

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Eli Henninger <eli.henninger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 10:34 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11- Letter from Parent

To whom it may concern,

Having had my son enrolled at Odyssey Charter School for the past two years, I feel obligated to inform the DOE of a parents perspective on this school. OCS has more than met our expectations, providing both a caring and academically challenging environment through Kindergarten and 1st grade. Our son, Luke, has been provided an excellent education, as we have seen him grow and mature. This past year, he has become a proficient reader and been challenged by the AR program. The teachers and staff have continued to improve in communication and make adjustments when necessary (example- changing busing and transportation around the school at pick up in order to provide a safer and more efficient system).

I do recognize that there are some things on a higher level (Board and transparency with fund allocation) that can improve, and I hope that the DOE approaches this process as a way for our school to improve and be refined. Odyssey Charter School is an incredible asset to our state education system, and, as a parent, I believe it is in the best interest of our students, families, and staff to work towards improving our community.

Thank you for listening,  
Elizabeth Henninger  
Mom of 1st Grader- Luke Henninger

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Eli Henninger

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Louise Antenucci <noochfred@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 8:02 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 - Letter from parent/teacher/student

To whom it may concern,

Our son is currently finishing up seventh grade at Odyssey Charter School and has been at the school since first grade. I have served on the OCS PTO for two years and enjoyed every minute of it. I have attended several board meetings over the years as well. We have seen the school grow into something so wonderful. The teachers, staff and administration are very dedicated and wonderful. The school has so many great qualities and to see what it has grown into over the last seven years that we have been there is amazing. We are very proud to say that our son goes to Odyssey Charter School!

That being said, please address the concerns that have been brought to your attention in the timely manner that you set forth and provide the guidance that is needed to get these items resolved so that our school can continue to move forward in positive directions.

We love Odyssey!

Sincerely,  
Louise & Rich Antenucci

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** yogeshchaudhary1@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 6:59 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from Parent Yogesh Chaudhary

Hello,

I am parent of Student Nishika and Mrinmayee Chaudhary who are in Kindergarten and 5th grade respectively in OCS.

We are sending this mail to inform you school is really good and I am happy about my daughter's performance in the school.

My daughter used to go to Kumon for her maths practice but after joining school we left kumon as teacher skills are really good and way of teaching is appreciable.

We are also happy about school discipline and overall school and vote in continuation of school.

Thank you!

Yogesh Chaudhary

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Konkle Tracy  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 5:35 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of two children who are students at Odyssey Charter School. My daughter, who is 15, is finishing up her freshman year. She has attended OCS since 6th grade. She has had wonderful experiences at Odyssey in these four years, some of which include an amazing academic career. She has gotten 4's on both reading and math Smarter Balanced state testing every year. She has been invited to participate in Odyssey's accelerated ACE program, which was not offered at her public feeder school. She was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 7th grade. Additionally, she has been in honors courses since enrolling at Odyssey which has accelerated her learning abilities. These things can in part be attributed to her, but her amazing teachers at Odyssey also play a large part in her academic career. Her fantastic band teacher, Christopher Parks is encouraging her to try out for all-state band, because he has recognized and is supportive of her natural ability. Further, she has been learning the Greek language for the past four years, which is what Odyssey has a charter for. She has been enjoying learning this language, and is looking forward to testing out her knowledge in the future by going to Greece, as the sophomores who went this year did.

My eleven year old son is finishing up his fifth grade year at OCS. He began his elementary schooling career at Odyssey. He has also had amazing teachers, including but not limited to a previous Teacher of the Year for Charter Schools, Kelly Krajewski. He has been learning Greek since kindergarten, and he has plans to take the Greek proficiency test in the future. In addition, he has met and has sustained friendships with so many students that he met in kindergarten and throughout his schooling career. These students live all over New Castle County.

