

Journey School
A California Public Charter School

Thursday, October 23, 2025
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Approved December 11, 2025
6:00 p.m.

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

NOTE: This meeting was held in person on the Journey School campus and live streamed via Zoom.
Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or online. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86025029240?pwd=3Ww1qZ3nZAbuPqWnIC6wnsvu9uqk8j.1>
Meeting ID: 860 2502 9240 Passcode: 92629
One tap mobile +16694449171,,86025029240#,,,,*92629# US

BOARD MEMBERS:

Michael Allbee, Council President - Present
Margaret Moodian, Council Secretary
Jeannie Lee, Board Member - Present
Lisa Murray, Board Member - Present

ADVISORY POSITIONS:

Renalani Moodley, Parent Cabinet Advisor - PRESENT
Faculty Advisor, Adam Kilcollins - PRESENT
Faculty Advisor, Stacy Kinney - PARTICIPATING VIA ZOOM

Also Present:

Gaylen Corbett, Clerk of the Board
Cassie Kawling, Prospective Board Member
Fernando Rosa, Parent
Brian Sarmiento, Parent (departed at 6:35)
Larry Tamayo, ExED (7:05-7:34 p.m.)

	AGENDA ITEM	SPONSOR
1	Call to Order and Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Michael Allbee.	Michael Allbee
2	Inspirational Passage - Shelley shared an inspirational passage about conscious discipline, and a quote by Phish about the Soul Planet.	Shelley Kelley

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3	<p>Approval of Agenda* NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public.</p> <p>Margaret made a motion to approve to approve the agenda. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p>	Michael Allbee
4	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may contribute public comment. Reminder: See policy above for time guidelines.</p> <p>Brian Sarmiento spoke regarding the anti-bullying policy and an alleged incident involving his daughter, and how the incident was handled. He spoke in favor of reevaluating the anti-bullying policy.</p> <p>Fernando Rosa shared a public comment regarding the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). He spoke against the dissolution of the PAC.</p> <p>Renalani Moodley offered a public comment against restructuring the PAC.</p> <p>Gia Lugo offered a public comment regarding alleged bullying and an incident that happened off campus.</p> <p>Ashley Berkowitz offered a public comment regarding an incident involving her son last year and the consequences as a result of that incident.</p>	Michael Allbee
5	<p>BOARD DEVELOPMENT and OVERSIGHT (Discussion/Action):</p> <p>A. Board Development: Margaret made a motion to approve Cassie Kawling as a new board member. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Cassie Kawling agreed to uphold the oath of office.</p> <p>Officers were appointed as follows, with all members voting in favor, and terms to begin at the next board meeting: Jeannie made a motion to approve Margaret Moodian as Vice President of the council. Cassie Kawling seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Margaret Moodian made a motion to appoint Jeannie as council secretary. Cassie seconded to motion and Jeannie was confirmed as secretary. The treasurer position remains open.</p> <p>B. Strategic Plan*: Shelley shared detailed feedback from faculty on the Strategic Plan. The alumni portion of the plan would fall under work to be done by the administrators. It was suggested to use a visual chart to share with teachers. Board members discussed the strategic plan, how it's being executed, and how the community will be informed on the topic. It was agreed that the plan needs to be shared on our website and in other ways such as print materials and/or a virtual presentation. Gavin and Shelley will put together a draft budget for strategic plan implementation, and noted that funds have not been allocated for this year since it was approved after the budget was finalized.</p> <p>Shelley reflected on the Coffee Talk that she and Gavin hosted last week, and suggested</p>	

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	<p>that some mini Coffee Talks be centered around Strategic Plan work.</p> <p>Board members discussed preparations for the innovation conference called out in Year 3 of the strategic plan. Lisa Murray noted that she had volunteered to lead preparations for this part of the plan.</p> <p>Cassie pointed out that abbreviations in the Strategic Plan should be spelled out and some terms clarified when it's formally presented to the public.</p> <p>C. Schedule of Meetings*: There were no changes to the meeting schedule. Cassie will share an inspirational passage at the December meeting. Lisa will share one at the June meeting.</p>	
6	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:</p> <p>A. Approval of Minutes*: Minutes from Council Meeting held Sept. 25, 2025.</p> <p>Jeannie made a motion to approve the minutes. Margaret seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p>	Gavin Keller
7	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS: Reports</p> <p>A. Financial Update*: The audit report will be shared at the December meeting. Larry shared a report on September financials. ADA and enrollment are strong and higher than projected.</p> <p>Operating costs are also trending higher by about \$50k, but with ADA strong, we will end up with a net profit. By year end, we will have a reserve of approximately \$2.8 million. By October 15th we will have more information about state revenue expected.</p> <p>B. Faculty Update: Adam Kilcollins will serve as the teacher representative to the board, and we will also additionally have a different teacher share an update each month. Stacy Kinney shared an update on middle school including weekly clubs, which are led by specialty teachers and Teachers on Special Assignment. Students choose which club to join, twice per year. Clubs include a mixture of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students which gives them a chance to interact with other grade levels.</p> <p>She also shared about recent middle school field trips. Part of their curriculum includes learning how to see the world from the perspective of other people, such as the indigenous people of our local area from long ago. They also recently presented a "living museum."</p> <p>Stacy stated that middle school faculty is a cohesive team citing how the faculty came to agreements to share with the students prior to the beginning of school, so that middle school staff members can hold students to a set standard and all being in agreement.</p> <p>Adam shared that Early Childhood teachers are having challenges working with the four year old students, who will barely be six years old when they go on to first grade. Grades 1 and 2 are excited about the new math curriculum. Grades 1-3 teachers are feeling overwhelmed. It's requested that the supervision schedule be reviewed. There are also reports of children in these grades with students who have extreme behaviors, affecting all students in those classes.</p>	<p>Larry Tamayo</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>Renalani Moodley</p> <p>Gavin Keller</p>

