

# PATRICK KENNEL

---

May 12, 2020

Patrick Kennel

To The Members of the Live Oak Charter School Board,

Hello everyone! After careful consideration of the matter - I would like to submit myself for entry to the spring 2020 elections for Live Oak board members.

For those of you with whom I not yet acquainted myself, let me provide some backstory on myself. I am father to one child, my daughter who is in attendance at LOCS with in 1st grade. This is our 3rd year at Live Oak, and we couldn't be happier with this school and the community. I am an East Coast transplant and my daughters mother is a native of the wider Bay Area. When we both moved to Petaluma I was yet unfamiliar with the Waldorf philosophy but by stroke of luck we were able to enter into the world of Waldorf education through her incredible and imaginative arms.

When it was time for my daughter to move on to Kindergarten - her mother and I did not hesitate to enroll at Live Oak! We then had 2 more sweet and precious years in kindergarten that I know all 3 of us will cherish for a lifetime.

While the path was not necessarily intentional for us arriving at Live Oak - I feel blessed and lucky that it happened. My own heritage is rooted in spirituality and community and although I did not have a familiarity with Waldorf education before coming to Petaluma - I feel like I have already been aligned with it for my whole life.

I have also recognized that since our entry into Live Oak 3 years ago there have been some rather significant changes at the school, and some even large challenges ahead: facilities, budget, etc. What has become obvious to me is that while it was fine for us to sit on the sidelines for the first year or so, and to draw from the group momentum and energy of those who have come before us - that it is now time for us to start to contribute in to that same momentum and energy. For as I understand it this school (and all charter schools for that matter) exist because at a certain point in time a significant enough group of parents cared enough about educating their children a certain way that they banded together with enough energy to create the school. And along the way - like any living thing, the school experiences change

and transformation through the attrition and addition of members. And in seeing the school start to go through such change I have been looking around and asking myself - "with all of these changes... who now is going to keep the spirit of this school alive?"

So now back to the matter at hand — I personally have come to love this school and what it represents. I cannot say that I know the ins and outs of the Waldorf pedagogy - but I can say that I would like to. And I can say that I am in alignment with the spirit of what is happening here. And I see that there is now an opportunity to serve this community in a new way. I have been doing that as opportunities have arisen - in helping the office staff with IT support, in attending board meetings, in being a part of the facilities focus group, in taking on Grow the Music. And I will continue to do so whether or not the timing is correct this year for me to join the board. But over the last weeks I have been asking myself the question of whether or not my sitting on the board would help this school get through the challenges of the next years - and I believe that the answer is yes. I have also been asking myself if I have the personal bandwidth to step up to this role. And the answer there is that while free time is not a word I am familiar with any more - this is important enough for me and my daughter and her mother, and the community that I have come to care about, that I will make time for it.

Now — I don't know exactly how to be a school board member yet - but I am willing to learn. I can't say that I have any particular skill set that will help us through the coming years - but I do have the will arise to what lies ahead. And so - I humbly submit myself for your consideration for the election of new board members.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Kennel