While I try to stay out of school politics, and make no pretense about being knowledgeable about this, I would love to let you know that I am very happy with the wonderful education and fabulous teachers and programs that both of my children have received while at Odyssey Charter School, and am hoping to have two children who graduate from OCS. I understand that there have been some problems with the board majority of AHEPA members as well as a possible misappropriation of funding, and I am hoping these issues can be dealt with, without affecting the education of the many many students who are attending this school, including my own.

Thank you for your time and considering the future of my children,

Tracy Konkle

*Tracy Konkle*

*2nd Grade Teacher*



## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Eva Jannelli <evajannelli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 4:34 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from teacher

Hello,

*I am a teacher at Odyssey Charter School. I started working for the school in 2010, initially as a part time teacher, and eventually as a full time teacher. I have been close to the Odyssey Charter School since its inception...I have witnessed the school grow from a couple hundred students in grades K-3rd, to 1,800 students this year in grades K-11th. We went from a small rented building, located in the parking lot of a grocery store and a car dealership, to a beautiful large campus with several buildings. In 2006, only a few people had heard of Odyssey Charter School. Now, we regularly rank among the top 10 schools in Delaware. In 2018, our school was voted #1 in Delaware. Almost 1,000 students are on a waiting list for the next academic year.*

*While the immense success of our school is due to many factors, AHEPA (the founding organization), is the cornerstone from which it is all based. Their vision has attracted and inspired talented teachers who are tirelessly committed and passionate about our students' highest achievements.*

*Those of us who have been with the school for a while, know very well that none of what OCS has achieved would have been possible with out the continuous and tireless support of the AHEPA.*

*The contributions from AHEPA are numerous and influence every aspect of the school – the money provided to start the school,*

*the ongoing commitment from AHEPAns who serve on the board and volunteer for the school in other ways,*

*the acquisition of the facilities – including the two additional buildings to serve as ongoing sources of rental revenue for the school's operations,*

*the ongoing fundraising and networking that aids the school and creates unique opportunities for the students.*

*With any kind of growth, comes growing pain. There are some disagreements among the OCS community, which appear to have escalated to personal vendettas. Getting rid of AHEPA's majority on the board of OCS will not solve these issues. I feel that AHEPA's majority is necessary in order to ensure that the mission and the vision of the school continues, and that the Greek program remains a vital part of our school.*

*I kindly ask you to take into consideration my point of view, as one of the teachers with the longest tenure at OCS. In my humble opinion, efforts to push AHEPA away from the board of the school, are efforts against the school itself. AHEPA's vision of the school is what makes us unique and attractive to donors, investors, parents, and students alike. Implementing this vision is what ensures ours students' success. Please support us in continuing on this path of success.*

Sincerely,

Eva M. Jannelli  
OCS Greek Language & Greek Art Teacher

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Eva Jannelli <evajannelli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 4:34 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from teacher

Hello,

*I am a teacher at Odyssey Charter School. I started working for the school in 2010, initially as a part time teacher, and eventually as a full time teacher. I have been close to the Odyssey Charter School since its inception...I have witnessed the school grow from a couple hundred students in grades K-3rd, to 1,800 students this year in grades K-11th. We went from a small rented building, located in the parking lot of a grocery store and a car dealership, to a beautiful large campus with several buildings. In 2006, only a few people had heard of Odyssey Charter School. Now, we regularly rank among the top 10 schools in Delaware. In 2018, our school was voted #1 in Delaware. Almost 1,000 students are on a waiting list for the next academic year.*

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Sincerely,

Eva M. Jannelli  
OCS Greek Language & Greek Art Teacher

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Blaine Breeding <blaine.breeding@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent/teacher/student

To Delaware Department of Education

From Blaine Breeding

RE: Odyssey Charter School Formal Review

June 9, 2019

Our son has attended Odyssey for two years now, transferring in from our feeder school. We have enjoyed a lot about Odyssey – Odyssey has a more challenging curriculum, with more opportunities for special learning programs and field trips than our son’s feeder school. We have absolutely loved the curriculum and teachers he has interacted with during his time at Odyssey. He has been involved with the Green Team, learning about the environment while helping the school improve its use of resources. In addition, the benefit of learning Greek has been an added challenge which helps him learn another language and culture. We feel very strongly that the school is an essential part of our son’s success and we are committed to making sure the school continues to flourish. We are thrilled with the quality of education our son receives, and in particular the teachers and curriculum.

