

Lawrence Sheila

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 12:18 AM
To: Travers Leroy; infocso; Bunting Susan; Carwell John; kimberly.williams@de.gov
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

Hello,

As a community member, I have been closely following the issues related to the Odyssey Charter School. I am deeply saddened that a school that functions so well academically is suffering from the abuses in power exercised by the OCS Board.

After reading the final CSAC report on the OCS I hear representatives of the school board stating a desire to make changes to the OCS board. However, just this evening the emails below were circulated by the AHEPA Chapter 95 president and forwarded by a sitting member of the OCS Board. These emails suggest that there is no real intention to make changes to the OCS Board despite the fact that they are telling the State otherwise. Their comments are concerning and you can tell from the tone their full intention is to keep the status quo. This is pure propaganda.

The OCS board needs to change and AHEPA cannot be the ruling majority. There has to be a level of responsibility that is equal across the entire board which means representation from parents, teachers, staff and community. Should AHEPA maintain a majority on the board the same issues will repeat themselves.

I appreciate all the work that DOE, CSAC and the State Board of Education are undertaking. OCS has a wonderful faculty and staff that are responsible for the amazing things their students are accomplishing. Please do not let the need for power and control destroy the work of so many.

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Kirifides <mkirifides@gmail.com>
Date: July 7, 2019 at 1:44:14 PM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Fwd: **CALL TO ACTION/PLEASE READ CAREFULLY/AND EMAIL IMMEDIATELY!**

Dear Friend of AHEPA,

I would like to extend this invitation with urgency to support the local Chapter #95 of AHEPA in governing the Odyssey Charter School. There have been unsubstantiated allegations from a few individuals whose complaints have triggered the Delaware Department of Education to request that AHEPA cede its governing authority over the Odyssey Charter School. Without question, in time, the allegations will be disproved, yet the DoE has been pressuring the local AHEPA to relinquishing its governing majority to the few who are in hostile opposition to AHEPA. As a community, we are coordinating a grass roots response to the Charter School Accountability Committee during the public hearing on **Monday July 8th at 5 pm being held at the Carvel State Office Building, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.**

Thank you in advance,
Michael Kirifides

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **AHEPA Wilmington Chapter 95 Office of the President** <ahepawilm@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jun 30, 2019 at 11:10 PM

Subject: CALL TO ACTION/PLEASE READ CAREFULLY/AND EMAIL IMMEDIATELY!

To:

Good evening Brothers,

We need to FLOOD the DOE with emails regarding the AHEPA Family's involvement with the Odyssey Charter School. **We MUST retain control for the school** to continue to grow with the mission and vision of its pioneering creators! Below, please find instructions on what should be done IMMEDIATELY. In addition to yourself, share with family members and friends so that we inundate the DOE email box with supporting emails.

Click on this link: <https://delaware.gov/help/degov-contact.shtml>

Enter your name, email, etc.

In the drop down for Category, enter Education

Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board.....or pick your own subject. But make it stand out that you support the AHEPA Family

Enter your information in the body information

Submit

Share this with your friends and relatives. Have your spouse do it too! We need to impact their inbox!

And don't forget! We need you AND your VOICE and the Carvel State Office Building in downtown Wilmington next Monday, July 8th at 5pm. You must sign up to speak, so please be there before 5!!!

Fraternally,

Michael Klezaras III
President

Lawrence Sheila

From: Michael Klezaras <klezarasm@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 10:13 PM
To: Bunting Susan; infocso
Cc: jwolcott@connollygallagher.com; William.Manning@saul.com
Subject: My support of Odyssey Charter School's governance

MICHAEL KLEZARAS, JR.

426 Haystack Drive Newark, DE 19711 | 302-494-3310 | klezarasm@verizon.net

July 5, 2019

Ms. Susan Bunting, Secretary
Delaware Department of Education

Dear Secretary Bunting:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Odyssey Charter School. I am a member and Past President of Wilmington Chapter #95, the founding organization of the school. But I am also a papou, a grandfather, of two boys who attend the school. I am writing this letter of support for the precepts and ideals of the school as their papou.

I left the area in 2005 to work in my field. This was a pivotal time in the development of the school. I followed closely as many friends, good, honest, hard working people gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make their dream of a school steeped in the ideals of ancient Greece, the basis of our great country, a reality. They took baby steps, but in 2006, their efforts paid off with the first class of the school. Those students are set to graduate this coming June. How proud they would be to see how far their idea has come!

My children were well on their way in their careers by then. But I have two grandsons. We were living in Massachusetts when our daughter told us she applied for the lottery for our oldest grandson to enter the school. I was so impressed by the early trajectory of the school's growth that I was most excited of the prospect of his entering Odyssey. But all we could do is wait.

Then, one day in early 2010 I believe, I was heading to my car at the parking garage to go to an appointment. My daughter called. That moment is etched in my mind forever. Our grandson was accepted and was starting at Odyssey that September!!! I was so delighted that I immediately drove to church and lit a candle of thanksgiving! That moment was that impactful to me.

