

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

Agenda for the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Live Oak Charter School
Handwork Room and Zoom
January 25, 2024
6:00pm

School board meetings are being conducted in hybrid format, by virtual teleconference and in person. Members of the public who wish to access the Board meeting via virtual teleconference may do so at:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://liveoakcharter-org.zoom.us/j/91769607185?pwd=NVFxVThSeIFlcWtmWDNDVERicHJQQT09>

Meeting ID: 982 8176 2947

Passcode: 393019

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,98281762947#,,,,*393019# US (San Jose)

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Members of the public calling in will be given the opportunity to address the Board during the meeting. They should use the “raise hand” tool on the Zoom platform. 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

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

- *We work in the interest of ALL of Live Oak’s students.*
- *We are prepared for board meetings by asking questions ahead of time.*
- *We follow the "No Surprise Rule;" we are committed to avoiding hidden agendas.*
- *We focus on an agenda item until it is resolved or until a specified time has been reached to resume the resolution process.*
- *Our success depends on our participation – we share ideas, ask questions, draw others out.*
- *We give our full listening attention.*
- *We raise our hand and speak when called upon.*
- *We strive to be brief and respectful to others.*
- *We refrain from deriding other individuals’ ideas and strive to value all opinions.*
- *We own our mistakes.*
- *We are open to challenging our own beliefs and ideas; we stay open to new ways of doing things.*
- *We celebrate success by taking time to recognize small steps or progress toward goals.*
- *We express gratitude and appreciation.*

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CALL TO ORDER

6:05 pm

Identify a time-keeper for the meeting

PRESENT:

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion to amend the agenda, removing C1 and C2 (not ready yet), and change E1 to Mid-year work assignments (fix a typo).

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

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. While government code allows speakers to criticize the district's policies, procedures, programs, services, and/or employees, the school does have a policy specific to complaints against employees. Should comments from the public pertain to a specific school employee, the Board requests that the complaint first be submitted, in writing, following the General Complaint Policy for investigation.

No public comment

B. Reports

No public comment

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. Director's Update (Linda Delgado)
 - a. Waldorf Alliance Conference - LD and JU attended a couple of weeks ago; focus was on practitioners. Attendees were there from all over the country and were dedicated to Waldorf practices. We're using the Alliance's Waldorf self study practices with the faculty to examine 7 core principles through the lens of 4 key questions.
 - b. Attendance for the first 5 months of school (priority is institutional sustainability). There are some families that haven't had any tardies. For independent study, the return rate has been fairly good, but could be improved. We're figuring out this process (does it live with teachers or the office?). Our independent study is working, and it would be good to automate more.
 - c. Moment of Zen (photo of plants) kids are growing a buckeye garden; they have been working on it during recesses.
2. Alliance Conference Report (Linda Delgado, Jessica Umphress)
 - a. The conference was fantastic - they did panels rather than a keynote. They invited 3 different Waldorf schools to present on it.
 - b. Multiple states were represented and different school sizes.
 - c. Teacher recruitment was a recurring theme.
 - d. Some history - there was a lawsuit that started in the 90's, determined whether we can have public Waldorf schools, that lasted over a decade.
 - e. There is a program that provides Waldorf certification and a Masters degree, making the commitment more transferable.
 - f. JU attended a session about getting parents more involved.
3. Butter & Eggs Day Committee
 - a. We need to create a committee. Jen from the Foundation has submitted the application, but would like to be relieved of other responsibilities.

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

- ~~1. Enrollment Policy/Classroom size for 2023/24 (Linda Delgado) (15 min)
Staff recommendation is to align class sizes with the multi-year projection of 30 students per class (22 in kindergarten) (Fully Enrolled at 284).
Staff recommendation to remove requirement for a board member to observe the lottery, now that lotteries are held through Lotterese software and the lottery is recorded on Zoom.~~

- ~~2. 2024/25 Academic Calendar update and approval (Linda Delgado) (15 min)~~
~~Staff recommendation is to approve the calendar~~
Tabled to February

D. The Board will consider the following for discussion:

No public comment.

1. Annual LOCS Parent Survey Preview (Samantha Sheppard)
 - a. The survey is on track to go out late February/early March. We will need more reminders/touch points this year to get response rate up.
 - b. We've invited the faculty and foundation to participate. JU stated that the TechWise parent group is interested in participating.
 - c. Would like input from the board on the focus of this year's questions. We previously discussed linking the survey to our strategic plan goals (institutional stability, belonging, student joy and engagement), new endeavors (i.e. Champions), and new ideas (i.e. year round calendar).
 - d. Ideas:
 - i. Foundation - parent orientation - did you attend? find helpful? every 2 years?
 - ii. Question around touchpoints, student belonging, parent belonging/having questions answered
 - iii. Facilities
 - iv. Year Round school
2. 2024-25 Programming discussion with consideration of 2nd Interim Budget and State 2024/25 budget projections (Stacy Ito)
 - a. State budget is about what was presented, but this year we are in a bigger hole than projected. Live Oak has a deficit of \$387k for the 23-24 school year. Our breakeven enrollment is 284, and our current enrollment is ~251. It is imperative to increase our enrollment in order to survive and thrive. Live Oak cannot survive on our current low enrollment. RB or LD will present the budget and our enrollment deficit at the faculty meeting next week. We're looking for partnership and input about priorities from the faculty. If we cannot grow enrollment substantially, there are only 4 or so budget items that can be cut. If cuts are necessary, we will need to think about the communication of the change to the community.
3. Conversations and ideas about SOMO village (Jessica Umphress and Kristin Walter)
 - a. We have two willing partners at SOMO, interested in opening a K-8 Waldorf school on site, including teacher training via SSU. There is no thought to move LO to SOMO village, but there is money from the state for charter replication.
4. Updates on Institutional Sustainability (Linda & Jessica)
 - a. Dependent/Independent Charter - enrollment and teacher staffing. We will have the same issues we are currently having going dependent, due to low enrollment (ie we would still need to cut programs given our budget). Programs depend on what can be afforded. Enrollment is what makes programming possible. Dependent charters have an advisory committee that is allowed to participate in interviews, but do not have any decision making responsibilities.

E. Board Development

No public comment.

1. ~~Establish 2024 Butter & Eggs Committee~~ Mid-year work assignments (Stacy Ito, Jessica Umphress)
 - a. All open projects are on track.
 - b. Butter & Eggs Coordinator needed. Kristin has volunteered.
 - c. Jessica will work with Linda on a board resolution about school culture.
2. Mid-year progress report plan for February
 - a. Check in on goals discussed in September: 1) making being on a board sustainable, 2) enrollment, 3) engagement. Justin will create a Google Doc to gather info for the board for February.
3. Reminder for Form 700
 - a. Please complete the form. A reminder is in your email.

F. Topics for consideration for future board meetings

Please email future agenda items for consideration to director@liveoakcharter.org and boardchair@liveoakcharter.org

G. ADJOURNMENT

9:32 pm