However, we are concerned about some of the recent mishaps with funding and the appearance of impropriety with the operation of the board. We encourage the Delaware Department of Education’s formal review and/or audit of the school to make sure that the school, and particularly the school board, are operating with the highest ethical standards going forward in a way that supports the school and its challenging curriculum without taking away the benefits of the school for the children. As both parents and taxpayers, it is essential that the school is properly using all state funding and is operating in a transparent manner.

Our hope is that there will be a path forward to correct the operating procedures of the board while keeping the high quality education at the school.

Thank you

Blaine Breeding

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Lola Osawe <osawemed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 3:59 AM  
**To:** infocso  
**Cc:** Honey Ben Tanwa Osawe  
**Subject:** Negative Odyssey experience

Dear DDOE,

We have been following the emails regarding challenges with the school and unfortunately, we are dismayed by recent events related to our special needs son who the school decided they will place out of school despite their inflexibility getting us the resources we requested numerous times prior to the end of the school year for his special needs education and support. We feel they mismanaged funds to support our son and didn't provide the requested ABA provider to support his behavioral and learning needs despite many requests at IEP meetings. We ended up getting provider on our own recently at our expense.

We are taking our son out of the school into Colonial school district. Thankfully our new home is in this district and as people of color with an international background with prior experience with Greek culture, this school does NOT represent the hospitality and kindness we expected which is why we picked the school in the first place.

We faced hostile comments from special ed teacher, dismissive staff including the principal who walked out of our most recent (thankfully last) IEP meeting and we will pursue action against the school for the deception and unwillingness to invest in our child's education as they should have, we know they have the budget. They had no intention of keeping our son and took a year to build their case while denying him services needed (specifically ABA) to increase his chance for successful continuation at Odyssey.

Please contact us for documentation of our experiences, we are happy to supply all our communication logs and IEP reports as evidence of their inability to support us, they didn't listen and did what they wanted arrogantly deciding for us instead of partnering with us.

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend the public hearing.

Parents of Joshua C Osawe (Kindergarten student)  
Lola & Benjamin Osawe  
302-985-3944 (Lola) or 302-650-3116 (Benjamin)



## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Baskaran Jayaraman <jaylas.baskar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 8:04 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent to support AHEPA

Hi DOE,

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 for you to accept the proposals made by the OCS Board allow AHEPA to retain its majority on the board.

Thanks  
Baskaran Jayaraman  
(Parent of student : Ashwita Baskaran 4th Grade)

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Baskaran Jayaraman <jaylas.baskar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 7:54 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent - Baskaran Jayaraman

Hi DOE,

We are the parents of student Ashwita Baskaran. She is in 4th grade at OCS.

We are extremely happy with OCS Teachers, Staff and Board Members on both academics and operational. We strongly believe the OCS is doing with highest satisfaction and my daughter is enjoying her study in OCS.

We personally request DOE to consider our full support for OCS to continue the way its been operating now.

Thanks  
Baskaran Jayaraman

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Vicky Goulis  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 6:48 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Subject: Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from teacher

June 8, 2019

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee

Odyssey Charter School was founded because of the collective belief in creating a rich cultural education for students, with a focus on academics, Greek culture, and mathematics. It is AHEPA'S dedication, heart, and vision that have kept this mission alive for the past 12 years, since the inception of the school. The state funding that the school receives for each child goes to academic needs, but it is AHEPA's consistent hard work at fundraising that has helped our community thrive. This includes becoming owners of the school's property, in order for the school to expand from K-4 to K-12.

