

Journey School - A California Public Charter School

Thursday, May 1, 2025

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Approved May 27, 2025

6:00 p.m.

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

This meeting will be live-streamed via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting.
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Meeting ID: 860 2502 9240 Passcode: 92629
One tap mobile +16694449171,,86025029240#,,,,*92629# US

BOARD MEMBERS:

*Amy Capelle, Council President - PRESENT
Melissa Dahlin, Council Vice President - ABSENT
Margaret Moodian, Council Secretary - PRESENT
Jeannie Lee, Board Member - PRESENT
Michael Allbee, Board Treasurer - PRESENT*

ADVISORY POSITIONS:

*Parent Cabinet Advisor - Renalani Moodley - PRESENT
Faculty Advisor - Adam Kilcollins - PARTICIPATING VIA ZOOM*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: *Alicia Cordova, Alastair Deaso, Aleia Deaso, Breanna Bey, Gilliam Buckley, Amanda Sturges (arrived at 6:47 p.m.). Additional members of the public joined via Zoom.*

	AGENDA ITEM		
1	Call to Order and Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Amy Capelle.		
2	Inspirational Passage - Shelley shared inspirational passages from "A Verse for Our Time" and "Drive While You're Sleeping." Shelley noted that Gavin is absent from the meeting due to a baseball accident.		
3	Approval of Agenda* Margaret made a motion to approve the agenda. Mike seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public.		

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4	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT: Amy suggested that due to the number of requests for public comment, the standard limit of 5 minutes be reduced to two minutes due to the number of speakers. Jeannie made a motion to reduce the public comment time limit to two minutes. Margaret seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Alicia Cordova's son, seventh grade student Alastair Deaso, read a prepared comment regarding bullying and inappropriate behavior. He has not seen a change in these behaviors and asked that the school share their plan to resolve the issues. The full text of his comment will be attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Alicia Cordova is proud of the PAC and shared the work they are planning to do. She requested that the board follow up on her public comment from the previous meeting when she alleged illegal and unethical administrative practices. She stated that liabilities may follow if the board does not investigate her claims of administrative misconduct or unfulfilled administrative duties. She requests that staff cease the use of cell phones while on recess duty. Additionally she described an incident that she recently witnessed while dropping off paperwork on campus and says that she documented the incident and can provide it upon request. Alicia's longer public comment that was emailed to board members will be attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Alicia's daughter, third grade student Aleia Deaso described an incident of inappropriate behavior that she witnessed at the back. She saw a group of boys wrestling and yelling inappropriate things and trying to touch their private parts.</p> <p>Gilliam Buckley thanked the board for their work. She is concerned for the well-being of teachers due to a small number of Journey parents who damage the trust relationship by spreading misinformation that damages professional reputations, being maligned to executive members of Parent Cabinet, and encountering outright refusals to engage in honest and respectful dialogue. This erodes the collaborative spirit that our community depends on. While parents have every right to raise concerns, that advocacy must be grounded in integrity and respectful communication. When it becomes divisive or vindictive, it creates a toxic environment that puts both teachers and students at risk. She asks the board to develop clear procedures to protect teachers from parents abuse, specifically establishing a clear reporting process for teachers who experience abuse or defamation, ensuring they can document the events without fear of reprisal or being ignored. Perhaps appointing a neutral liaison who can mediate disputes, investigate claims and advocate for respectful conflict resolution. This isn't just about protecting teachers, it's about modeling for our children how we treat others in times of disagreement or frustration. It's about living the values that we teach. Let's show our educators that we honor their work and that we're willing to take action when those who nurture our children are harmed.</p>
5	<p>BOARD DEVELOPMENT and OVERSIGHT (Discussion/Action):</p> <p>A. Executive Director Performance Feedback Survey*: Amy shared a draft of the feedback survey based on last year's questions. Board members agreed that no changes are needed. Gaylen will send Amy the list of who receives the survey, and will send the 2024-25 survey to recipients after May Faire. Reminders to complete the survey will be sent as well. The process is as follows: Collect survey responses. Data is used to compile Gavin's evaluation. The evaluation is shared with the board in closed session for discussion and editing as needed. The board approves the evaluation. Amy delivers it to Gavin by the end of June.</p> <p>B. Alliance for Public Waldorf Education: Shelley read the letter from the Alliance granting Journey School the honor of being considered a full member of the Alliance in good standing, which is their highest honor. This includes the honor of being called a "public Waldorf school." The Alliance's review board commended Journey for the thoroughness and clarity of our self study. They stated that</p>

