

*Journey School
A California Public Charter School*

April 10, 2014
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Approved April 24, 2014

7:30 p.m.

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

*Michael Corbo, Council President: Present
Sue Vaughn, Council Vice-President: Present
Warren Whiteaker, Council Treasurer: Present by phone
Susan Toma-Berge, Council Secretary: Present, arrived at 7:35 pm
Jon Kaplan, Council Member: Present by phone
Kara McCann, Council Member: Present
Lisa O'Neill: Parent Cabinet Member: Absent
Jill Murphy: Educational Trustee Member: Present, arrived at 7:41 pm.*

Administrative Staff present: Gavin Keller and Franci Sassin, with Shaheer Faltas by phone

AGENDA ITEM	
1	Call to Order, Roll Call and Review of Norms/Roles The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.
2	Approval of Agenda* NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public. A motion was made to approve the agenda, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

3	<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 and no other comments were received.</p>
4	<p>DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:</p> <p>A. <i>Journey School Expansion Plan</i>*: <i>Discussion of plan and timeline for implementing double tracking of Grades 1-8</i></p> <p>Shaheer and Gavin presented the proposal to add an additional class in both 3rd and 4th grades for the 2014-15 school year. They commented on the large class size in the current 3rd grade, and that adding a second class will improve the class dynamics by having two smaller classes that are better balanced in terms of student needs. There is a significant wait list to draw from. They commented that the Main Class Teachers all agreed that this accelerated expansion plan was a good idea. One comment was that the year between 3rd and 4th grade is a very good one for students to enter a Waldorf program due to their developmental stage. There are also financial benefits to the plan. They noted that other stakeholder groups were consulted, and there was some hesitation regarding the impact on the community, especially from some parent stakeholders.</p> <p>The wait list for that class has been recently updated since the letters for the 14-15 wait list have just been received. As of this week, there are 29 students returning. 11 parents confirmed that they would accept a spot, 3 additional students are strongly considering acceptance even if there would not be spaces for the siblings in other grades. 7 parents would only consider acceptance if siblings were also offered spots, but several of these will likely have sibling spots offered based on the sizes of those classes. There are also several students on the 5th grade class who are on the borderline who might want to consider moving to 4th grade, with approval of Pedagogical Council. Ultimately, a conservative number currently anticipated without soliciting additional applications, 44 students are highly likely to enroll. The highest number that would likely be accepted would be 52 total.</p> <p>The Council had questions regarding the financial impact, what the “break even” point would be with enrollment. There were also questions around the timing of making this decision, and Administration recommended a decision was made as soon as possible in order to recruit additional students before they make other schooling decisions. The Council asked if there would be problems with hiring the additional teacher, and Administration said that they believe that they will have a good plan in place within the next month to have all teacher positions filled.</p> <p>There are benefits to the plan with respect to charter renewal and future lease negotiations.</p> <p>The negative impacts were discussed, including absorbing a large number of new families who have not been at the school through the primary years. This will be mitigated by the presence of the Connolly team sharing the Education Director role next year, who will be assisting with education of the community in Waldorf. There will need to be modifications to the bell schedule due to the need to stagger the starting, ending and recess times to reduce the impact on the traffic and playgrounds.</p>

	<p>A motion was made to adopt the revised expansion plan as presented, which was seconded and approved unanimously.</p>
5	<p>CLOSED SESSION: <i>The meeting will now convene to closed session to discuss the matters described below:</i></p> <p>The board adjourned into closed session at 8:00 pm. Shaheer Faltas, Gavin Keller and Franci Sassin were invited into closed session based on their work in the matter.</p> <p>A. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS: Property: 27102 Foxborough, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656</p> <p>Agency negotiators: Shaheer Faltas, Franci Sassin</p> <p>Negotiating parties: Capistrano Unified School District and Journey School</p> <p>Under negotiation: Lease terms for 2014-15</p> <p>B. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: <i>The meeting was reconvened to open session at: 8:20 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>There was no action taken in closed session.</p>
6	<p>A. Journey School Lease Amendment: <i>Consideration of proposed lease amendment for 2014-15 school year.</i></p> <p>The Council summarized the mutually beneficial lease amendment which has been proposed by CUSD, which would add only one more classroom next year for Journey, which would allow the Niguel Children’s Center to remain on campus one additional year. The benefits to Journey would be a significant rent reduction and a commitment by CUSD to paint the campus in a mutually agreeable color. Following approval by the Journey Board, this would need to also be approved by the CUSD Board.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve the lease amendment as proposed, which was seconded and approved unanimously.</p>
7	<p>Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.</p>