

Journey School
A California Public Charter School

September 26, 2019

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Approved October 28, 2019

6:00 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS:

Anna Brown, Council President: Present
Julie Chiaverini, Council Vice President: Present
Lorraine Donovan, Council Treasurer: Absent
Richard Martin, Council Secretary: Present
Jeannie Lee, Educational Trustee Member: Present
Meggan Bunce, Parent Cabinet Member: Present

Administrator Gavin Keller and administrative consultant Franci Sassin were present. Staff member Joy Halverson was present.

AGENDA ITEM	
1	Call to Order and Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.
2	Inspirational Passage

	Richard Martin commented on the role of singing in Waldorf Education, including his own personal experience with learning to sing when he was a teacher, as well as the research on how singing brings about relaxation and promotes social engagement.
3	<p>Approval of Agenda*</p> <p>NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded and approved unanimously.</p>
4	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT: Reminder: Please fill-out a speaker card; see policy above for guidelines</p> <p>Jessica Monroe addressed the Council as a parent and former Council member. She spoke to the importance of parent participation on the board and the fact that there is not a legal reason to keep parents or staff off of the board, and that in fact, there is a specific section of law that allows this for charter schools. She also informed the board that she has researched the governance structure of several other Waldorf schools by looking at their websites, and all that she looked at have a lot of parent board members, plus some have faculty representatives as well.</p>
5	<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 meeting of August 22, 2019.</p> <p>B. Staffing Plan for 2019-20*: Approval of updates to staffing plan.</p> <p>C. Limited Use Maintenance Agreement with Aliso Viejo Community Association for 2019-20*: Approval of agreement for use of the park space.</p> <p>Item 5C was removed from consent.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve the consent agenda items, except for Item C, which was seconded and approved unanimously.</p> <p>On Item 5C there was a question from staff about the use of the nearby parks. Gavin Keller clarified the limits of the uses of nearby parks. This agreement is in force until December, 2019 and an updated agreement will be brought back for an update for calendar year 2020.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve Item 5C which was seconded and approved unanimously.</p>
6	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS: Reports</p> <p>A. Faculty Update: Update on Faculty activities.</p> <p>Faculty member Jeannie Lee reported that Cathy Johnson presented an hour of staff training on dyslexia. Board member Lorraine Donovan was present for the training. Jeannie Lee informed the</p>

board that several of the methods presented in the training are already incorporated into Waldorf instructional practices, but there is different terminology being used. If staff can learn more about the updated terminology they will be able to better communicate that these methods are in fact already being used.

There will be an upcoming social dance festival which will celebrate the kick off of the 100 year Waldorf anniversary. It will be a “no waste” event and will be taking place on October 4 in the evening.

Jeannie reported that the school year has gotten off to a very smooth and comfortable start, the staff feels very cohesive. Different staff members have signed up for each of the Council meetings to share different perspectives from the faculty with the board.

Joy Halverson, the Games teacher, addressed the board. She reported that parents are more informed and communication is excellent across the organization. The after school program is going smoothly. She will also be adding competitive sports for the middle school (starting with 5th grade), competing only with other area Waldorf schools so that the level of competition is more “friendly”. Each sport cycle will be about 6 weeks. Volleyball and surfing/bodyboarding will start in October, then other sports will follow.

B. Parent Cabinet Update: Update on Parent Cabinet activities

Meggan Bunce reported that the “Parent Square” efforts have paid off despite some early resistance. It seems to be helping communication. Parent Cabinet will provide an ice cream truck to the social event next week.

She reported that she has been hearing a lot of concerns about the board composition and the Parent Cabinet role. Anna Brown attended an Executive Team meeting and discussed this in depth. There were questions and discussions about the roles of different stakeholders in the school, and the various conflict of interest issues, as well as what parents understand about the role and relationship of the board to the operations of the school.

She reported that there are concerns from parents about possible mold issues on campus. The solutions are complex and it can be difficult to determine the effectiveness. Parent Cabinet has been discussing these options and the expenses.

Many parents have concerns about the new vaccination laws which may have a potentially large impact on the school in the future.

Meggan reported that Parent Cabinet is very supportive of having their extra funds go towards Waldorf training for staff. The implementation of the “three streams” is going well from the parent perspective.

C. Administrative Update*: Report from School Director, including facilities summary, student

supervision, back to school activities, CUSD oversight activities update, Special Education service update, etc.

Gavin Keller reiterated how well the school year has started, he feels that the proactive approach to student support through the “three streams”, as well as the increased adult supervision has helped. There are “peace paths” that have been painted on the blacktop for grades 1-4 to provide problem solving tools during recess, and students have been using them already. The older students are also going through the process but don’t have the visual image in their part of the campus.