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	<p><i>excellent work is being done at the school for the benefit of students and the school community. The Journey board, Shelley and Renal discussed ideas for a celebration and/or celebratory souvenirs.</i></p> <p><i>C. Strategic Plan: Amy stated that PAC input for the LCAP will be taken into consideration when building the strategic plan. She suggested waiting to discuss the plan until the PAC input is received. Mike noted that the summer retreat would be a good time to work on the plan. Margaret and Amy will work to create a shorter executive summary based on the longer summary prepared by Melissa.</i></p>
6	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: 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.</p> <p>A. Approval of Minutes*: Minutes from regular meeting March 27, 2025.</p> <p>B. Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP) Update*: Annual approval of UCP</p> <p>C. Suicide Prevention Policy*: Annual approval of policy.</p> <p><i>Margaret made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</i></p>
7	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS: Reports</p> <p>A. Financial Update*: Shelley read Larry's report on March financials and P2 ADA.</p> <p><i>1. ERC funds \$58K more added to Federal Revenue; even though we accrued it for 22-23, it was more than the accrual. However it was somewhat offset by the \$42K for the consultant fee.</i></p> <p><i>2. Federal SPED IDEA funds of \$96K added back into the forecast. This was confirmed by El Dorado. I took it out of the last 2 months of financials to be conservative but added it back in this month.</i></p> <p><i>3. Took all of the Arts Music Instructional Materials Block Grant out of this year and deferred it to 25-26. The Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant remains to be spent this year to avoid doing the needs assessment.</i></p> <p><i>4. P2 for this year is 579.13; 0.89 more than the forecast from last month and 8.29 more than the budget. Great job! This translates to more funding.</i></p> <p><i>Also, the school is under budget so far for supplies but I left it all in as I know Journey tends to increase supplies expenses at the end of the year. I still think the school will spend less overall.</i></p> <p><i>Shelley will ask Larry if cost increases due to tariffs are being included in the budget forecast.</i></p> <p>B. Faculty Update: Adam Kilcollins shared an update on Faculty activities including campus activities and end of year excitement. Faculty is also starting to plan for next year. He shared the joys of teaching 5th grade and how age-appropriate the 5th grade Waldorf curriculum is and how it is perfectly aligned with student development. He shared details on their class play about ancient Egypt. 4th-8th grades performed at our spring concert last night, to a packed house.</p> <p><i>Adam stated that the union is in the midst of contract negotiations. He noted that strategies and/or a playbook to help teachers work through parent issues that arise from time to time. Perhaps the board and</i></p>

