

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

Minutes for the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors Live Oak Charter School
100 Gness Concourse, Petaluma
May 23, 2024
6:00pm

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.

Live Oak Charter Board Norms

- *Be brief and respect others.*
- *Be prepared for board meetings by asking questions ahead of time and follow the "No Surprise Rule."*
- *Avoid hidden agendas and springing any surprises on other members.*
- *Focus on an agenda item until it is resolved or until a specified time has been reached to resume the resolution process.*
- *Give your full listening attention.*
- *Be open to challenge your own beliefs and ideas; Stay open to new ways of doing things.*
- *Success depends on participation – share ideas, ask questions, draw others out.*
- *Refrain from deriding other individuals’ ideas. Strive to value all opinions.*
- *Work in the interest of all students.*
- *Own your mistakes.*
- *Celebrate success – take time to recognize small steps or progress toward goals.*
- *Don’t interrupt.*
- *Express gratitude and appreciation.*

OPENING - Call to order
PM

6:03

PRESENT:

Stacy Ito, Board Chair
Robert Bunce, Board Treasurer
Samantha Sheppard, Board Secretary
Justin Lipp, Board Clerk
Jessica Umphress, Board Director
Kristin Walter, Board Director
Linda Delgado, Executive Director
Kristina Tank-Crestetto, Board Director

A. Approve the agenda

JL moved to approve, KW seconded; all in favor SI, SS, JU, JL, RB, KW, and KWC

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

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.

No public comment.

C. CLOSED SESSION

1. Gov Code 54957.6 Conference with Labor Negotiators (Robert Bunce, Samantha Sheppard)
2. Gov Code 54957.6 Negotiations with unrepresented groups (Jessica Umphress)

D. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON OPEN SESSION

Per Heather, we've made so much progress since 2019. She is very proud of the community and the board.

F. OPEN SESSION

1. Terms of the MOU for becoming a dependent charter
 - a. Per JU, we have two conversations with the district 1. Will we become a dependent charter 2. Will we partner with Valley Vista. Meeting scheduled with charter school expert lawyer next week to work on an MOU (memorandum of understanding); what do we want in that agreement?
 - b. We provided a list of non-negotiables, and per RB, we want to provide the district with a dollar amount/resource list associated with those. What staffing do we want to take? Who is doing hiring? Foundation vs. PTA? Site council? Public alliance certification complete. Per KW, need to include Little Ones. Our list we provided to the district included: all teachers Waldorf trained/certified; school day schedule in alignment with Waldorf; classroom = waldorf; low tech classroom; specialist math teacher; specialty programs; teachers provide curriculum; different Williams assessment; looping; restorative justice practices; field trips; multiple parent meetings, parent education; pre-1st grade home visits; cultural life of school in rituals/festivals; classroom aides TK/K, 1st, handwork; grades not given till middle school, student assessment in Waldorf way; site council; faculty leadership team; work with other public waldorf schools; ongoing learning for teachers; mastery tests given infrequently before Middle School. We should also include prep periods.
 - c. All current district charters were written by district staff aside from Cherry Valley. The board at LOCS has written the charter because we are independent. Per LD, typically the school (site council, principal).
 - d. Include scope and phases of project in MOU, per KTC/KW. Also, per RB, need to include plans for next year community building in the MOU, e.g. shared field trips, joint teacher training. Maybe these should go into an implementation plan, and also include extra in-service days at the beginning of school. Pler LD, could include this in an addendum, and we should focus on the MOU for becoming dependent.
 - e. Waldorf education is proven to support English Language Learners.

2. Review of the consolidated questions from the Town Hall
 - a. KW and JU created a document consolidating questions from the Town Hall and answering them. The goal is to get a communication out to the community within the next day that provides answers and information to our community about becoming a dependent charter and our strategic plan. The board worked on edits to the document and talked about the communication needed with our community.

G. ADJOURNMENT
PM

9:33