No other parties have stepped up in bringing those kinds of funds to support our school. In my opinion, the politics and competing agendas of the current principals, the union, and some parents, do not have a place in any school setting. If anything, they have had a negative and confusing effect on the Odyssey community.

When the teachers and administration were hired by Odyssey Charter School, we were all aware of AHEPA's mission and goals, and we made our decision to commit to their vision. There is absolutely no reason why they should be cast out now. They have done nothing to hurt the children at our school, but have only bolstered their growth, as well as the growth of the school. Why is this specific power struggle happening at this specific time? AHEPA and its Board at Odyssey are not perfect, but without AHEPA the future of the school, and the future of everything unique about it, is worrying.

Please consider having AHEPA correct past mistakes and increase overall transparency, but by no means should they lose the majority. The other parties involved in the allegations, especially the administration and union, have had their own histories of lacking transparency and communication to their employees and members. In my experience, these parties have not made the same efforts and contributions to Odyssey's development that AHEPA has had. If we all truly had the students' best interests at heart, there would be significant effort by everyone to improve and move our community forward, instead of needless power struggles.

AHEPA has been and should remain at the heart of Odyssey. It's a unique school like no other, and without AHEPA, Odyssey would not be the exceptional school that we have all come to know and love for over a decade. It is my sincere hope that you would consider accepting AHEPA's proposal and keep our school the number one school in Delaware.

Respectfully,

Vicky Goulis

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Carrie Hagan <carriehagan32@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 7:08 AM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public hearing on odyssey Charter School.

Dear whomever it may concern, Good afternoon my son is a rising soon to be 2nd grader at Odyssey Charter School, and i have a incoming kindergartener. I am writing this letter to voice my concern about Odyssey Charter School, and the upcoming formal review. Odyssey is the best thing that has happened for our family. My son is receiving an excellent education and i couldn't ask for a better school. My son is reading chapter books at the age of 6, and is getting above average in state testings. He has come such a long way in his short 2 years there. The teachers, staff, and admin are amazing and the school is amazing. His teacher Miss Arasim is wonderful! Please, when you are doing the formal review on our school, please consider all the wonderful aspects our school has. I thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope you have a wonderful weekend and exciting summer. Best regards, a concerned parent.

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Jen Ballas <jenballas@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 9:20 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent

Dear DDOE Members –

I am a parent at Odyssey Charter School (OCS) and former OCS Board Member (PTO Parent Board Representative). I am writing to encourage you to require OCS to modify its board by-laws and require AHEPA to have equal, minority or ex officio (non-voting member) representation on the school board. Additionally, the OCS Board President should be appointed by the OCS Board, and have no AHEPA membership requirements. AHEPA should not be allowed to choose the OCS Board President any longer. Based on the information you have to date, you can easily see the abuse of power and mis-use of public monies the AHEPA board members have engaged in.

The public tax monies AHEPA Board Members have funneled into AHEPA initiatives and AHEPA friends, as well as the illegal use of insurance monies should be enough for you to require the OCS Board by-laws be rewritten without an AHEPA majority. Without an official state audit, it is unknown how far back these financial abuses go, but based on my experiences, I believe you will find further wrong-doings by the AHEPA Board Members.

AHEPA has stated if they do not retain a majority on the school board, they will withdraw all support from OCS. While some think this is a bad thing, I believe OCS can use this towards their benefit. I believe OCS would thrive without the AHEPA oversight, and be able to fundraise real money that would go right back into the school where it benefits the teachers and students.

The teachers, staff, students and families are what is important at OCS, and we need a new board make up to support the OCS family. We need a board that will re-examine the organizational structure within OCS, and eliminate the extraneous and over-paid positions that AHEPA has brought into the school. OCS needs a board that will review the various non-academic contractors OCS continues to employ (even though their services are no longer required), and terminate these contracts.

