



Golden Valley Charter Schools
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
9601 Lake Natoma Dr.
Orangevale, CA 95662

October 11, 2023

Board Meeting Access Information

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Primary Location: **Golden Valley River School, Room 5, 9601 Lake Natoma Dr., Orangevale, CA 95662**

Remote Location: Golden Valley Orchard, Room 2, 6550 Filbert Ave, Orangevale, CA 95662

Zoom Link:

Topic: BOT Regular Meeting 2023.10.11
Time: Oct 11, 2023 04:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285308277?pwd=ZTNVOHArLzJweUVOS2l5RmZTL29QQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 8530 8277

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One tap mobile

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This meeting is being conducted in person and will also be available to the public via teleconference through the Zoom platform.

Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may do so in person at the primary meeting location, a remote meeting location, or use the “raise hand” tool on the Zoom platform. Members of the public may also email their comments to the Board at bot@gvcharter.org; emailed comments will be summarized by the board chair. Individual comments are limited to three (3) minutes. The Board will limit the total time for public comment to fifteen minutes. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a participant from the meeting if the participant unreasonably disrupts the Board meeting.

Disability Accommodations. A person with a disability may contact the central office at (916) 597-1477, or email the board at bot@gvcharter.org at least 48 hours before the scheduled board meeting to request receipt of an agenda and other distributed writings in an appropriate alternative format or to request disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public board meeting.

October 11, 2023

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. **Call to Order** – 4:30p.m. *(K. Gerski-Keller)*
2. **Roll Call** – 4:30 p.m.
Board Members: Katie Gerski-Keller, Adam Errington, Ekaterina Khmelniker, Stephen Quadro, Meredith Wilsen.
3. **Board Member Exigencies and Remote Attendance** – 4:31 p.m. *(K. Gerski-Keller)*
Action: Shall the board approve any board members to participate in this board meeting from a remote location due to unexpected emergencies per AB 2449?
Information: Members must publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and if so, the general nature of the member’s relationship with any such individuals; and ensure their meeting participation using both visual and audio technology.
4. **Flag Salute/Quote/Moment of Silence** – 4:35 p.m. *(C. Buckley)*
5. **Public Comment** – 4:35 p.m.
This portion of the meeting is set aside for members of the audience to make public comments or raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda or for those that are on the agenda in areas of Board jurisdiction. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes and the total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
6. **Consent Agenda**– 4:50 p.m. *(K. Gerski-Keller)*
All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be enacted by the Board in one motion. There will be no discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless a member of the Board, staff, or public request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Agenda. If items are pulled for discussion, a separate vote will occur on the item(s). The Executive Director recommends approval of all Consent Agenda items.
Action: Shall the Board approve the following items by consent?
6.1 *Shall the board approve the September 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes?*
7. **Status of the 2023/2024 Budget, GVOS** – 4:55 p.m. *(S. Lefkowitz)*
Discussion: The board shall discuss the status of the 2023/2024 Golden Valley Orchard budget.
8. **Status of the 2023/2024 Budget, GVRS** – 5:05 p.m. *(S. Lefkowitz)*
Discussion: The board shall discuss the status of the 2023/2024 Golden Valley River budget.
9. **CAASPP Report** – 5:15 p.m. *(S. Lorenz)*
Discussion: Stephanie Lorenz will present a report on the 2022/2023 CAASPP results for Golden Valley Orchard and Golden Valley River.