Over the years, I have seen my grandson grow and evolve. A couple of years later, he was joined by his brother. The school has had an impact on each of them in different ways. But the one thing that is consistent is helping them grow as students and citizens of the world. These well-rounded experiences they would not have had should they have gone to their local school.

There is parental pride. But the pride of a papou or yiayia, a grandfather or grandmother, is without equal. I attended their holiday concert to see my grandson sing. Not only was I proud of him, but also seeing little black, brown, yellow, white, and red children joining together to sing Greek Christmas carols. Where else but Odyssey?

Then, I experienced their Ellis Island recreation as they went through the stations of that bustling port of entry. Where else but Odyssey?

Then their coming home and speaking Greek from their immersion classes. They were able to understand the roots of many English words they use in school from the Greek. Where else but Odyssey?

The students in the chorus, singing the Greek and American national anthems at a flag raising on Greek Independence Day at Freedom Plaza in Wilmington with the Governor of Delaware and Mayor of Wilmington present AND again leading the Greek Independence Day Parade up the Parkway in Philadelphia. Where else but Odyssey?

Finally, taking my grandsons to Greece last year to the places my grandfather took me on my first trip there. Photos at the same spots. Meeting their relatives. Knowing the history of the country and its mythology. I have taught them as much as I can. But they learned a lot in school too. That is a luxury I did not have growing up. They were telling us about things they were witnessing first had, but had learned about in school. Where else but Odyssey?

As a papou and friend of many of the Founders of the school, I do not want to see the school veer off its course. It truly scares me that all that has been developed over the past 13 years will be lost should Odyssey be forced to change its governance and focus.

Can it be better? Of course! Any organization, be it government, business, a school, or even a family, needs tweaking from time to time. But to mess with success by changing the governance which will change the mission and vision of the school will make Odyssey, I fear, "just another school."

It has come too far to become "just another school." My friends, many of them now departed this life, gave their all to make Odyssey the special school that it is. I want the "where else but Odyssey" statement to come to mind whenever we speak of Odyssey. Don't make it become "just another school." Tweak it to make it better. But I implore you, please retain the AHEPA majority. I fear deleting that majority will change the mission and vision of the school as intended by its Founders.

My term on the Board of Directors of the school is limited. My membership in AHEPA is annual. But I will ALWAYS be a papou!!! And a papou only wants what is best for his grandchildren!

Michael Klezaras

Lawrence Sheila

From: Sergeant Brewster <zoom2431@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 10:03 PM
To: Bunting Susan
Cc: infocso
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

To Ms. Susan Bunting and whom ever it may concern,

I want to start by stating that I am speaking from the position of a parent and I am NOT a member of AHEPA and have no affiliation with AHEPA as an organization.

Regardless of opinion or affiliation, I believe we can all agree that what truly matters concerning any school is whether or not the law is being followed and that the children are being treated as extraordinary as each of them are, along with being taught and positioned for success.

Obviously, all schools must follow the established laws of the state, but I implore the DOE, please do not allow the narrow agenda of a few to destroy the needs and success of many. I am of the opinion that Odyssey Charter School has shown that it is a successful entity and is accomplishing its conception's primary goal: to develop an environment that produces intelligence, empathy and stability in the young people it serves.

Both my son Caleb (9) and daughter Audrey (6) attend Odyssey Charter School.

When our son Caleb was accepted to Kindergarten at Odyssey Charter School, it was a dream come true. Charter schools are the closest that most of us who cannot afford private school will ever come to having the ability to participate in a semi-private setting and, most importantly, have a significant voice in school goals and direction, like those parents who can afford private schooling for their children.

Since attending Odyssey Charter School in 2015, our son, who struggles with challenges of ADHD and anxiety, has flourished, not only academically but also socially. The staff, including administrators and teachers, have all gone above and beyond to work with my family to make sure Caleb has the best environment and strategies for him to succeed, not only as an individual, but also as a growing member of his community.

Now our daughter Audrey is finishing her Kindergarten year with the same great success.

While I totally agree with complete transparency concerning any public school, I also believe that there should always be an objective inventory of the complete body of said public school's work. If any infractions have occurred, please allow the OCS board the opportunity to adjust their plans of action to be in line with preexisting state law and policies.

It is my opinion as a parent and conscientious person that both AHEPA and Odyssey Charter School have worked in coordination to produce one the best learning institutions that I have witnessed. Any void in its charter status would be a blemish on not only the New Castle County school system, but a blemish on the country's learning institutions as a whole, by allowing negative influence and

differences of opinion to thwart innovation and creative ideas on how to better our schools for the sake of the children that they serve.

Respectfully and with Best Regards,

Cory Brewster

Lawrence Sheila

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 Dandolo 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

**Charter School Accountability Committee
Delaware Dept. of Education
The Townsend Building
Dover, DE 19901-3639**

Via email

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee Members,

We, the undersigned, **George and Elaine Righos**, active members of the Odyssey Charter School community and also great-grand-parents of three students attending now OCS, (the oldest of whom will be a Junior this year), We are writing this letter in support of the school, the current board, administration, staff and students and recognize the foundational and mission-critical support of AHEPA.

