

John Muir Charter Schools  
117 New Mohawk Rd. Ste. F  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
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John Muir Charter Schools Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, July 14, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
John Muir Charter Schools Office  
117 New Mohawk Rd. Suite F  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83306675930>

Meeting ID: 833 0667 5930  
Dial-in by location:  
+1 669 900 9128 US

Audio of this meeting will be recorded

## AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1: This meeting is being held pursuant to the procedures established in Executive Order N-29-20 issued by the Governor on March 17, 2020. All board members may attend the meeting by teleconference. The public may observe and address the meeting via Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENT No. 2: The public will have access to the John Muir Charter Schools Board meeting through Zoom Teleconferencing. Public comments are taken on action, discussion, and information items only; or during the Open Public Forum for items not on the agenda. For those individuals who wish to make a public comment, please do so by using the Zoom raise your hand feature. A moderator will call on you at the appropriate time.

ANNOUNCEMENT No. 3: Should this Board meeting encounter any security breach or inappropriate issues, the meeting will be ended immediately.

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Oral Communications/Public Comments: Recognition of individuals wishing to comment on non-agenda items may do so at this time. Individuals who wish to address an agenda item may do so at this time or at the time the agenda item is heard. After being recognized by the board president, please identify yourself. No individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

4. Additions to the Agenda
5. Adoption of the Agenda
6. Closed Session:
  - A. Personnel Matters - Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Chief Executive Officer (Gov. Code §54957)
7. Return to Open Session: Report Action Taken, If Any
8. Informational/Action Items
  - A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2021  
(Attachment 1, Page 5)
  - B. Approval of Vendor Payments 5/26/21 - 6/25/21 (Attachment 2, Page 11)
  - C. Approval of New and Termed Employees 5/26/21 - 6/25/21 (None)
  - D. Approval of 1-Step Increase for All Employees for the 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment 3, Page 19)
  - E. Approval of Draft Student Harassment and Discrimination Policy  
(Attachment 4, Page 21)
  - F. Approval of Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2021/2022 (Attachment 5, Page 27)
9. Discussion Items
  - A. JMCS Foundation Report
  - B. Board Discussion Regarding Attendance at JMCS Governing Board Meetings in 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment 6, Page 33)
  - C. Staffing Changes and New Hires for the 2021-2022 School Year  
(Attachment 7, Page 35)
  - D. Return to On-site, In-Class Instruction (Attachment 8, Page 37)
  - E. CEO's Report
10. Miscellaneous Information Items
  - A. Correspondence
  - B. Schedule of Future Board Meetings

i. Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 10 a.m. This meeting is being held pursuant to the procedures established in Executive Order N-29-20 issued by the Governor on March 17, 2020. All board members may attend the meeting by teleconference. The public may observe and address the meeting via Zoom.

ii. Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 10 a.m. This meeting is being held pursuant to the procedures established in Executive Order N-29-20 issued by the Governor on March 17, 2020. All board members may attend the meeting by teleconference. The public may observe and address the meeting via Zoom.

iii. The October 13, 2021 Board Meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. at Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps.

Board Attendance at Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021, 10 a.m.  
2021, 10 a.m. (pending approval),

Wednesday, September 8th,

A. Stan Miller: Yes  
Yes or No  
B. Michael Corbett: Yes  
Yes or No  
C. Len Eckhardt: Yes  
Yes or No  
D. Sallie Wilson: Yes  
Yes or No  
E. Gil Botello: Yes  
Yes or No

A. Stan Miller:  
B. Michael Corbett:  
C. Len Eckhardt:  
D. Sallie Wilson:  
E. Gil Botello:

11. Request for Agenda Items

1. Personnel Matters - Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Chief Executive Officer (Gov. Code §54957)

12. Adjournment

This agenda was posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at:

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#### Minutes

1. Meeting Call to Order

Stan Miller called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Introductions

JMCS Board Members in attendance: Stan Miller, Gil Botello, Sallie Wilson, and Len Eckhardt, Michael Corbett (came in at 10:29 a.m.). JMCS Staff Members in attendance: CEO RJ Guess, COO Mike Wegner, Administrative Coordinator Luz Delgado, Northern Regional Director Dawn McConnell.

3. Oral Communications/Public Comments: Recognition of individuals wishing to comment on non-agenda items may do so at this time. Individuals who wish to address an agenda item may do so at this time or at the time the agenda item is heard. After being recognized by the board president, please identify yourself. No individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

None.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion made by Sallie Wilson and seconded by Len Eckhardt, the agenda was adopted on a 5-0-0 vote.

(Ayes: Miller, Botello, Corbett, Eckhardt, Wilson, Noes: None. Absent: None.)

