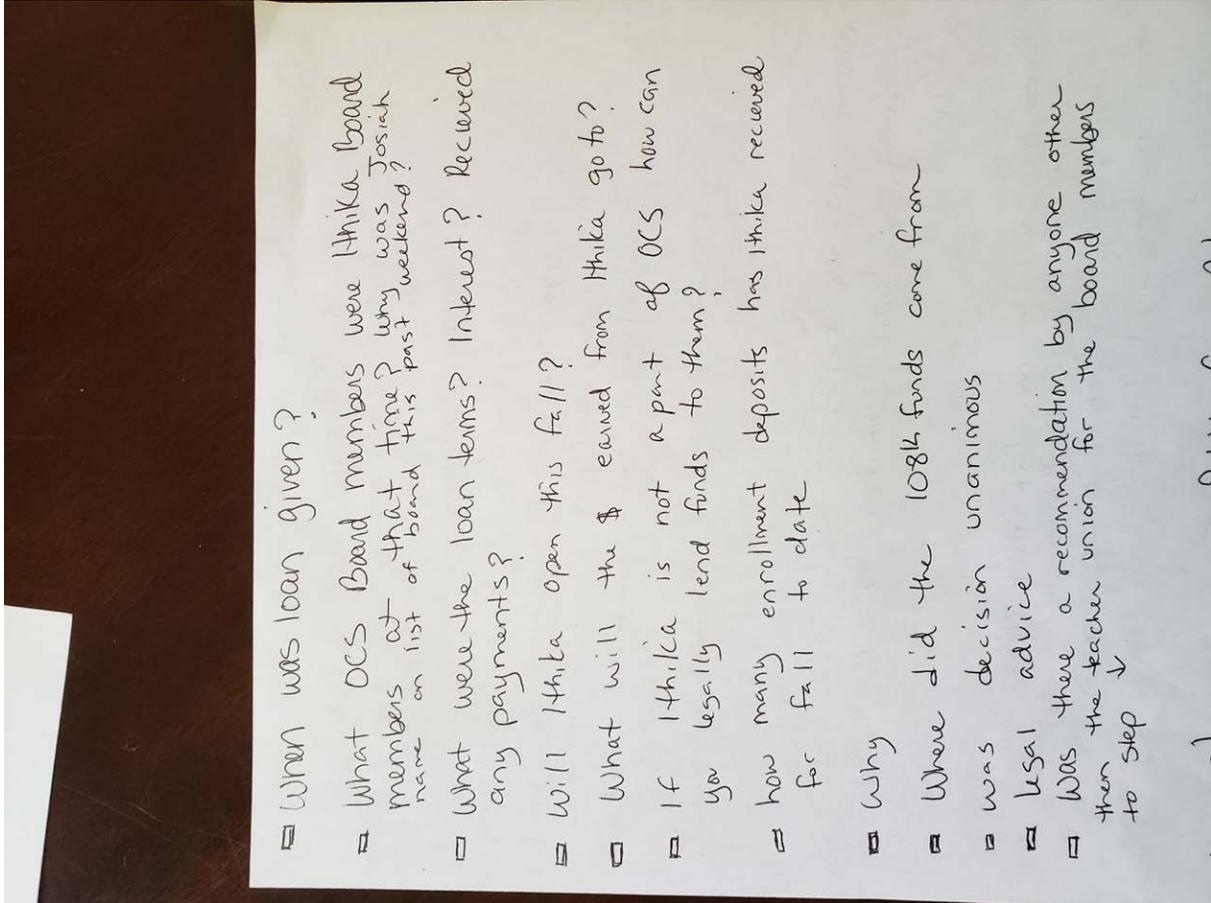
If OCS was a private school then maybe these decisions would not be questioned. However, OCS is NOT a private school and the DOE needs to take decisive action now to prevent future issues. The current board and their decisions do not reflect the OCS community. The achievements and academic success of this school is not due to our board, but rather inspite of it. Our teachers, parents and students have made this school what it is. I am asking the you help us continue on this path of excellence by demanding the return of the 108k "loaned" to Ithika, removal of current board members that have violated DE regulations, demand a new make up of the board that would be 3-3-3. OCS's recommendation of simply recusing AHEPA members when voting in certain situations will not be enough. Anyone with any background in law knows how easy it would be to get around this clause.

Sincerely,

Kelly Robert's
OCS parent
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Kelly A. Roberts, Esquire](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Public comment on OCS formal review
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 11:10:07 AM

I attached a list of questions and comments that I would love answers to with regards to OCS and the formal review



Duty of Obedience, Care & Loyalty

- ensure functions w/in the law
 - due care in dealing w/ school & its interests including careful oversight of financial matters
 - Loyalty - conflicts of interest including appearance of conflicts MUST be avoided including conflicts w/ other organizations w/ which a board member is connected
- * Exercise prudence w/ control & transfers of funds

- What was the benefit to OCS in deciding to loan Ithika \$108K besides a tenant ^{gaining}

- Does the Board members feel that there was a conflict of interest or at least an appearance of Inpropriety by members of OCS board having dual boardship w/ Ithika when loan was made

- What were terms of loan

- Rent, duration of rental, Interest on loan, Payment Schedule, Interest during time that has accrued

- Have any repayments been made? When did they start

Can DOE make OCS
Board step down and
change the AHEPA majority
established in the Bylaws?

OCS is a great school
but the Board needs to go!

~ Current Board of Ithika

- President is person that OCS Board wanted to hire? Do you feel this was conflict

- AHEPA + Demetri funded ~~who founded~~ Ithika, sat on their board & OCS as well as our current board President. Current board is majority AHEPA. These dual directors approved 108K to Ithika from OCS funds.

- Who else loaned \$ to Ithika?

- Shouldn't Ithika & AHEPA be investigated

- Has OCS Board gifted or loaned or in any manner given OCS monies to AHEPA or Ithika other than the 108K & Gala money?

- ^{is there} Real Possibility of School Closing