As a 53 year Life member of AHEPA and one of the founders of OCS, (I must include my spouse, Elaine, who has been very supportive of my involvement in the creation of OCS). She is the one who had to cope with the endless hours of my absence from our family life, while I was attending training for Payroll, Human Resources, Accounts Payable, and Accounting reporting. These are the same training activities approved, provided with required attendance by DOE employees depending to their assignment), and then managing for the first 12 years the school's business activities gratis, to fulfill my commitment to AHEPA.

Both of us are long-time members of the AHEPA Family, and our contributions go far beyond our involvement with OCS. I am a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award of AHEPA, not just for being involved with OCS, but also for being actively engaged in managing the AHEPA 5th District as District Governor 2001, (Dist.5 is comprised by 20 Chapters at N.J. and Delaware), and the AHEPA 5th District Cancer Research Foundation, which I served for 4 years as Board Vice Chair. This Philanthropic organization has actively supported cancer research, with grants to cancer researchers amounting in excess of One Million dollars. Beneficiaries of grants are The Fox Chase Cancer Research Center, the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center – Christiana Care Health System, the N. Y. Presbyterian Hospital, and many other prestigious institutions.

Other activities supported by AHEPA are Scholarships to High school graduates, encouraging further education, and Dogs for Wounded Warriors.

AHEPA was formed on July 26, 1922, to assist legal immigrants from all countries against discrimination by the KKK, and help them become naturalized productive citizens of the United

States of America. In its almost 100 years of active service to community, AHEPA's leadership, this non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit organization, has been recognized for its services at an annual reception of the White House for the past several decades. AHEPA in turn is honoring the members of Congress at a Biannual Banquet for the U.S. Congress. AHEPA's precepts of Hellenism, Education, Civic Responsibility, and Individual and Family Excellence, all aim towards instilling good American citizenship to its members and those who hope to become citizens.

The AHEPA efforts have been recognized by our Federal government as early as the 1940s when it became known that the organization sold the most U.S. WWII Bonds. As a result, President Harry Truman and later Pres. Gerald Ford became active members of AHEPA. The list of members today includes a large number of U.S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators, who followed the example of our own past U.S. Senators, William Roth, and Caleb Boggs.

AHEPA's humanitarian and educational contributions in the span of 97 years are too numerous to describe in the limited space of this letter. It should suffice saying that the principal values asked to be followed by its members are all non-profit related, such as the seventy AHEPA Senior Citizens Housing projects throughout the country. Those projects, provide housing to over 6000 seniors citizens and are open to local communities. It must be noted that the people served not necessarily of Greek background.

I made this introduction of AHEPA with the hope that the role of this organization and its important effect upon OCS will become more visible.

Although the school has a fantastic 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 by specific individuals. The actions alleged in the Public Integrity Commission findings sound inappropriate, and the public and community view of those actions have been made worse through the media and lack of communication by the OCS Board. If I may, I would suggest a review of other charter schools of this state may be necessary, before coming to a conclusion of personal integrity violations by OCS. It appears that there are for-profit organizations which support schools in the state of Delaware, whose employee-representatives possibly may have influence on school governance.

We believe the actions taken by the OCS Board were made in good faith, having consulted with lawyers and experts, in the belief that they were both compliant with the law and, more importantly, the right decisions for the long-term benefit of the school and the students. We believe that those complaints 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 firmly 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, the mission of the organization and support of its unique educational model; • Networking with multiple strategic partners that aid 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 different 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;*
- The money provided to start the school and current 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 for our children, our decision was based on the Greek language and mathematics model, with an understanding of the contributions the 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.

Without AHEPA, there would be no place for those academic opportunities to flourish. Examples of AHEPA contributions to the campus and facilities listed in Appendix 2 provided to DOE attached to a previous communique.

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 listed in Appendix 3 also submitted to DOE by the OCS board.

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 primary concern as members of the Odyssey community is that if AHEPA leadership is changed or removed, these connections will be lost.

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.

Enjoy a beautiful 4th of July,

Sincerely,

George & Elaine Righos

815 Naudain Avenue

Northridge, Claymont, Delaware 19703

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 11:42 AM
To: nklezaras@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

I am forwarding your message to the address that is accepting public comment so it can be included as part of the public record.

From: nklezaras@gmail.com <nklezaras@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 11:28 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Nikoletta
Email address: nklezaras@gmail.com
Phone Number: 302-559-9752

Comment / Question: 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.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 11:42 AM
To: plgat7@comcast.net
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA majority on the board of OCS

I am forwarding your message to the address that is accepting public comment so it can be included as part of the public record.

