

*Journey School
A California Public Charter School*

April 23, 2015
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Approved June 25, 2015

6:00 p.m.

*At Journey School
27102 Foxborough
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
In the Journey School Office
(949) 448-7232
www.journeyschool.net*

*Michael Corbo, Council President: Present
Sue Vaughn, Council Vice-President: Absent
Warren Whiteaker, Council Treasurer: Present
Susan Toma-Berge, Council Secretary: Absent
Jon Kaplan, Council Member: Absent
Kara McCann, Council Member: Absent
Lisa O'Neill, Parent Cabinet Member: Present, arrived at 6:15 pm
Jill Murphy, Educational Trustee Member: Present*

Administrative staff members Shaheer Faltas, Gavin Keller and Franci Sassin were present.

NOTE: There was no quorum for the meeting and no action was taken. Informational reports were given.

AGENDA ITEM	
1	Call to Order, Roll Call and Review of Norms/Roles The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm. There was not yet a quorum but the board proceeded with informational items.
2	Inspirational Passage Jill read a verse that they have been using in the Early Childhood Department.
3	Approval of Agenda* NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public. No action could be taken.

4	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT: <i>Reminder: Please fill-out a speaker card; see policy above for guidelines</i></p> <p>There were no members of the public present to speak.</p>
5	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:</p> <p><i>Items on Consent Agenda may be approved with one motion and vote for all but without discussion. If an item is to be discussed, it is removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to an Action Item immediately following the Consent Items.</i></p> <p>A. <i>Approval of Minutes*:</i> <i>Minutes from meeting of February 12, February 21 and March 26, 2015.</i></p> <p>B. <i>Renewal of contract with ExED*:</i> <i>Consideration of renewal for contract for back office services from ExEd.</i></p> <p>No action could be taken.</p>
6	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS: Reports</p> <p>A. <i>Administrative Update*:</i> <i>Report from School Director regarding: Update on charter renewal, LCAP progress, Smarter Balanced Assessments, etc.</i></p> <p>Gavin Keller reported on the self-evaluation process for administrators and teachers. He let the board know about plans for alternatives to the Sacramento “Art of Teaching”, which is to hold something locally at Journey. The charter renewal should be heard on May 13, following some revisions requested by the sponsoring district. These items include: more detail on assessments in the early grades, independent study, the English Language program, and the transition plan for SBAC testing in the lower grades. The school hosted the regional Medieval Games, the 6th grade class also participated in a Knighting Ceremony. There was an assembly with a family who is traveling all over the world with a ‘Top to Top project’, and is in Dana Point at this time. SBAC testing will begin in mid-May and each class will take at least a week for testing; the STAR test will be administered in science for grades 5 and 8. The school calendar and bell schedule is in development, using staggered recesses but the same start and end times if possible.</p> <p>B. <i>Education Director Update:</i> <i>Report from Education Director(s)</i></p> <p>No report was given.</p> <p>C. <i>Faculty Update:</i> <i>Update on Faculty activities including outcome of all staff retreat/professional development.</i></p> <p>Jill Murphy reported that the spring retreat went well, they spent a lot of time on the areas where staff wants to improve. The discussed many elements of the school day and where the challenges are. There was interaction with the office staff that was valuable as well. PedCo was able to take back several things for follow through. Many of the initiatives will be put in place for next year. It was a valuable opportunity to connect and for team building.</p>

During Medieval Games, all the other grades had off campus field trips. The May Fair planning is underway, families will bring their own picnics rather than having a buffet meal as in past years. The year end plays and camping trips are starting. The faculty discussed having a rotation of different members at each Council meeting next year rather than having one person come every time. This would be in addition to the appointed Faculty Council member.

D. Parent Cabinet Update*: Update on Parent Cabinet activities and bank accounts.

Lisa O'Neill reported on the changes needed for Parent Cabinet to function well as the school has grown, including changes to events, as well as to the volunteer coordination and even for the PC meetings. They are working on focusing on the fundraising for the class trips and on improving communication to all parents. She discussed the highly successful Medieval Games and how well it was put together by Joy Halverson. There were 9 schools in attendance and all were very complimentary. She commented on how important and meaningful the Knighting Ceremony is to the students and community.

E. Report on Follow-up for Previous Board Items

This report was not done.