6. Closed Session:

Stan Miller moved to closed session at 10:11 a.m.

A. Personnel Matters - Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Chief Executive Officer (Gov. Code §54957)

7. Return to Open Session: Report Action Taken, If Any

Stan Miller returned to the open session at 11:09

No action was taken.

8. Informational/Action Items

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2021  
(Attachment 1, Page 5)

On a motion made by Gil Botello and seconded by Michael Corbett, the Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2021, were approved on a 5-0-0 vote.

(Ayes: Miller, Botello, Corbett, Eckhardt, Wilson, Noes: None. Absent: None.)

B. Approval of Vendor Payments 5/26/21 - 6/25/21 (Attachment 2, Page 11)

Len Eckhardt asked about the two HP Color LaserJet printer purchases. He asked if it was appearing twice because it was a typo or because two printers were purchased. Mike Wegner informed Len that two were purchased for two sites. Stan Miller asked about the graduation spending funds for the CCC. He wanted to know if the graduation was virtual? RJ Guess affirmed that the graduations were virtual but funds were allocated to CCC sites to host a watch party.

On a motion made by Gil Botello and seconded by Michael Corbett, the Approval of Vendor Payments 5/26/21 - 6/25/21 were approved on a 5-0-0 vote.

(Ayes: Miller, Botello, Corbett, Eckhardt, Wilson, Noes: None. Absent: None.)

C. Approval of New and Termed Employees 5/26/21 - 6/25/21 (None)

Stan Miller announced there were no new or termed employees for this period.

D. Approval of 1-Step Increase for All Employees for the 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment 3, Page 19)

RJ Guess clarified that this step increase is for all staff excluding the CEO and COO and that the motion should match that wording. Len Eckhardt restated that the motion is to approve one-step salary increases for everyone except the CEO and the COO.

On a motion made by Michael Corbett and seconded by Gil Botello, the Approval of 1-Step Increase for All Employees for the 2021-2022 School Year was approved on a 5-0-0 vote.

(Ayes: Miller, Botello, Corbett, Eckhardt, Wilson, Noes: None. Absent: None.)

E. Approval of Draft Student Harassment and Discrimination Policy  
(Attachment 4, Page 21)

Guided by the June 9th meeting suggestions, RJ Guess changed the phrasing from “children” to “students”. He also revised the language of “cowering” so as to not be confused with “cow” as in bovine.

On a motion made by Len Eckhardt and seconded by Gil Botello, the Approval of Draft Student Harassment and Discrimination Policy was approved on a 5-0-0 vote.

(Ayes: Miller, Botello, Corbett, Eckhardt, Wilson, Noes: None. Absent: None.)

F. Approval of Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2021/2022 (Attachment 5, Page 27)

Dawn McConnell explained that this is a requirement of the CTC, and every LEA needs to have its own declaration on file. The declaration is part of AB 1505, it allows JMCS to hire emergency teaching staff and needs to be shown on an agenda and approved by the board. The most common use for JMCS is the emergency CLAD credential. Stan Miller asked if we are anticipating using the exemption, and Dawn replied that we will be using it and shared an example of an incoming teacher from out of state that still needs to be CLAD credentialed. Dawn explained that staff under emergency credentials have a one-year permit that will allow them to be the teacher of record and they must show that they are making progress in attaining their credential. Stan asked who monitors the progress made. Dawn said she is the one who monitors the progress. Gil Botello asked what is the process that an out-of-state teacher goes through. Dawn replied that first, she reviews what credentials they currently have and from what state. Usually, teachers coming from out of state do not have EL authorization. They will then need to acquire a preliminary credential until they can obtain the full credential. This can be done with coursework or an exam.

On a motion made by Gil Botello and seconded by Michael Corbett, the Approval of Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2021/2022 was approved on a 5-0-0 vote.

(Ayes: Miller, Botello, Corbett, Eckhardt, Wilson, Noes: None. Absent: None.)

9. Discussion Items

A. JMCS Foundation Report

Gil Botello reports that the foundation is continuing to create fundraising ideas. Things are going well and moving in the right direction.

B. Board Discussion Regarding Attendance at JMCS Governing Board Meetings in 2021-2022 School Year (Attachment 6, Page 33)

Len Eckhardt asked for clarification on which meetings will be in person and which will be remote. RJ Guess explained that October 13th will be the first in-person meeting. The meeting will be held at Sacramento Regional CC. Luz Delgado has confirmed all future dates with Sac Regional. Attendance dates with board members have also been reviewed.

C. Staffing Changes and New Hires for the 2021-2022 School Year  
(Attachment 7, Page 35)

RJ Guess explained staffing changes leading into the 2021-2022 school year.