From: plgat7@comcast.net <plgat7@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 11:30 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA majority on the board of OCS

Name: Paula
Email address: plgat7@comcast.net
Phone Number:

Comment / Question: To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in support of maintaining AHEPA majority on the board of OCS. AHEPA, which stands for American Hellenic Education, Philanthropic, Association, founded OCS. They worked long and hard to assure the school's success. It has proven to be successful, largely due to the influence of the Greek language component. Studies have shown that introducing children to a 2nd language early in life facilitates not only the learning of that particular language, but subsequent languages. I had an English teacher in HS who also was the Latin teacher. He ALWAYS would tell the class that in order to learn English well you need to know Latin. One day I asked, "What about Greek?" To which he replied, "Yes. Or Greek." I urge you to keep the AHEPA majority on the board. They will assure that the school continues to be well-run, successful and maintains the original and longstanding Greek component. Thank you, Paula L. Gatos

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: james faller <jfaller34@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 8:00 AM
To: infocso
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

Dear members of the Delaware State Board of Education:

I am writing in support of the Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington - its system of organization, its plan of expansion and its competent and dedicated leadership. Odyssey has achieved widely recognized academic success within the constraints of cultural diversity. I have been an enthusiastic supporter of the school from its inception and am shocked at the undeserved attacks leveled against it. I urge you to resist the pressures of a few dissenting voices whose motives are suspect regarding the best long-term interests of the school. My faith in Odyssey is reflected in the thousands of dollars I've donated up to now and in the insertion of the school in my will and testament.

I am hopeful that the Board will recognize the value of this institution and allow it to continue in its upward trajectory.

Sincerely,

James G. Faller, Ph.D., P.E.

317 Wilson Road

Newark, DE 19711

July 2, 2019

Charter School Accountability Committee
Charter School Office
Delaware Department of Education
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Re: Odyssey Charter School

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee Members,

I am writing as a lifelong Wilmington-area resident, a product of the Delaware School System, and an active member of the community to express my strong support for Odyssey Charter School (OCS), its leadership, educators, staff and students.

I have had the privilege to witness the incredible work undertaken to build this outstanding educational institution. I have also been fortunate to get to know several of its key leaders. They are people of the highest character and personal integrity. They are focused solely on what's best for the school and its students.

The June 5 letter of support from the OCS community lays out the key responses to the complaints that have been raised. I ask for your thoughtful and careful consideration of these well-reasoned points.

Our children need great schools that deliver great results. Please accept the proposals made by OCS to your committee, including recognition of the foundational role of AHEPA in the ongoing success of the school.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dewson, Jr.
10 Squirrel Run
Wilmington, DE 19807

Lawrence Sheifa

From: GEORGE FOURNARIS <gfournaris@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 8:41 AM
To: infocso
Subject: Fwd: Odyssey Charter School

Begin forwarded message:

From: GEORGE FOURNARIS <gfournaris@msn.com>
Date: July 2, 2019 at 11:54:36 AM GMT+3
To: "susan.bunting@doe.k12.de.us" <susan.bunting@doe.k12.de.us>, Office of Governor John Carney <govcomm@delaware.gov>
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

Dear Secretary Bunting,

I am writing in support of maintaining the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association's (AHEPA's) current role on the Odyssey Charter School's Board of Directors and in support of all the guidance and assistance the AHEPA family has provided since the School's founding. I am writing as a former board member of the School and as a past president of the AHEPA Chapter #95 in Wilmington, Delaware. However, I am also writing as a Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years' experience auditing or managing state and local government finances.

Although I am currently not a member of the leadership of either the school or the Chapter, I have maintained a deep interest in both organizations over the years. I have also followed the current controversy closely. I am deeply disturbed by the misinformation that has been disseminated by the local media and also the Charter Schools Accountability Committee. Although the Committee's report lists "*potential* violations of the school's charter" (emphasis mine), it is clear that the Committee has already made up its mind that the allegations are true.

It is very upsetting that AHEPA has been vilified and accused of financially profiting from the school. AHEPA was founded in 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia to teach English to recent Greek immigrants and to fight discrimination and hate of the Ku Klux Klan. Wilmington Chapter #95 was formed the following year. AHEPA has grown to be the largest association of American citizens of Greek heritage and non-Greek Philhellenes. AHEPA and its sister organization, the Daughters of Penelope have given back over the years by funding hospitals, cancer research, battered women's shelters and affordable housing. AHEPA National Housing Corporation is one of the largest providers of affordable housing for the elderly with 95 apartment communities in 21 states.

With the formation of the Odyssey Charter School, Wilmington AHEPA Chapter #95 entered a new charitable arena. The \$60,000 seed money, that the local chapter provided, was literally earned by the sweat of the members. This Education Fund was built up over a period of years, from the sales of Greek foods at local events like arts festivals and community gatherings. Since then, the local chapter and its members have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars of support and tens of thousands of hours of volunteer time. Additionally, AHEPA members' connections with major universities, the Greek

government and AHEPA National have brought huge resources to the school. With certainty, I can say that, since the school's inception, funds have flowed in only one direction – from AHEPA to the school.

The Charter Schools Accountability Committee's primary recommendation "that the majority of the OCS Board will be comprised of individuals who are not members of the AHEPA family organizations" will definitely destroy the synergy and momentum that has been building since the school's inception. The leadership of AHEPA on the board of directors has been essential to the school's success. I, personally, seriously question the motivations of the Committee's members. Had the achievements of the Odyssey Charter School been made through the efforts of a different organization, representing a different minority group, they would have been applauded rather than attacked. The issues that have been identified would have been resolved cooperatively, as issues have been resolved at other charter schools and school districts.