The CUSD partnership for meal service is going well, there are over 100 meals daily, sometimes up to 150 meals per day, of which around 20 are for adults. Some students are participating in the low income meal program and others are paying full price.

Facilities concerns from parents have arisen lately, some of which started during the parent work day, due to some odors noticed. Work orders to CUSD were submitted for air quality assessments. The school also had a private contractor do an assessment and the results were found to be acceptable (i.e. more mold spores outside than inside) for students. There is discussion within the parent community about whether additional remediation needs to be done because the potential solutions may have their own down sides. CUSD has done some maintenance work to address minor water damage, and further test results are pending. There have been concerns about the wireless signals and possible negative effects, but it is not economically feasible to install a completely “wired” network on campus.

Parent education opportunities are coming up. Lee Sturgeon Day , a Waldorf expert, especially on the four temperaments, will be on campus in mid-October to work with faculty and parents. Kim John Payne will be returning later in the year. Parents can also access his webinars with parent education topics, and the school gets a refund back if parents purchase any services from him.

There have been several minor criminal incidents where students and members of the public were being assaulted in the creek trail. The school suspended off campus walks but it is believed the perpetrator has now been apprehended.

CUSD has shifted how they support school sites this year with respect to the Special Education program. The number of Program Specialists on the district staff has been reduced drastically. The responsibilities have been pushed to site administrators, such as writing the Prior Written Notices and other legal documents. Gavin is looking into what legal or training support he will need to get in order to fulfill this new role.

D. Financial Report*: *Report on July and August financials and other updates.*

Gavin Keller reported on the most recent financial information. There is not a lot of activity yet to report on. He pointed out a few typos in the fiscal year verbiage. He pointed out a few items related to the state

	budget.
7	<p>SCHOOL OPERATIONS (Discussion/Action):</p> <p><i>A. Legislative Update*: Review of new laws related to charter schools, including accountability and renewal.</i></p> <p>Gavin Keller reported to the board about several new laws which will impact the school. Regarding SB 276, an updated immunization law, the school has already seen some students withdrawing based on the potential impact of the law. The school may also have some level of scrutiny from the state if the total rate of vaccination among Journey students is lower than the percentage set by the state.</p> <p>Gavin also reviewed AB 1507, which limits where the facilities of a charter can be, but as long as Journey’s site is within CUSD boundaries it is not expected that the school will be negatively impacted by this new law. If the school was to seek a permanent facility outside of the district boundaries, this law would have a significant impact.</p> <p>Finally, Gavin reviewed AB 1505, including the changes to charter renewal timelines and processes, as well as renewal criteria and terms. Another large impact of this law is on the credentialing for charter teachers. This can potentially have a big impact on Journey School as many specialty teachers are not California credentialed but have Waldorf certification or other specialized training.</p> <p><i>B. Charter Renewal Update: Review of potential timelines and requirements for charter renewal.</i></p> <p>Gavin Keller discussed the options for a renewal timeline and there are still questions regarding what will need to be incorporated into the charter during this school year. The pros and cons of different timelines were discussed. One very important aspect is when the school’s academic performance results will be available. The review of the charter is already underway by the school’s administrative team.</p> <p>Gavin asked the board to review their bios and email Gavin any changes so those can be incorporated into the charter. The updated charter will be brought to the board for approval prior to submission. This may require a special board meeting.</p>
8	<p>BOARD DEVELOPMENT (Discussion/Action):</p> <p><i>A. Council Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy*: Review and discussion of additional revisions to this Council Policy.</i></p> <p>The Council reviewed the updates and revisions which were based on the discussion from last meeting. There was discussion about how the policy might be implemented with various examples of</p>

	<p>possible conflict of interest.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve the Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy as presented, which was seconded and approved unanimously.</p> <p>B. <i>Board Self-Evaluation and Board Training*</i>: Review/discussion of Board’s self-evaluation process and any upcoming training opportunities.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the upcoming CSDC conference in December. Several board members are interested and will contact Gavin about registration.</p> <p>There was discussion about the various topics that the board might want to have included in the annual cycle of board self-evaluation. Council members commented that Spring would be a good time of year to review the board meeting logistics, perhaps in April. Ideally it would be at a meeting when the agenda is lighter.</p> <p>There was discussion about having the board terms change at a different time of the year. The onboarding process is best at slower times of the year. The board had an interest in looking at setting norms for board discussion to improve meeting efficiency. There was also a discussion about the protocols for when new board members are being nominated for a seat. One idea is to ask potential new board members to attend several board meetings prior to being nominated or approved. There was discussion about whether to invite a candidate to attend the meeting in which the candidate is voted on.</p> <p>Anna Brown will work on drafting a self-evaluation cycle for the board and bring it back to the board at a future meeting.</p>
9	<p><i>Adjournment</i></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8 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.***