

LIVE OAK CHARTER SCHOOL
100 GROSS CONCOURSE PETALUMA, CA 94952 • (707) 762-9020

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Live Oak Charter School
November 9, 2021
6:00pm

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 School shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access the Board meeting may do so at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88446566472?pwd=MkNKT0s4VjJBRWhiYTIDajA3R0hwdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 4656 6472 Passcode: 314265
You may also call in using the Zoom phone number: 669 900 6833 US

Please be advised that the Sonoma County Public Health Officer issued social distancing recommendations for public meetings, available at:
<https://socoemergency.org/recommendation-of-the-health-officer-public-meetings/>

As discussed in Legal Update No. 15-2021 regarding recent amendments to the Brown Act and pursuant to AB361, local public agencies in Sonoma County may proceed to hold virtual meetings after September 30, 2021 without holding a separate meeting to make a determination that meeting in person would present imminent danger. For so long as the public health recommendations remain in effect, local public agencies should also plan to reconsider the circumstances of the emergency every 30 days and make appropriate findings to continue with virtual meetings.

Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may use the “raise hand” tool on the Zoom platform. Members of the public calling in will be given the opportunity to address the Board during the meeting. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to 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 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 the 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 72 hours prior to the meeting by emailing 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 ADA.

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Present:

Jessica Umphress, Board Director and Facilitator
Cortney Calahan, Board Secretary
James Jensen, Board Treasurer
Robert Bunce, Board Director
Kristen Walter, Board Director
Stacy Ito, Board Director
Justin Tomola, Executive Director

Absent:

Christopher Fox, Board Director
John Azzizzi, Business Manager

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.

CALL TO ORDER

6:00pm

APPROVE THE AGENDA

JU moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item strike E3; RB seconded; ayes: JU, CC, JJ, RB, KW, SI

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. No comment

B. Reports

This portion of the meeting is set aside for delivery of information to the board/public. Board members may ask clarifying questions, but items are intended to be primarily informational.

1. Treasurer Report (James Jensen) *(5 min)*
 - a. 1st interim budget will be on agenda in December
2. Foundation Report (Robert Bunce) *(5 min)*
 - a. Participation numbers are improving
 - b. Foundation working on promoting Foundation via paperwork
 - c. Successful auction kick-off event

3. Director's Update (Justin Tomola) (20 min)
- a. Tours beginning this month - tours will be online and will showcase student samples and pedagogical information; campus will be toured, but not classrooms
 - b. Educational Programming and Instruction
 - i. Grades 3-8 have been tested on benchmarks for reading and math
 - ii. Noteworthy that wifi upgrades are strong and support many users at once and 90 students can be tested over course of 2 days (helpful when state testing takes place in spring)
 - iii. Majority of students were at or above benchmark level
 - iv. KW - We are seeing aggregate data, not grade data. Does this data hold up to what we would expect in our Waldorf inspired model?
 - v. RB - Curious what staff think of this tool and how closely it aligns with what LO teaches?
 - c. COVID
 - i. As of today, no COVID cases on campus
 - ii. Pediatric vaccination - will work on providing information to public according to CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics
 - d. Social Emotional Learning
 - i. Counseling services are back - 2 counselors will be providing 17 hours/week of services
 - ii. Teacher referral process
 - iii. SI - Gratitude to JT for securing SEL services; Feedback about STAR renaissance - 6th grader enjoyed the test and how it fit the level of the student; Does STAR Renaissance provide comparisons between schools (reference points)? *JT - not sure but will ask*
 - iv. KW - Gratitude for JT securing SEL services; Why is it hard to secure counselors? Is there funding from the state for counselors? *JT - Demand; Setting is not in demand; Grant funded*
4. CRT Update (Kristin Walter) (5 min)
- a. Meeting on Fridays
 - b. Making headway on ParentSquare to connect parents with school engagement opportunities
 - c. Community Forum - engaging community in potentially contentious topics; inviting the energy of what's possible from community and envisioning a post-covid world
 - d. JU - November 17 is Community Forum

C. Consent agenda (5 min)

1. Public comment - none
2. Board comment - none
3. RB moved to approve the consent agenda; JJ seconded; Ayes: JU, CC, JJ, RB, KW, SI

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine, and all will be enacted by one motion and vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member requests items to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate action.

1. Board minutes for October 14, 2021; October 23, 2021
2. Financials for October 2021
3. RESIG 20-21 Public Self-Insurers Annual Report

D. The board will consider the following for review and approval

No public comment

1. Plan to hold December 2021 board meetings in-person or using Zoom platform (5 min)
(Jessica Umphress)
Staff recommendation: Hold December 2021 board meetings via Zoom
 - a. JU moved to approve; JJ seconded; Ayes: JU, CC, JJ, RB, KW, SI
2. Review and adopt by-law updates (15 min)
Second review and adoptions of change to Article 3 Section 6, regarding interested directors. Comprehensive review and adoption of non-material language updates.
(Jessica Umphress)
Staff recommendation: Adopt amended by-laws
 - a. Reviewed updated non-material language updates and Article 3 Section 6
 - b. JU moved to adopt the material change to Article 3, Section 6 and the updated language to the by-laws; SI seconded; Ayes: JU, CC, JJ, RB, KW, SI

E. The Board will consider the following for discussion:

No public comment

1. Educator Effectiveness Grant plan review (Justin Tomola) (10 min)
 - a. Eligible for fiscal years 21/22 - June 2026
 - b. Must spend funds or lose funds
 - c. JJ - Grant has comprehensive coverage of items funds can be spent on.
 - d. RB - How can we use funds to support teacher retention?
 - e. JU - flexible plan for spending funds
2. Plans for LOCS 21 year anniversary (Jessica Umphress) (10 min)
 - a. Celebrate: Auction, Alumni reconnection, Art installation on campus
 - b. Education: What does it mean to be a public Waldorf school? What are the 7 year cycles? Work with faculty.
 - c. Strategic Planning: What is LO's future path with diversity, equity, and inclusivity? What will our facilities look like? How can we safeguard a successful rechartering in 2026?
 - d. KW - Appreciation to JU for work on this vision and celebration

F. Board Development

No public comment

1. Board retreat planning update (Jessica Umphress) (10 min)
 - a. More to come
2. Board Norms (Jessica Umphress) (15 min)
 - a. Discussion on norms and those that resonated most
 - b. Board directors will review norms and each consider recommending 2 for consideration in creating Live Oak Board Norms; to be discussed further.

G. Topics for consideration for future board meetings

Please email future agenda items for consideration to Justin.Tomola@liveoakcharter.org and jessica.umphress@liveoakcharter.org

H. ADJOURNMENT 8:19 pm