F. Financial Report*: Review of March financials, plus final P2 ADA for 2014-15

Larry Tamayo was not present, but Shaheer Faltas reported that they have been working with Larry to update the financial forecast, and that staff will be working to reduce expenses the remainder of the year. The school will probably still end somewhat in the red, but not as much as was previously forecasted. There was a discussion regarding the new sick leave laws and the implementation of that. The Council reviewed the financial reports.

G. Budget Committee Update: Update on 2015-16 budget development process and timeline from administrative budget committee.

Warren Whiteaker reported on the discussion at the administrative budget committee meeting last week. The meeting focused on overall themes for revenue and expenditures. The current trends for the future five years currently show an increasingly downward trend, so that this needs to be addressed, in particular when the facility grant is over after two more years. The significant impact of the rapidly rising STRS and PERS rates were discussed. The impact of attrition and ADA rates on revenue. Class sizes are one thing to revisit if needed. Long term strategies are important to develop so that as the needs arise these can be put into place. Having engagement with the faculty as well as the community at large will be important. Whether the independent study program is approved and implemented will be an important factor in future budgets. At the May meeting a preliminary budget will be presented, for review by the board, and then the budget will be approved in tandem with the LCAP annual update at the June board meeting.

7	<p>DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS: School Operations</p> <p>A. English Language Learner Reclassification Policy*: Consideration of board policy regarding when and how to reclassify ELL students.</p> <p>No action could be taken.</p> <p>B. Executive Director employment contract: Release/termination of Executive Director from contract effective May 31, 2015.</p> <p>The Council members expressed interest in having Shaheer Faltas return to attend the 8th grade graduation. No action could be taken.</p>
8	<p>BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS: Board Development and Accountability</p> <p>A. Board Nominating Committee Update: Confirmation of formation and composition of Nominating Committee and update on plans for board member recruitment.</p> <p>There are 3 candidates who will be interviewed on May 2 by the Nominating Committee. All are involved in education. The Nominating Committee has the following members so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shaheer Faltas ➤ Mike Corbo ➤ Sue Vaughn ➤ Kara McCann ➤ Warren Whiteaker ➤ Lisa O'Neill <p>To follow the guidelines in the bylaws for the Nominating Committee composition, Mike Corbo will ask a teacher to participate as well. The Council members will be careful not to have a quorum at any Committee meeting.</p>
9	<p>BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS: Development and Journey School Foundation</p> <p>A. Update on Development and Foundation Activities*: Report on Journey School Foundation activities, including transition plan</p> <p>The JSF Board will be relatively stable in terms of composition, but the officers are shifting. Colleen Patterson will become the Treasurer, Amy Capelle will move into Vice President, and TJ Coveyou will be the new President. They are also working on formation of an Advisory Group to consult with the JSF to work on the permanent campus solution. The strategy for 15-16 is to expand the volunteer base and decrease paid staff. The JSF would like to schedule a joint meeting. The first step would be a social gathering at the end of May. The Kay Foundation has engaged and is a supporter of charters in general and of Journey and the Digital Media Literacy project. They may be able to support Journey School in becoming a hub for disseminating the DML project and allowing Journey School to be able to provide support and professional development. Journey is also presenting on this topic for the private Waldorf Association (AWSNA) and this will present an opportunity for sharing. The President of the Board of the Alliance will be visiting Journey School in May. Shaheer is also providing some work on the state of the public Waldorf charter movement</p>

	to the Waldorf Alliance, who are donating money to the Foundation in exchange for his work.
10	<p>CLOSED SESSION: <i>The meeting will now convene to closed session to discuss the matters described below:</i></p> <p>Jill Murphy left the meeting. Shaheer Faltas, Franci Sassin and Gavin Keller were invited into closed session based on their work in the session.</p> <p>A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS: <i>Update on negotiations</i></p> <p>Employee organization: <i>Journey Teachers' Association/CTA/NEA</i></p> <p>Agency designated representative: <i>Shaheer Faltas</i></p> <p>P RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: <i>The meeting was reconvened to open session at: 8:40 p.m.</i></p> <p>PUBLIC REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION <i>(includes the vote or abstention of every member present)</i></p> <p>No action could be taken.</p>
11	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>By the end of the meeting, there was still no quorum. The meeting ended at 8:45 PM.</p>

**Items that are expected to have back up materials provided prior to or at the meeting are indicate with an asterisk. Other items may also have back up materials provided.*