- R.J. Guess will continue in his role as CEO
- Dawn McConnell has transitioned into COO
- Lita Lee has transferred and is now the Northern Regional Director replacing Dawn McConnell after her promotion to COO
- Anna Pizelo is the new Southern Regional Director replacing Lita Lee
- Rachel Wegner remains as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and PD
- Aaron Scholl remains as the Community Resources Director
- Tom Reed remains as the Director of Data and Assessment,
- Kyle Monneypenny remains as the IT Director.
- Aristotle Valencia, a teacher at Delta CCC, transferred to the Success Center at San Francisco Youth Build.
- Christina Dickason, the Site Coordinator at Operation New Hope has transferred to Urban Conservation Corps and Inland Empire as a Site Coordinator
- James Patterson, a teacher at Operation New Hope Rancho Cucamonga transferred to Volunteers of America Anaheim Youth Build as a teacher
- Estephania Esparza and David Stewart have transferred to classified tutoring positions
- Amber Thorneycroft is filling the recruitment position and will also be working as a tutor
- Walter Medina will remain as a bilingual support teacher
- Leo Reynonso will be at Rancho Cielo as a full-time math teacher
- Samantha Green will be the new site coordinator at Rancho Cielo.

D. Return to On-site, In-Class Instruction (Attachment 8, Page 37)

RJ Guess explained that all teachers and students will need to wear masks in the classrooms. School staff and office staff have different enforcements. The enforcement of the measure will be at the local level. JMCS will require all students and staff to wear a mask on school grounds. RJ will be figuring out the consequences for students who do not want to wear a mask. RJ informed the board that the CDC is allowing states to develop their own guidelines. The California Department of Public Health has recommended that until 80% of people are vaccinated, all staff and students in classrooms need to wear masks. Staff will be signing an attestation to inform HR about their vaccination status. Gil Botello suggests striking the last paragraph of attestation. Gil is concerned that this can be a privacy and HIPAA concern. RJ explains that this is a voluntary form. The form is taken directly from the CCC state employment guidelines. If a staff member lies about their vaccination status and infects someone with COVID-19 it can be a liability and ethical problem. RJ reminded the board that lying on any employment paperwork can be grounds for termination.

## E. CEO's Report

RJ Guess informed the board of JMCS updates. He began by letting the board know that Kyle Money Penny will be helping Zoom cast the upcoming in-person board meetings. He also announced that HQ is open. RJ had a meeting with the HQ staff and they agreed that hours will be flexed. Kyle will be setting up a call forwarding system for all the HQ staff. A copy of the staff schedule will be posted online. Dawn McConnell, Lita Lee, and RJ will be doing rotating visits to the office each month. Gil Botello asked when there will be a transition into full-time in the office. RJ explained that he intends to set up a model to flex time. RJ then unpacked the Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill.

The bill provides a 5% COLA to LCFF and ends apportionment deferrals. It also provides \$30,000,000 as grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of funding schoolwide. There will be a districtwide implementation of services or practices aligned to the Multi-tiered Systems of Support framework. The bill enacts the California Community School Partnership Act, which would appropriate \$2,836,660,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to administer the California Community Schools Partnership Program. We are still researching how these funds will be distributed and whether or not JMCS will be able to access these funds. It will also provide \$1,500,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant-professional development. It appropriates \$547,513,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for purposes of the A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program. While it is not clear if JMCS will be able to access this funding, JMCS is starting the development and implementation of A-G requirements through our Odysseyware platform in the 2021-2022 school year. RJ explains that for the 2021-22 fiscal year, certain funding sources will be adjusted for inflation 2.7% and to be calculated by first assuming that the adjustments for the 2020-21 fiscal year were 2.31% instead of zero. It makes small changes to the LCAP format regarding tracking expenditures tied to the unduplicated count and mandates that the format will be released by January 1, 2022 (previously this deadline was in March each year). The bill extends the ELO grant expenditure deadline for an additional 2 years to September 2024 (the language is not exact).

There will also be changes to basic skills proficiency test requirements for teachers allowing "B" or better grades in upper-level university coursework to be used in place of exams. RJ also explains SB 309 and SB804. SB 309 is in a holding pattern waiting for an Assembly Ed Committee hearing. Michael Corbett mentions this might be a two-year bill. SB 804 is scheduled for a hearing on July 13th, 2021 in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

## 10. Miscellaneous Information Items

### A. Correspondence

None.

### B. Schedule of Future Board Meetings

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Yes  
D. Sallie Wilson: Yes  
Yes  
E. Gil Botello: Yes  
Yes

A. Stan Miller:  
B. Michael Corbett:  
C. Len Eckhardt:  
D. Sallie Wilson:  
E. Gil Botello:

11. Request for Agenda Items

None.

12. Adjournment

Stan Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.