

## A Message from the Board of Trustees June 21, 2025

As the Board of Trustees, we would like to take a moment to clarify our role within the life of the school and share our ongoing commitment to open and transparent communication with our parent community.

### **Our Role as the Board**

The Board of Trustees holds the legal and fiduciary responsibility for Golden Valley Charter Schools. We are entrusted with the long-term health, stability, mission, vision, and values alignment for both Orchard and River campuses.

Our primary responsibilities include:

- **Governance and Oversight:** Ensuring the school operates in alignment with its mission, vision, values, Waldorf principles, and state regulations.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Overseeing the school's financial health and ensuring responsible use of resources.
- **Strategic Planning:** Supporting long-term planning efforts that serve the school's growth and sustainability
- **Evaluation and Hiring of the School Director (or Administrative Leader):** Supporting leadership who carries out the day-to-day operations and educational vision of the school.

Importantly, the board does not participate in daily school management, curriculum decisions, or personnel matters outside of the school leadership team. These areas are entrusted to the professional faculty and administrative leadership, following Waldorf and state educational practices, and the school's governance model.

The Board has requested that the administration provide the school community with greater clarity on the following issues;

#### **1. Deficiencies Response to Orchard's Recharting**

- The Board asked the administration to share information on the **46 deficiencies** cited by SJUSD.
- All items are included in the San Juan Unified School District board meeting packet for **May 14, 2025**

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- Although Orchard was rechartered for three years, the Board emphasizes the need to resolve these deficiencies before River and Orchard's upcoming recharters (in two and three years, respectively).
- Creation of a Recharting Committee comprised of board members, educational leadership, faculty, parents, and the greater school community.

### 2. **School Leadership Communication**

- The Board asked the administration to clearly **communicate any decisions regarding the swapping of principals, teaching staff, etc., in a timely and appropriate level of communication to the school community.**
- The Board does **not manage principals**, so any such decision must be communicated by the Executive Director or Administration Leadership.

Items the Board must be transparent about (Legal Obligations)

- The Board operates under the **Brown Act** and **FPPC rules**, meaning **meetings, agendas, minutes, and budgets** are public.
- Community members can access these via the school's website: <https://goldenvalleycharter.org/Agendas-Minutes>

### **What the Board Legally Cannot Discuss**

#### 1. **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

- Student-specific details (names, cases) must remain confidential.
- These should not be mentioned in public comments.

#### 2. **Ongoing Legal Matters**

- Litigation is handled in **closed session**.
- Any board decisions on legal issues must be made in public.

#### 3. **Personnel and Staffing**

- Staff discussions happen in **closed session** under legal guidance.
- Employment contracts and decisions are recorded in public meeting minutes.

### **How to Get Involved**

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- Join or attend the **Finance Committee**, which is open to the public.
- **Rechartering Committee** will be formed in the fall and will be open to community participation to assist with and provide oversight on the rechartering process.

**Our Commitment to Transparency-** We recognize that a healthy school community is built on trust and open communication. To that end, we are committed to:

- Providing regular updates on board activity through newsletters, town halls, school-wide meetings, or other communication channels—such as Parent Square posts.
- Making minutes from board meetings (when appropriate) available to the school community.
- Responding to concerns or questions through clearly established channels.

We understand that as parents and guardians, your connection to the school is deeply personal. We honor that commitment and strive to support a school environment where your voices are heard and respected. If you have questions about board matters, please feel free to reach out to us at [bot@gvcharter.org](mailto:bot@gvcharter.org), or attend one of our upcoming public board meetings or community gatherings.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a vital part of our school community.

Warmly,

Katie Gerski-Keller

Board of Trustees, Chair

Meredith Willsen

Board of Trustees, Vice Chair