As a Certified Public Accountant and as a Certified Government Financial Manager, I am not blind to the fact that some serious issues may exist. Allegations of potential misappropriation of funds, violations of laws and violations of policies are disturbing to me professionally. Although the actions in question were done with the advice of legal counsel and the Charter School office, they are disturbing to me personally because they involve two organizations to which I have devoted significant volunteer efforts. Perhaps, because I have worked with all sides involved in this dispute, I might be in a better position to see the situation and a resolution clearly.

Certain officials have been calling for an audit of the Odyssey Charter School. The school *has* been audited annually, by a firm of Certified Public Accountants since its inception. Over the years, two qualified firms have been engaged to perform the audits. The last nine years' audit reports are available at <http://odysseycharterschooldel.com/financial-reports-tax-returns/>. They all have unmodified (clean) opinions and there have been no findings reported since 2013. That one 2013 finding was satisfactorily cleared.

The school's audits are performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and under Government Auditing Standards. The auditor's report contains the following language: "As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards." What this means is that, although the auditor is not required to give an opinion on compliance with laws and regulations, the auditor is required to test for non-compliance that would have a material effect on the financial statements and that no such non-compliance was detected during the audit. Had it been detected; it would have been required to be included in the report. Also, the school's previous reports indicate a similar, high level of financial accountability which should give you and the committee a high level of comfort.

I feel strongly that the current issues can be resolved cooperatively by the Department of Education, the Charter Schools Accountability Committee, the School and AHEPA, without change to the AHEPA's essential position on the School's Board. If I can provide you with any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George Fournaris, CPA, CGFM

2 David Court
Wilmington, DE 19803

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 7:55 AM
To: opafriends1800@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board.

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the account for public comment so your message can be part of the official record.

From: opafriends1800@gmail.com <opafriends1800@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 7:19 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board.

Name: michael
Email address: opafriends1800@gmail.com
Phone Number:

Comment / Question: Leave the OCS board organized as is according to their current by-laws

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 9:37 AM
To: scozamanis@aol.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: Odyssey School

I am forwarding your message to the public feedback address so your comment can be included in the official record.

From: scozamanis@aol.com <scozamanis@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 9:28 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: Odyssey School

Name: Steve
Email address: scozamanis@aol.com
Phone Number: 4844315234

Comment / Question: : I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board. Only through their untiring efforts was this great institution of learning created and to displace them would be a very thoughtless and dishonorable thing to do for education in Delaware

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 8:32 AM
To: karakasidis1@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

I am forwarding your message to the address for public comment so it can be included in the official public record.

From: karakasidis1@gmail.com <karakasidis1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 8:29 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Demetrios
Email address: karakasidis1@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3028986049

Comment / Question: I strongly support the involvement of AHEPA in the management of the Odyssey school. As a founding member of the school, it's mission and success has been directly tied to the involvement of AHEPA. On a national and global scale, this school has set the standard and has become the gold standard that all schools should strive to achieve. Taking control away from AHEPA will allow this school to lose its identity and fall victim to the struggles that plague our educational system.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: Matthew Greenlee <greenlee@udel.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2019 11:42 AM
To: Bunting Susan; infocso
Subject: Petition

Dear Secretary Bunting,

I am writing to express my support for the OCS board, and for AHEPA's majority on this board.

This group of people, the AHEPAns, have worked harder than any other volunteer for the success of our school. Yes, we love the teachers who also work very hard, but without AHEPA's vision, we would not have OCS.

I think it is insulting and diminishing for our school to be under probation. What message are we giving our kids when they find out that their school board is under probation, as if they were criminals?

We are all here for the children. I fear recommendations such as taking away Ahepa's majority will end up destroying a wonderful school, and if that happens, we will know whom to blame.

Thank you
Matthew Greenlee

Lawrence Sheila

From: christina maria <christinamarias@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 5:53 PM
To: Travers Leroy; Bunting Susan
Cc: infocso
Subject: Odyssey charter school AHEPA side. Please put this letter in public view.

I am writing to you as a community at large member for Odyssey charter school. The children that live in my house attend Odyssey charter school. They love their school, and wish to see it grow. I am writing this letter in support of the AHEPA staying in majority of the board. My family and I love and support their mission. I know you guys have received several letters, but the one thing you need to remember is, You need to subtract 1800 families off of those letters that you received, because those are the people that are not writing into you because they are happy with the way the school is. Please don't mess this up.

Christina Maria

Lawrence Sheila

From: CHRISTOPHER SARMOUSAKIS <csarmousakis@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 4:47 PM
To: infocso; Bunting Susan
Subject: Fwd: OCS parent Odyssey charter school

Mrs Bunting,

My name is Chris Sarmousakis, and I am a parent of an eighth grade student at Odyssey charter school. Below you will find a letter that I have sent to Leroy.travers@doe.k12.de.us to be posted on the DOE website, yet, this has not happened. Can you please tell me when my letter will be posted on the DOE website. I want to make sure that my letter is shown to fully support the AHEPA and their efforts at Odyssey charter school.

