

*Journey School  
A California Public Charter School*

**February 21, 2015**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Approved May 28, 2015**

**3:00 p.m.**

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

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

*Administrative staff member Shaheer Faltas and Franci Sassin were present. Journey School Board legal counsel Hollis Peterson was present. Multiple members of the community were present.*

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
1	<b>Call to Order, Roll Call and Review of Norms/Roles</b> The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm.
2	<b>Inspirational Passage</b> This item was not done.
3	<b>Approval of Agenda*</b> <b>NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public.</b> There was a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded and approved unanimously.
4	<b>OPEN SESSION:</b> <i>to discuss whether Student had violated the terms of her probation, as</i>

*described below:*

Prior to adjourning into closed session, President Mike Corbo stated that the item today is in relation to new developments regarding the probation of Student and whether the terms of her probation had been violated, and that this item was not a re-opening of the expulsion hearing from the previous week; this was a new separate incident. Members of the community were present and requested to speak to this item as follows:

1. Parent and mother of Student read a statement to the Board; she recounted the history last week and the events of the morning of Tuesday, February 17, 2015, when Parents met with Shaheer Faltas, Gavin Keller and Patti Connolly. She believes that Mr. Faltas is not able to create an environment that is conducive to her daughter's re-entry to school. The parents had received a letter with the terms of the probation which states that if there is a suspendable offense the student can be immediately expelled. She believes that her daughter is being held personally responsible by Mr. Faltas for another family's decision to leave the school. She recounted comments made by her daughter to several peers during recess on her first day back to school after her suspension, wherein she joked that they should not make cookies for an adult that one of her peers was upset with. Mother stated that other students are also making joking comments about this situation. She disagreed with the sections of the Handbook that were cited as bases for the suspension. She does not agree that there was school wide disruption or willful defiance. Her daughter now believes that she could not return to Journey and still be herself, and that she would be afraid to make jokes or participate in class, and that the school will be able to find something to expel her. She was promised a "second chance" which is not being offered. She also recommends that the entire class undergo counseling to move past this action.
2. Parent and stepfather of Student—read a statement which asked questions regarding the grounds for suspension and the process, and whether the rules are being applied fairly, and whether the context and intent was being considered. What other options have been explored? Is the intent of the Council to re-admit the student being carried out? (a printed copy of Parent's statement was provided)
3. Parent Carrie Rhoades —asked what has been done with all the students in the class and school? What is the appropriate community service for the students involved? Parent stated that self-deprecating humor should not be grounds for expulsion. How is leadership helping the students to move forward and be supported? She stated that there is inconsistency in the discipline and social-emotional development of students.
4. Parent and staff member Shannon Johnson—has noticed that there are effects on students throughout the school, of all ages, and not just in the class. At a Waldorf school, children should be protected and should only be exposed to developmentally appropriate consequences. The student is not being supported and was set up to fail instead of succeed.
5. Parent and staff member Sara Beebe—stated that she is available to assist with re-integration of the students and has experience as a Reverend. She believes that the

student should have had a better opportunity to come back to the community. She stated that the school puts out the message that there is compassion and caring, but does not always follow through. She wants the student to have a true second chance. She believes that the school has a responsibility to help the student develop further.

6. Mike Corbo read a letter from Valerie Martino which was submitted as part of public comment prior to the meeting, and which Ms. Martino had asked to be read at the board meeting.

The Council took a short break at 3:48 pm and reconvened at 3:51 pm.

Shaheer Faltas presented his statement of the facts of the case, starting with the events of the morning of February 17, 2015. There was a 45 to 60 minute meeting with Student and her parents, which also included Patti Connolly and Gavin Keller. While Mr. Keller and Mr. Faltas went to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class to prepare them for the re-entry, the student spent more time with Ms. Connolly and then went to work for a time in the Kindergarten class room.

The student re-entered the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class at approximately 11:30 am. About an hour later the student in question made a statement at recess to her four of her peers in response to one peer stating she was upset with a front office worker. Student replied, "Maybe we should bake her some cookies." This comment was reported by a student to a staff member, and Administration felt that the comment required investigation due to the circumstances of her probation. The peers were interviewed and statements were taken, which were all consistent in reporting that Student said, "Maybe we should bake her some cookies." The other students were upset or bothered by this comment. Student making this comment therefore caused disruption of the learning environment, due to the impact on the students involved and the need for extensive investigation, taking staff members away from their regular duties. After conferring with other administrators, there was a decision made that this was an offense that the student could be suspended for. Board President Mike Corbo was apprised of the situation and asked that a Special Meeting be called in order to determine if the situation was a violation of the student's probation.

There was a motion to enter closed session, which was seconded and approved unanimously. **The Council adjourned into closed session at 3:58 pm to determine if Student had violated the terms of her probation.**

Board's legal counsel, Hollis Peterson, was present with the Council for closed session.

- A. ***Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, Anticipated Litigation: 1 potential case***
- B. ***RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: The meeting was reconvened to open session at: 4:25 p.m.***
- C. ***PUBLIC REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY (includes the vote or abstention of every member present)***

	<p>No action was taken in closed session.</p> <p>President Mike Corbo announced that the family had informed the Board that they decided to withdraw the Student from Journey School. Therefore a determination was no longer necessary.</p>
5	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.</p>