

**LIVE OAK CHARTER SCHOOL**  
100 Gness Concourse Petaluma, CA 94952 • (707) 762-9020

**Minutes for the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Live Oak Charter School**  
**August 4, 2021**  
**5:30pm**

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

The Board of Directors (“Board”) and employees of Live Oak Charter shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access the Board meeting may do so at:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73667647764?pwd=U1I0YnNPQy9iaVpmYjRXUDFUyVIYZz09>

Meeting ID: 736 6764 7764

Passcode: 5VdWWj

You may also call in using the Zoom phone number:  
669 900 6833 US

Members of the public who wish to comment during public comment sections at the start of the meeting or after presentation of items on the agenda may use the “raise hand” on the Zoom platform. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated into English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a participant from the meeting if the participant unreasonably disrupts the Board Meeting

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on the Live Oak Charter School’s website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting by emailing [kim.anderson@liveoakcharter.org](mailto:kim.anderson@liveoakcharter.org). All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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**Mission & Program**

To ensure the humanity and potential of its students through an education resonant with their unfolding awareness and capacities, and supportive of the full and integrated development of body, heart, and mind. LOCS provides a K-8 program inspired by Waldorf education to children and families of Petaluma and surrounding communities. Waldorf inspired education is a developmental approach to learning that cultivates the innate capacities of each child through age appropriate curriculum. Live Oak educates the whole child – head, heart, and hands, through an education that integrates each child’s creative, intellectual, emotional, physical and social domains. Live Oak offers an interdisciplinary liberal arts program where art, music, and movement are integrated with core academic instruction. Exploration of the natural world, human culture, language and mathematics enlivens curiosity which is the foundation of intellectual growth, conceptual flexibility, empathy and sense of connectedness.

**PRESENT**

Stacy Ito, Board Secretary & Meeting Facilitator  
Chris Fox, Board Director  
James Jensen, Board Treasurer, joined at 5:45pm  
Robert Bunce, Board Director  
Kirsten Walter, Board Director  
Jessica Umphress, Board Director

**ABSENT**

Patrick Kennel, Board Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

**5:38pm**

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Move to approve the agenda JU, 2nd RB, Aye SI, CF, RB, KW.

**A. Public Comment on non-agenda items**

*(15 min)*

This portion of the meeting is set aside for members of the public to make comments or raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. The board cannot, by law, respond or take action on any issue not specifically on the agenda. Public Comment presentations are limited to three minutes per presentation and the total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen minutes.

1. Justine Z and Ron W: Our daughter is not comfortable with not wearing masks outside, which the county health officer Dr. Mase has recommended. We want to let the school board know that students have concerns around not wearing masks outside with friends, due to the Delta variant. We are also in favor of Dr. Mase’s recommendation for a mandate that all employees show evidence of vaccination or undergo weekly testing for COVID 19.
2. Sastra: Wants to know if Live Oak’s COVID safety protocols hold up with what we are learning about the Delta variant. Unclear about what the current mitigation measures are, including distancing, masking and testing. Needing more communication from the school regarding plans to deal with the Delta variant.

**B. The board will consider the following for discussion and vote**

1. Independent Study Program at LOCS

Staff Recommendation: Continue current Independent Study Program and in accordance with SB 130

Background Information provided by administration and knowledgeable board members regarding SB/AB 130 and its specified Independent Study Program:

The conclusion from the state legislature is that it agrees with CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) that in-person instruction is the best method of education for children during the COVID pandemic, and is safe to do so with mitigation strategies. AB130 is a trailer bill that authorizes schools to offer a remote learning opportunity through an Independent Study program, which are significantly different from current independent study programs utilized by schools for extended absences, as well as significantly different from last year's distance learning experiences. As a charter school, LOCS is explicitly exempted from offering this opportunity, as all charter schools are exempt from the Independent Study program requirement of AB130. If LOCS offered an independent study program as directed by AB130, it would not be able to align with our school's educational model and values. Students would have very little daily instruction (45 minutes a day in small groups for K-3, 4-8 would only get a few sessions weekly with their teacher), no specialty instruction at all (i.e. handwork, movement, music), and the teacher would be a specific independent study teacher, not their classroom teacher. All students K-8 would work with this one teacher, and they would likely not have many grade level peers. The state recognizes that distance learning did not serve students last year, and that not all families are comfortable or able to return to school in a pandemic, and is offering this bill as a one year program. However, this program would be very isolating for students, even more so than last year. Charter schools are exempt, this is really a district mandate, and even small districts can opt out, as this is a very expensive program to create for small schools and districts. To clarify, all charter schools are exempt; small districts can be granted a waiver, which SCOE (Sonoma County Office of Education) has already promised to grant all waivers, due to extreme cost and worries over program quality.

Public comment

1. Ron W: Will the school pool the school body to gauge interest in an AB130 Independent Study Program?
2. Bill P: There doesn't seem to be a plan for those who need this program--what are families supposed to do with only 2 weeks until school starts if we need the independent study option and LOCS doesn't offer it?
3. Justine Z: There would be a big impact to the school's budget if 20% of the school leaves because they need the Independent Study program option.
4. Sastra: What are the protocols for covid exposure in relation to independent study? We need better communication around this and would like to have options.

Board Discussion:

1. What are some of the budgetary implications of an IS program as directed by AB130? How would that impact LOCS as a small school with an already tight budget?
  - a. At the minimum, there is the teacher salary and benefits which would be ~100k/yr,

- plus additional administration support hours.
- b. 18-20 students would need to participate in the IS program for the entire school year for the program to break even.
  - c. Charters are exempt from offering this because the state recognizes that the financial burden would be too great to handle. SCOE has said waivers will be granted for small districts that apply for them, many small districts in our county are not able to shoulder this financial burden.
  - d. There is no funding provided to schools to offer this, all districts must bear the burden without support from the State or the Federal government.
2. Could we do a consortium model and share a program with other sister schools?
    - a. It is not being discussed currently and would be incredibly difficult to achieve due to contracts, unions, and difficulty of sharing financial resources.
  3. What can we do in the next week so that people can fully understand what our mitigation measures are so that more families can feel comfortable? Our school needs to clearly outline what the health and safety protocols are and get that information out as soon as possible.
    - a. A virtual Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 11, 2021 at 6 pm. Email communications will be going out to the community as well.
    - b. All efforts are being made to update the school website and COVID Hub and get clear information out to the community. Unfortunately not many things are clear at the moment; this week for example, will hold more training/webinars from SCOE and County Health Department regarding COVID 19 mitigation strategies, procedures, etc. As soon as the school gets the information, and then digests and assimilates it to our unique school circumstances, then we can get it out to our families.
  4. What can we do so that we are not exiting people from our community permanently? How could we make a re-entry program for them for next year, for example?
    - a. Administration will be working with families to see what can be done.

JU moves to follow staff recommendation to continue LOCS' current Independent Study Program as it stands, and thereby not provide the Independent Study Program as written in AB130. RB 2nd, Aye: SI, CF, KW, JJ.

### **C. ADJOURNMENT 7:04pm**