

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
179 H St. Petaluma CA 94952
March 26, 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

6:22

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

A. Approve the agenda

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

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. The board will consider the following topics for discussion

1. Options for 2024/25 TK/K program
 - a. Issues we are trying to address are the TK-K age range is too big and 1st grade needs 30 students. Current solution of separate TK/K classes doesn't provide enough students for 1st grade.
 - b. Possible solution is to add another TK class and put the youngest TK students in that class, leaving current classes with a mix of students with a more manageable age span. We can do this in a separate facility and a one year program (i.e. not guarantee a spot in additional years). We would need to offer aftercare (full day up to 9 hours) for these students to adhere to ELOP. We would need to have a food program and bathrooms in the classroom.
 - c. Options discussed were an off campus facility connected to a Waldorf preschool, or on-site using annex. Class sizes for next year are 24 K and 22 TK. Currently we have 42 on the waitlist for TK, and 16 for kindergarten, but there is no way to determine if these are real numbers (i.e. families are often enrolled in multiple schools until August).
 - d. This might be a one-year need, and expense of setup and the lack of time make feasibility limited. Per RB, a better solution may be to hire a certified aide to lead certain activities in existing classes. SI stated that she is currently in a classroom that has the bigger kindergarteners does the work in the classroom (e.g. making the stone soup, making the bread, polishing and repairing toys) while the younger TK students play, and that the older children enjoy the responsibility of serving the TKers.
2. Identifying institutional priorities for 2024/25 and 2025/26
 - a. Matthew Harris visited our campus with his team and was impressed by what was happening in the classes. His goal for PCS is to have each school be a school of choice, and would like to include Live Oak. He realizes with his experience with setting up dual-immersion programs that this only works if teachers are aligned with the philosophy and have the specialized training needed.
 - b. If we agree to do this, it would be for the 25/26 school year, and he'd like to have agreements done by October, when enrollment season begins.
 - c. Per KTC, we need to set up our non-negotiables in such a way that a change of leadership doesn't affect the school. Also expressed concern about taking over a neighborhood school site without buy-in from overall community and teachers - how we engage in the process will impact our success.
 - d. Leadership team will engage staff in their non-negotiables pertaining to Waldorf and teaching tomorrow.

D. CLOSED SESSION

1. Gov Code 54957.6 Conference with Labor Negotiators (Robert Bunce, Samantha

Sheppard)

E. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report.

F. ADJOURNMENT

PM

10:43