“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

Regards,

Chris Sarmousakis

Begin forwarded message:

From: CHRISTOPHER SARMOUSAKIS <csarmousakis@verizon.net>

Date: June 25, 2019 at 1:59:00 PM EDT

To: Leroy.travers@doe.k12.de.us, susan.bunting@doe.k12.de.us,
chuck.longfellow@doe.k12.de.us

Subject: Re: OCS parent Odyssey charter school

To whom it may concern,

My daughter is going into the 8th 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

Lawrence Sheila

From: Karen Miller <karenakkola@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 11:55 AM
To: infocso; Bunting Susan
Subject: Fwd: Odyssey charter school grandparent

I have sent this letter to you twice now, however, I do not see it on your website. Is there a reason that you are not posting my letter to your website? It seems as if you're only posting letters from the opposing side. As a grandparent I'm completely offended by your Reluctance to post a letter that does defend the AHEPAN men's organization. Please reply to this email and let me know when my letter will be posted. Thank you for your consideration

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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From: Karen Miller <karenakkola@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Travers Leroy; Bunting Susan
Cc: Longfellow Chuck
Subject: Re: Odyssey charter school grandparent

Thank you for your response, my name is Karen Akkola. I am a grandparent of a child at OCS. Please post my letter.

Kind regards,

Karen
Karenakkola@live.com

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From: Travers Leroy <Leroy.Travers@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 2:05:50 PM
To: Karen Miller; Bunting Susan
Cc: Longfellow Chuck
Subject: Re: Odyssey charter school grandparent

Good Afternoon Ms. Miller,

Thank you for your email. I apologize for any confusion. Please note that any correspondence intended to be submitted as public comment should be sent to infocso@doe.k12.de.us or have explicit instruction to be posted as public comment. The Charter School Office does not post private email correspondence without the permission of the sender to be posted publicly. For the purposes of this email, your statement below will be considered permission to post. Please contact me with any further questions.

Best Regards,

Leroy

Leroy Travers

Education Associate, Charter School Office

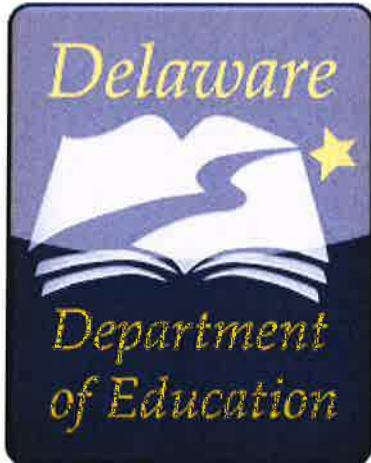
Delaware Department of Education

401 Federal Street, Suite #2

Dover, DE 19901-3639

302.735.4020 (T) 302.739.4483 (F)

"Every learner ready for success in college, career and life."



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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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Lawrence Sheila

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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Lawrence Sheila

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
tim.skibicki@tetrattech.com<mailto:tim.skibicki@tetrattech.com>

Tetra Tech | Complex World, Clear Solutions(tm) | United States Infrastructure
240 Continental Drive | Suite 200 | Newark, DE 19713 | www.tetrattech.com<http://www.tetrattech.com/>

Lawrence Sheila

From: Marco Boyce <marco.boyce@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 10:53 AM
To: infocso
Subject: Odyssey Charter School - Final CSAC Public Hearing 7/9/19

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a rising 3rd grade student and future kindergarten student at OCS, I'm writing to voice my full support of the OCS board --particularly its current State-approved composition of a majority of AHEPA members.

Charter schools are supposed to be unique endeavors. OCS's uniqueness as a Greek language and cultural school is what primarily attracted our family to enroll. Having a majority of AHEPA members on the board ensures that the primary mission of OCS will remain undiluted by the predilections and vagaries of time.

If financial oversight and elective transparencies are determined to be needed, these can all be accomplished via numerous means. None which require the diminution or dilution of AHEPA.

Sincerely,

Marco K. Boyce
302-545-3643
New Castle, DE

Lawrence Sheila

From: cps@cpses.com
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Bunting Susan
Cc: infocso
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

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

VIA EMAIL

July 8, 2019

RE: Odyssey Charter School

Dear Charter School Accountability Committee Members,

I am writing to provide some additional information to CSAC and to rebut some of the statements and comments you have received during this Formal Review process for Odyssey Charter School.

I have assisted the Board of OCS for over 6 years and have direct, first hand, knowledge of the governance issues surrounding OCS. I put together the financing team that successfully issued \$34,600,000 of bond financing (closing February 2015) through which OCS purchased its Barley Mill Campus. Governance issues arose at that time and with the assistance of an independent professional organizational consultant were successfully resolved to everyone's satisfaction (including CSAC) at that time.

The most important issue before you is AHEPA's retention of its ability to appoint a majority of the board. There are 4 reasons, enumerated below, an AHEPA majority is necessary and essential to the continued success of Odyssey Charter School.