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	<p><i>PEDCO could work together to provide this type of assistance for teachers to help facilitate conflict resolution in the adult realm.</i></p> <p>C. Parent Cabinet Update: <i>Renalani shared an update on Parent Cabinet activities including new board members, PC's yoga in the park, Clothes-4-Cash, clothing sale, May Faire pop-up shop, talent share, teacher appreciation, spirit wear, and calendars. She reminded teachers to use their PC funds by the deadline. Parent Cabinet has a new website at www.journeyschoolpc.net</i></p> <p>D. Administrative Update: <i>Shelley shared the School Director report based on Gavin's notes including an update on the Attendance Recovery Program, Williams monitoring requirements, the LCAP and 2025-2026 budget development, and the School Food Authority application process. The LCAP and draft budget will be presented to the board at the May 27th meeting for input, and then at the June board meeting for approval.</i></p>
8	<p>SCHOOL OPERATIONS: Discussion/Action</p> <p>A. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)*: <i>Members of the PAC shared input regarding LCAP development. Co-chairs Amanda Sturgis and Brianna shared their initial feedback and noted they will be continuing to collect input from parents. They provided the board with a summary of the PAC's process to gather and present feedback. Gavin's presence at their first meetings was very helpful, although he was not able to attend the most recent two meetings. Alicia stated that having a staff member participate in the process would be helpful. They stated that PAC will send out the LCAP survey. Amanda reviewed the five goals outlined in the document that PAC shared with the board. Alicia and the board discussed how Prop 28 funds are being directed.</i></p> <p>B. 2025-2026 Staffing Plan*: <i>Shelley reviewed the staffing plan. She will follow up on Amy's question regarding class sizes and taking the number of IEP students in each class into consideration, and if that is being worked into the proposed staffing plan and budget. Shelley noted that the addition of a lower grades TOSA has been helpful, and that creating baseline assessments that are specific to Journey's curriculum benchmarks is also very important.</i></p> <p><i>Jeannie made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Staffing Plan. Margaret seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</i></p> <p><i>Jeannie made a motion to enter into closed session. Mike seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</i></p>
9	<p>CLOSED SESSION: <i>The board entered closed session at 8:25 p.m.</i></p> <p>A. Potential Litigation § 54956.9(d): <i>Facts and circumstances to be discussed in closed session.</i></p> <p><i>Open session resumed at 9:00 p.m. Report out from closed session: No action was taken.</i></p>

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10	Adjournment: Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.
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Agenda publicly posted at Journey School and on the website on April 28, 2025.

Alicia Cordova

May 1, 2025

Journey School Council
27102 Foxborough
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Re: Public Comment

Dear Esteemed Members of Council,

Thank you for the important work you do in governing our school.

I am a parent of two children at Journey School grade 3 and grade 7. I hold a California Multiple Subject Credential, MA in Education Psychology, BA in both Sociology and Psychology, Certificate of Waldorf Teacher Education and am presently pursuing my Waldorf Practical Arts Certificate from the Waldorf Institute of Southern California. I am co-founder of Sycamore Creek (Waldorf Inspired) Charter School in Huntington Beach and am in service of the Journey School and parent body as a Parent Cabinet Rep for the last two and present years. I am also the cofounder and inaugural member of Journey School's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). With over 20 years of experience in public, private and home-based education, I am deeply committed to education, particularly Waldorf education.

Re: PAC

I am very proud of the work that is being done at the Parent Advisory meetings and look forward to the Board's responses to our recommendations as well as engaging in activities directed by the Board. Stakeholder engagement and visibility with the broader school community is a present challenge for the group and I anticipate that after our final LCAP proposal this month, the group will work to develop strategies to overcome these obstacles. I am grateful for the fairness, transparency, and efficiency of this group in working to improve education and experiences at Journey School.

Re: Public Trust

At the May 27 Board meeting I encouraged the Board to investigate illegal and unethical administrative practices and I hope that this is underway although I am not unaware that it is. I would like to request a follow-up and remind the Board that you occupy a special place of trust. It bears no mention that when a Board fails to investigate administrative misconduct and unfulfilled administrative duties, liabilities may follow.

Public Misrepresentation

At the May 27 Board meeting Ms. Kelley misrepresented my activities with the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education. Ms. Kelley stated that I recommended the Alliance 'not approve' their application however I recommended the Alliance take a closer look and it appears this was done to some degree with the request that the school complete the 'Handbook of Professional Practices in Highly Effective Public Waldorf Schools'. Furthermore, 'not approving' the school's application is not even an option as the Alliance grants degrees of membership of which there are 'Initiative', 'Developing' and 'Full' levels of membership. I did not recommend denial and denial is not an option.

In my conversation with Ms. Beavin, President of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, I shared concerns which Ms. Kelley informed the Alliance and this Board she and Mr. Keller, 'do not share'. Naturally, this is their response given they are the source of serious concerns.

I encouraged that site visitors engage with parents outside of the Parent Cabinet Executive Board, who meet in private without public transparency, and engage in concerning activities including discussing confidential complainants as disclosed by Mr. Keller.

I encouraged the Alliance meet with Parent Cabinet Class Representatives since they are not subject to ongoing close control by Mr. Keller. I encouraged the Alliance meet with the Greene Act compliant Parent Advisory Committee.