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	<p>Teachers report that parents in those grades often address teachers in unkind ways. Adam asked if expectations could be shared with parents to provide guidelines for communication, perhaps at the next coffee talk. There is a request from teachers to have Gavin and Shelley visit their classes on a regularly scheduled observation. They have also requested access to mentoring and training when needed. Third graders are camping out overnight on campus. 5th graders went on their overnight trips to Catalina. Mr. Kephart is finding the challenges of taking on a new class. Mr. Goetz and his wife had their second child last week.</p> <p>C. Parent Cabinet Update: Renalani shared an update on Parent Cabinet activities including the Clothing Drive happening now and Harvest Faire. PC is also receiving feedback from parents about bullying issues.</p> <p>D. Administrative Update: Update on school operations including but not limited to school programming/events, CCSA Conference, EDCOE Lunch and Learn, California Healthy Youth Behavioral Initiative (CHYBI), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Journey Forward Fund, William's Reporting, attendance and enrollment. Journey will be leading a session at the CCSA Conference featuring our Special Education Director, Caryn Kaufman. We have a counselor on site from CHYBI, although we are lacking an office space for him. A challenge we've seen with this program is that some people who have requested the service have been denied by the provider, so we are navigating this new offering. The NSLP applications have been sent out. Our NSLP audit will be on February 23rd. State law requires that schools provide free lunch to all students. When we claim free and reduced students, the state will reimburse us for their meals at set rates. Williams Reporting visits have taken place to verify that all students have access to curriculum, and to evaluate our facilities. We have not received the facility review yet.</p> <p>The Journey Forward Fund is off to a good start with 34 donors so far. Amanda Sturges has volunteered countless hours to get it off the ground. We have had a videographer working to collect material for a video to help with the giving campaign. Our goal is to get every family participating. Suggestions made included sharing a message from the board and reaching out to alumni. The group discussed how annual giving donations are utilized. Gavin explained that our current program is not sustainable in years to come without strong annual giving fundraising. Seeking corporate donations was also discussed.</p>	
8	<p>SCHOOL OPERATIONS: Discussion/Action</p> <p>A. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)*:</p> <p>Public Comment on this item was offered by Kevin McHale. He spoke in favor of the revised structure of the PAC.</p> <p>Resolution to dissolve PAC and discussion of a proposed/alternative PA structure at Journey School. Gavin thanked the current PAC members for their work and their input on the 2024-25 LCAP. They have made a great contribution to the school and thanks them for the input they provided to the board. Journey School's attorney suggested creating a PAC that is a committee that includes all parents who wish to participate. Many charters run their PAC this way. It is legal and complies with Ed Code if: 1. The PAC meets more than twice per year and all attendees are considered committee members; 2. Agenda must be posted; 3. The PAC follows the Green Act; 4. Parents representing unduplicated pupils and</p>	Gavin Keller

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	<p><i>students with disabilities need to be present. Names of the representatives would not need to be disclosed, so confidentiality would be maintained. Admin will document the meetings and report back to the parent body with a summary of the meetings and the response from the school and/or the board. Administration will document how parent input is included in the LCAP. This proposal in no way indicates that the current PAC has done anything wrong. He applauds our current PAC members and encourages them to continue to provide input and participate, as their experience would be very valuable to the PAC. In the new format, there would be no officers in the PAC, and no size limit. The current PAC is limited to only nine members. In the proposed format, Gavin would have support from a staff member to document the input, concerns, etc. from PAC meetings. All of the input would be collected, and it would be reported as to how that input was incorporated into the LCAP.</i></p> <p><i>Cassie made a motion to adopt the resolution to dissolve the current Parent Advisory Committee and adopt the structure as described in the resolution. Jeannie seconded the motion.</i></p> <p><i>The motion was passed with all members voting in favor as follows: Ayes: Jeannie, Margaret, Michael, Lisa, Cassie Nays: (none) The resolution was adopted.</i></p> <p>B. Transitional Kindergarten (TK)*: <i>Gavin shared an overview of current programming and discussion regarding the future of TK programs at Journey School. All of our current kindergarten classes are combination classes including kindergarten and TK students with a 10:1 student:teacher ratio. The difference from last year is that Poppies had only TK students. Since then the state lowered the TK age, and as a result we will have younger children entering first grade than ever before. The Waldorf curriculum for first grade is designed for a seven year old. Charter schools do not have to provide TK. Some charters in the district don't offer TK, but they have a private preschool on their campus. If we eliminated TK, most Journey students would not have two years of kindergarten.</i></p> <p><i>Not having TK would cause a sizable funding deficit. If there was a private preschool, each student would have to pay \$14k/year to meet the funding deficit. The state will not fund three years of kindergarten. A decision will need to be made before the lottery in March.</i></p> <p>C. Teacher Assignment Monitoring and Outcome Data (TAMO)*: <i>Gavin explained that state law requires this agenda item per the local indicator, the CA Dashboard. This data is released by the State annually, but reflects data that is nearly 2 years old. This data will be uploaded into our School Accountability Report Card in January.</i></p> <p><i>Jeannie made a motion to move into closed session. Margaret seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved to enter closed session at 9:24 p.m.</i></p>	
9	<p>CLOSED SESSION</p> <p>A. Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9 - Potential Litigation</p> <p>Action taken in closed session: No action was taken.</p>	Michael Allbee

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10	Adjournment - Melissa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.	Michael Allbee
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*Agenda publicly posted at Journey School on October 20, 2025.
And on the school website at www.journeyschool.net*

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