

In The Matter Of:
*Department of Education
Of The State Of Delaware*

*In Re: Oddssey Charter School
February 1, 2016*

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BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN RE:)
ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL)
)

Carvel State Office Building
820 North French Street
Wilmington, Delaware

Monday, February 1, 2016
6:18 p.m.

BEFORE: JENNIFER NAGOURNEY,
HEARING OFFICER

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 CATHERINE T. HICKEY, ESQ.
3 DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
4 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
5 102 West Water Street
6 Dover, Delaware 19904
7 on behalf of the Hearing Officer

8 - - - - -

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good

10 evening. I declare this public hearing to be
11 open. My name is Jennifer Nagourney. I am the
12 Executive Director of the Charter School Office
13 of the Delaware Department of Education, and I
14 have been appointed by the Secretary of
15 Education to conduct this public hearing. The
16 charter, Odyssey Charter School has applied for
17 a minor modification to its charter. As
18 allowed by law, the Secretary of Education
19 referred the matter to the Charter School
20 Accountability Committee.

21 This joint public hearing is
22 being held by the Department of Education and
23 the State Board of Education to assist in the
24 decision of whether the criteria set forth for
approval in the Delaware Code have been
satisfied. This hearing provides the school



1 with an opportunity to give and receive public
2 comment.

3 I'm going to ask my colleague to
4 introduce herself.

5 MS. HICKEY: Good evening. My
6 name is a Catherine Hickey. I'm a Deputy
7 Attorney General with the Delaware Department
8 of Justice, and I am serving as counsel to the
9 Hearing Officer this evening.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: I would
11 like the record to reflect that the notice of
12 the time, date and place of today's public
13 hearing was published in the News Journal and
14 the Delaware State News. In addition, notice
15 was posted at the Charter School Accountability
16 Committee's official place of business, on the
17 Department of Education's official website, and
18 on the State Public Meeting Calendar on the
19 State's official website. Further, this school
20 was personally notified of the time, date and
21 place of today's public hearing.

22 A court reporter is present so
23 that a record of this hearing can be made. It
24 will be necessary for each speaker to clearly



1 identify himself or herself before beginning to
2 speak so the court reporter will be able to
3 note who you are. The record of this hearing
4 will be provided to the Secretary of Education
5 and members of the State Board of Education,
6 together with any written or electronic
7 comments received at or before this hearing.

8 We will proceed in the following
9 manner. First, we will hear from any
10 representatives of the charter who wish to
11 comment. Then we will take comments from
12 anyone else who desires to speak. I ask that
13 everyone limit their comments to three minutes
14 out of respect for everybody's time.

15 I do reserve the right to limit
16 comments if it is purely repetitive or
17 cumulative.

18 At this point we will accept
19 comments from representatives of the school.

20 MS. KLEMAS: Good evening. My
21 name is Kate Klemas. I am the parent of a 7th
22 grade at Odyssey Charter School, as well as one
23 of the two parent representatives on the board.
24 I would also like to say I am a proud member of



1 the Delaware Charter School Movement, and it is
2 a pleasure to have seen all of the families and
3 teachers and administrators and network leaders
4 who came out in support of the wonderful
5 schools we have here in Delaware.

6 This evening I would like to just
7 offer a few comments in support of Odyssey's
8 minor modification. Currently, Odyssey is a
9 K-8 program, and we have a charter, fully
10 approved charter to be a K-12 program. We are
11 in the process of extending our school through
12 high school. We are fortunate to have a
13 beautiful campus at Barley Mill Plaza and that
14 has allowed us to continue to grow our school.

15 We are also quite fortunate that
16 we have a good deal of demand for people who
17 want to join our school community.

18 So we have looked to see how we
19 can add a few more students in the elementary
20 and the middle school program, as we are
21 growing our high school program.

22 We think that it is a very, a
23 very supportive and a very appropriate growth
24 projection. We have put a great deal of



1 thought into how we do it in a way that it
2 supports our current students and allows new
3 students to come to Odyssey.

4 Odyssey has been very fortunate
5 since we opened our doors in 2006 to enjoy a
6 great deal of success, both academically and as
7 a school community.

8 So we ask that you take every
9 consideration in looking at our minor
10 modification and grant us this opportunity to
11 extend ourselves to more students in Delaware.

12 Thank you.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

14 Is there anyone else who wishes
15 to speak?

16 If not, this hearing is now
17 closed. I want to thank you for participating
18 today. The Secretary will consider your
19 comments as part of the decision-making
20 process, and your comments will also be
21 available for the State Board hearing. Thank
22 you.

23 (Proceedings conclude at 6:23
24 p.m.)



1 State of Delaware)
2 New Castle County)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Eleanor J. Schwandt, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing record, pages 1 to 6 inclusive, is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes taken on February 1, 2016, in the above-captioned matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of February, 2016, at Wilmington.


Eleanor J. Schwandt

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