My concern remains the discrepancies and omissions of facts between the *Self-Study* and reality as well as practices that do not positively exemplify the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education.

My understanding is that the status quo should not be the school's goal particularly when there are concerns that must be taken seriously. I am in full support that Journey School fulfils the stated Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education, with *integrity*, particularly as a parent of two children in the school.

This unfortunate misrepresentation by Ms. Kelley has the likely potential to affect me reputationally in our community but I can assure this Board and members of the public I did not go out of my way and give up my precious time as a single parent of two children to speak at length with the Alliance without basis.

Ms. Kelley's slanderous statements follows an administrative pattern of hostility towards parents with legitimate and serious complaints. As stated at length within my May 27 comment and today when discussing remarks made regarding safety complainants, personal antagonism by an administrator serves no legitimate purpose, is distressing, serves as intimidation, and should be avoided, especially in a school that

claims exemplary professional practices 'in light of' the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education.

To a point, this behavior, is precisely among the reasons I reached out to the Alliance to begin with.

I stand by my efforts to ensure integrity in the Public Waldorf movement and will always work with courage to do so. Furthermore, I would welcome a public clarification and apology from Ms. Kelley and encourage the Board to direct this restorative action.

Regarding Safety: Racism, Homophobia, Sexual Harassment & Violence

I am aware that ongoing complaints and indicated interventions that have not significantly changed the behaviors of perpetrators.

As discussed in my comment to the Board May 27, most of the stated interventions are not evidence based nor data driven and it's unfortunate that parents need to take time-consuming escalated actions to advocate for basic student rights to safety at Journey School. It bears no mention that children cannot learn if they do not feel safe. Safety effects on academics, well-being, attendance, attrition, school-composition, and reputation were discussed at length on May 27.

In addition, it is unfortunate that Ms. Kelley, expressed antagonism towards complainants at the May 27 Board meeting, stating that safety complainants are expecting a 'homeschool like environment' and for school personnel to 'see everything'. Personal antagonism by an administrator serves no legitimate purpose and should be avoided professionally.

Indeed, I believe complainants are reasonably asking for the school to improve students' supervision, evidence-based preventative education, conscious authoritative discipline, and restorative practices. None of which have taken place with any perceptible degree of effectiveness.

With urgency, I encourage the Board to act on the many issues which are within the subject matter of safety complaints.

For example, after informing the administration that staff are routinely on their cellphones during assigned recess duties October of 2024, the pervasive problem persists at the expense of student safety and complainant parents were removed from volunteerism to shield the problem from parent's view. As discussed, retaliating against complainants does nothing to improve students' safety but does erode parents trust in the school.

Indeed, students can be observed physically abusing one another while staff scroll on their cellphones. I have observed this as recently as Monday, April 21, on a whim, while dropping off paperwork. I observed two lower school children punch, kick, and put each other in headlocks while staff scrolled on their cell phones. They screamed, "I hate you" and "I will kill you" while violently fighting for ten minutes without intervention. Only the bell ringing ended their fight. I will be sending documentation upon request.

Thank you, again, for your governance. Please include a copy of my letter and the Board's response, if any, in the minutes of your next meeting.

With gratitude,
Alicia Cordova

Board Comment

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Hello, I am Alastair from Ms. Boley's 7th grade. I would like to discuss a few of the issues that have yet to be resolved. My mom has already brought to the school's attention that there is a recurring problem of bullying and inappropriate behavior. As you may have noticed, my leg is currently broken. That is the result of being pushed while playing football at the back field. Though it may be perceived as coincidental, the boy who pushed me was also one who had bullied me before. It depends on how you want to view it; he might have gone after me, but we were playing a sport. But the rules are two hand touch. Of greater consequence is the fact that, considering these concerns, no great changes have been noticed. When I arrived back at school, I quickly noticed that people were still being racist, dirty minded, touching each other's privates, ridiculing, and excluding others. Though the school said that they had dealt with these problems, the behavior hasn't changed at all. I would feel more secure if the school would inform us about their action plan for addressing these issues.

Thank you,
Alastair