1. The bonds issued to finance the Barley Mill campus were public securities, issued by the State of Delaware through its Department of Economic Development were subject to federal and state securities laws requiring detailed disclosure on all aspects of OCS's operation including specifically its board composition. The governance of OCS was thoroughly reviewed by DEDO, their legal representatives, bond counsel, disclosure counsel, OCS counsel, trustee's counsel, investors counsel and by financial analysts of potential bond investors. **Prominent in the disclosure documents on OCS was the fact that AHEPA formed the school and in accordance with the bylaws was able to appoint a majority of board members and the President of the board.** Two issues of concern arose. The power of a board Executive Committee and the lack of turnover of board members both AHEPA appointed and parent and teacher members. The issue of an AHEPA majority was never raised by any of the above participants including CSAC during the major charter modification required for the Barley Mill purchase and school expansion to k-12.

I was directly involved in the rewriting of OCS's bylaws as required by investors through the bond documents. The Executive Committee was abolished and term limits were imposed requiring new appointments and elections for both AHEPA and non AHEPA members. After the new bylaws were put in place during the spring of 2015 a new nominating process was established and several new AHEPA members and all other positions were filled through a newly established nominating committee and process with new quality applicants.

2. You are told the AHEPA majority are bad stewards with many conflicts of interest. **I am sure you are aware that these "bad stewards" have created and grown a charter school that ranks among the very best in Delaware and is in very high demand by parents. Despite allegations of financial impropriety, the schools audits are clean and free of any**

operational comments. The CBOC for Odyssey has been meticulous in its oversight and reporting for several years now. The bond investors have held monthly conference calls with school leaders and scrutinize financial results, operations and capital budgets monthly. The analysts for the bond investors are among the very best in the country with very deep experience in charter issues. So they have also added a level of oversight that most are not aware of. In addition OCS has an outstanding dual language program utilizing the Greek language which is recognized by the Department and national and international universities. Your potential actions put all of this at risk.

During the bylaw revision process the independent consultant (Dick Haviland of Brandywine Organization Consultants - recommended by Paul Stock of DANA) prepared and conducted a survey that included all board and school leaders and 10% of all parents and teaching and other staff (drawn at random). To the question of how important is the continuing involvement of AHEPA, 70% replied it was vital or very essential. Another 23% said it was important but not essential. Only 7% considered it not important.

3. You have received comments that Odyssey can remain a Greek school and work with the Greek Ministry and universities with or without AHEPA. Unfortunately this is not the case. While perhaps theoretically true, **almost all of the financial support OCS has received and many of its most creative programs are all in place specifically because of AHEPA's involvement and run through it and its membership.** Take away the AHEPA majority and all of their initiatives will be compromised. It is little known but shortly after the bond financing was completed and the bylaws were revised, the then headmaster came forward, with the support of then board members Jen Ballas (who continues to negate Greek control to this day) and Kate Klemas, with a proposal to make Greek optional. This was defeated by the board, but with current school leadership in the hands of good, but non-Greek people, there will be no way to block future efforts of this kind. The fact that school administration is not lead by leaders fluent in Greek language, culture and hellenic education principles almost demands that the board remain actively involved in academic programming.

One of Odyssey's core missions is to "Enhance each student's understanding of Mathematics, English, Science, and other Western languages by utilizing the Modern Greek language, with a Mathematics focus as a vehicle to explore the roots of vocabulary, mathematical concepts, and scientific theories." You have heard from Marina Mattheoudakis that without AHEPA she would not be at OCS.

4. Ongoing fundraising will be severely compromised. You have heard about AHEPA fundraising commitments. The campus is not completed yet and major work and fundraising remains. **Actions to diminish AHEPA's control will place these commitments and the Greek dual language program at risk.**

In closing, Odyssey Charter School is truly unique in many ways. Because of these difference and unlike, say a Newark Charter School (another Delaware highly successful charter), Odyssey requires a strong level of operational engagement from its Board of Directors with an AHEPA majority. Without this level of engagement Odyssey will slowly but inexorably flounder and change its mission. I have observed firsthand the efforts of those who are putting personal grievances ahead of the welfare and educational opportunity of 1,900 students and their families.

Odyssey has grown into a \$27 million business in a very short time. It has had its hiccups and bumps, to be expected of any fast growing organization with a unique mission and vision. However I can personally attest, as I have been at the table for most of the past 6 years, that all of its decisions have been made with the objective of providing the best possible outcomes for its students. And, unlike its current critics, no decisions were made putting personal objectives ahead of the good of the school.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Peter Svahn
24 Abigail's Path, Plymouth, MA 02360
p 508-224-7696
f 508-224-7697
c 614-579-5504
cps@cpses.com

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 8:00 AM
To: klezarasm@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: Odyssey Charter School

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so it can be included as part of the public record.

From: klezarasm@gmail.com <klezarasm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 6:07 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

Name: Michael
Email address: klezarasm@gmail.com
Phone Number:

Comment / Question: I support AHEPA's majority on the board. I worry that should AHEPA lose their majority, the relationships that it has established over the years that have given to the school will no longer do so because of AHEPA losing their majority.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:58 AM
To: bbusby74@yahoo.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: bbusby74@yahoo.com <bbusby74@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 4, 2019 8:46 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: William
Email address: bbusby74@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 8133356657

Comment / Question: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:56 AM
To: dhalakos@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: Odyssey School

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: dhalakos@gmail.com <dhalakos@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 10:43 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: Odyssey School

Name: Demitrios
Email address: dhalakos@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3023791833

Comment / Question: I support AHEPA Organization to have the majority of the Odyssey School Board .