OCS needs a board structure that will support an efficient and lean administration, and allow the Academic Head of School to be the actual head of the school. OCS is not a business like the AHEPA Board Members state. It is a public school, and needs to be run as such.

I am at your disposal should you have questions about my tenure on the OCS Board and the issues I faced as a woman and minority vote/voice on the board.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer A. Ballas  
6 Lydia Court  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
302-354-5416

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Mahi Datti <mahidatti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 9:04 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent

Respected Sir/Madam,

This is Mrs. Yamali Parent of 6th grade student - Srujan Yamali from Odessycharter school. Odessycharter is one of the best school in Delaware, my son improved a lot in his studies after he joined in Odessycharter as a 5th grade student. Teachers here guide students and parents in right direction towards success of the student.

Thanks  
Maheswari Yamali

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** tanmay shah <tanmayvshah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 5:49 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 – Letter from parent

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our kids are currently attending Odyssey Charter School. And we would like to let you know that it's the best school with very nice teachers and management. They are very detailed and thorough for every things and take care of the students in very well manner. I show great progress in my kids education attending OCS. We never experience any wrong ask or demand or fund from the school. We are Asian but always feel great with being a part of OCS family.

We love OCS. I hope you will help OCS to continue in his mission to help our community and families.

Thanks & Regards,  
Tanmay & Rutu  
(Proud Parents of OCS student)

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Amin <hazratamin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 5:42 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing OCS June 11 -from parent

Hello,

I appreciate and support the audit initiative taken by DOE. Charter Schools are funded by public money and honesty and integrity is of utmost important.

We had noticed some issues regarding facilities that were promised during children's orientation, but have not materialized.

I also have a question about fund raising for charter schools. Can charter schools that are owned by for profit businesses ask for donations from parents? I am concerned that this is not disclosed properly when they ask for funds. They give an impression (not clearly say it) that it is something non-profit. Generally people automatically assume fund raising is for non-profits.

Again, thanks for the audit, we support transparency, conflicts of interest and accurate handling of all public funds. If OCS has mishandled, then it should be dealt with according to the law. If OCS is clear of all charges, then we will have even more confidence in the school admin.

OCS Parent



## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Dimichele, Jennifer X <jennifer.x.dimichele@jpmorgan.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Odyssey Charter School June 11 - Letter from parent/teacher/staff

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you in regard to Odyssey Charter School. I am a parent of first grader in the immersion program at Odyssey. Next year I will be the parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and kindergartner who will both be enrolled in the immersion program. I also hope to be sending my 1 year old twin girls there in a few years. Over the past 2 school years, my son has received a top notch education. He has tested in the top 98% nationally of 1<sup>st</sup> graders in math, he is reading on easily a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level and can read, write and speak in Greek. Now I will give credit to his intellect however his intelligence has been fostered tremendously by the incredible teachers at Odyssey. My incoming kindergartner is beyond thrilled to be joining his big brother at Odyssey in the fall.

It is no exaggeration to say that my son wakes up every single morning excited to go to school. He loves every single one of his teachers and it shows through his eagerness to learn and love of school. Odyssey has created a wonderful environment for my son, and soon children, to learn and blossom. Their happy faces at the end of the day are all I need to confirm that there is no other school I would want my children going to than Odyssey. Together, the kids, parents and staff are a family...a family that simply wants the best for our children and their education. I can say wholeheartedly, that Odyssey Charter School fits that want. We have found a home and a family in Odyssey Charter School. A home and a family that, more than anything, I would love to continue to be a part of for many, many years to come.

I sincerely hope the Department of Education and the Odyssey Board of Directors can work together to ensure the continued success of Odyssey. As a parent truly concerned for her children's education and future, I hope and pray that terms can be agreed upon both parties and our beloved school will come out of this stronger and more unified.

Thank you,

Jennifer DiMichele

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