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:54 AM
To: ken@przywara.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: Support for AHEPA families continued stewardship of Odyssey

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: ken@przywara.com <ken@przywara.com>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 12:12 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: Support for AHEPA families continued stewardship of Odyssey

Name: Ken
Email address: ken@przywara.com
Phone Number: 3025848377

Comment / Question: My daughter was the first child to sign up for enrollment at Odyssey when it began. The guidance and support of the AHEPAN Family has ensured that the school maintains it's Greek heritage for the future. Like the captain of a ship, they steer for the long voyage. Their fundraising and vision has enabled this little school to grow to one of the largest and well run in the state. I am proud of their decisions and unhappy with this distraction from their mission for the children.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:52 AM
To: cndfish@verizon.net
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: cndfish@verizon.net <cndfish@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 4:17 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board

Name: Corey
Email address: cndfish@verizon.net
Phone Number: 3022342960

Comment / Question: 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.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:50 AM
To: m.farrukh.omar@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: m.farrukh.omar@gmail.com <m.farrukh.omar@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 6, 2019 7:46 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board

Name: Muhammad
Email address: m.farrukh.omar@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3028974795

Comment / Question: This matter pertains to the ongoing investigation against Odyssey charter school (2019). I wanted to advise that I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board. Removing them from holding majority in the board will not provide any benefit to the school or students. It is due to the initiatives taken by AHEPA that the school has flourished greatly and I would like to see them continue to serve the school while holding majority stake, same as in the past. Thank you.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:49 AM
To: praveen.thangala@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I Support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board.....

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: praveen.thangala@gmail.com <praveen.thangala@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 6, 2019 8:42 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I Support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board.....

Name: Praveen kumar
Email address: praveen.thangala@gmail.com
Phone Number: 5129246149

Comment / Question: As a parent of my daughter sreesha thangalaI strongly support the AHEPA for the way they have been keeping up the school standards

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:49 AM
To: mmcaras@aol.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I am in support of the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: mmcaras@aol.com <mmcaras@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 4:44 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I am in support of the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Maria
Email address: mmcaras@aol.com
Phone Number:

Comment / Question: AHEPA founded the Odyssey School and has given financial support since 2005 since it's founding from donors and numerous fundraisers

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:47 AM
To: demetriaa2@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: demetriaa2@gmail.com <demetriaa2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 10:22 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Demetrios
Email address: demetriaa2@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3022298379

Comment / Question: The AHEPA founded the Odyssey School and has developed it into one of the best schools in the state.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:47 AM
To: ioannisa47@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: ioannisa47@gmail.com <ioannisa47@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 10:22 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Ioannis
Email address: ioannisa47@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3022298379

Comment / Question: The AHEPA founded the Odyssey School and has developed it into one of the best schools in the state.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:47 AM
To: thecrunked@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: thecrunked@gmail.com <thecrunked@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 10:24 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Elena
Email address: thecrunked@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3022399583

Comment / Question: The AHEPA founded the Odyssey School and has developed it into one of the best schools in the state.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:47 AM
To: lauren11305@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: lauren11305@gmail.com <lauren11305@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 10:25 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I support the AHEPA Family majority on the Odyssey Board

Name: Lauren
Email address: lauren11305@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3025883161

Comment / Question: The AHEPA founded the Odyssey School and has developed it into one of the best schools in the state.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:47 AM
To: jpeye1@aol.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: Odyssey school

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: jpeye1@aol.com <jpeye1@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 11:24 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: Odyssey school

Name: John
Email address: jpeye1@aol.com
Phone Number:

Comment / Question: I completely support the Ahepa organization continuing to remain the majority on the Odyssey's school board.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:46 AM
To: eyorsz@gmail.com
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I strongly support the AHEPA family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board.

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: eyorsz@gmail.com <eyorsz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 11:53 PM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I strongly support the AHEPA family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board.

Name: Photine Electra
Email address: eyorsz@gmail.com
Phone Number: 4844318824

Comment / Question: The AHEPA organization's dedication to supporting first class educational opportunities nationwide has a long and distinguished history. Odyssey owes its amazing success to the vision, selfless hard work, as well as financial support of our Wilmington AHEPA family. I urge the DOE to recognize that securing the future of this unique educational resource for Wilmington's children rests in ensuring AHEPA can continue to guide it into the future.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

Lawrence Sheila

From: May Alison
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 7:46 AM
To: gkaras@comcast.net
Cc: infocso
Subject: RE: I strongly support maintain AHEPA family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the address for public comment so your message can be included in the public record.

From: gkaras@comcast.net <gkaras@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 12:11 AM
To: DEDOE <dedoe@doe.k12.de.us>
Subject: I strongly support maintain AHEPA family majority on the Odyssey Charter School Board

Name: George
Email address: gkaras@comcast.net
Phone Number: 3025711511

Comment / Question: Visionary AHEPANS launched Odyssey to offer Wilmington's children a new vision and opportunity for a top flight education. I am confident the AHEPA family should and will ensure the best possible future for the school.

This message was sent using the contact form on delaware.gov.