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10. **Returning Employee Bonus** – 5:40 p.m. *(C. Buckley)*
Action: Shall the board approve a one-time 1% bonus to all permanent 2023/2024 returning employees who earned above \$4,000 as of June 30, 2023, in the 2022/2023 school year and meet the following criteria:
- Bonus applies to current, active, permanent employees
 - Bonus does not apply to substitutes or coaches
 - Bonus calculated at 1% of gross pay between 8/1/2022 through 6/30/2023
 - Employed at any time between 8/1/2022 - 6/30/2023
11. **Prop 39 Facilities Request** – 5:45 p.m. *(C. Buckley)*
Discussion: The board will discuss the Prop 39 facilities request.
12. **Faculty Reports** – 5:55 p.m.
Faculty Chair Report, Orchard: Orchard Faculty Chair, Heather Peery, will present items of interest to the board. *(H. Peery)*
Faculty Chair Report, River: River Faculty Chair, AJ Lacoste, will present items of interest to the board. *(A. Lacoste)*
13. **Executive Reports** – 6:05 p.m.
Board Chair Report: Board of Trustees Chair, Katie Gerski-Keller, will present items of interest to the board.
Executive Director Report: Executive Director, Caleb Buckley, will present items of interest to the board.
14. **Recitation of the Motto of the Social Ethic** – 6:10 p.m.
The healing social life is found
When in the mirror of each human soul
The whole community finds its reflection,
And when, in the community,
The virtue of each one is living.
15. **Adjournment of the meeting** – 6:11 p.m. *(K. Gerski-Keller)*

September 13, 2023

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call** – 4:30 p.m.

Board Members Absent: Katie Gerski-Keller, Adam Errington, Stephen Quadro, Meredith Wilsen.

Board Members Absent: Ekaterina Khmelniker.

Guests: Caleb Buckley, AJ Lacoste, Ryan Sutton, Jennifer Hoover, Kim Blakley, Amala Easton, Becky Page (Orchard remote), Heather Peery (Orchard remote)

3. **Board Member Exigencies and Remote Attendance** –

Action: Shall the board approve any board members to participate in this board meeting from a remote location due to unexpected emergencies per AB 2449?

TABLED. NO NOTE.

4. **Flag Salute/Quote/Moment of Silence** – Executive Director Caleb Buckley read the Independence Card.

5. **Public Comment** –

There were no public comments.

6. **Consent Agenda**–

It was moved by Adam Errington and seconded by Stephen Quadro that the Board approve the following items by consent.

6.1 ***The board approved the August 9, 2023, Annual Meeting Minutes.***

6.2 ***The board approved the EPA Resolution for GVOS.***

6.3 ***The board approved the EPA Resolution for GVRs.***

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

7. **Formation of Board Committees** –

It was moved by Stephen Quadro and seconded by Adam Errington that the board form an Executive Director Review committees and appoint members for 2023/2024.

8.1 **ED Review Committee** shall consist of Katie Gerski Keller and Meredith Wilsen.

Katie Gerski Keller – ***(Ayes: 3, Noes, 0, Abstain: 1, K. Gerski-Keller)***

Meredith Wilsen – ***(Ayes: 3, Noes, 0, Abstain: 1, M. Wilsen)***

8. **2022/2023 Unaudited Actuals, GVOS** –

It was moved by Stephen Quadro and seconded by Adam Errington that the board approve the 2022/2023 Golden Valley Orchard Unaudited Actuals.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

September 13, 2023

9. **2022/2023 Unaudited Actuals, GVRs –**

It was moved by Stephen Quadro and seconded by Adam Errington that the board approve the 2022/2023 Golden Valley River Unaudited Actuals.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

10. **Whistleblower (Personnel) Policy –**

The board discussed the Whistleblower (Personnel) Policy (first read).

11. **Faculty Reports –**

Faculty Chair Report, Orchard: Orchard Faculty Chair, Heather Peery, presented items of interest to the board.

Faculty Chair Report, River: River Faculty Chair, AJ Lacoste, presented items of interest to the board.

12. **Executive Reports –**

Board Chair Report: Board of Trustees Chair, Katie Gerski-Keller, presented items of interest to the board.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director, Caleb Buckley, presented items of interest to the board.

13. **Board Goal Setting –**

The board discussed short-term and long-term goals for Golden Valley Charter Schools.

- Policies – The Executive Committee will function as the Policy Committee. GV Admin and management will be primary on policy creation.
- Facilities – The Executive Director will prepare a facilities report for the October meeting. Three Options: School renovation bonds; private financing; and new school construction bonds. Orchard will run out of rooms at the end of next year. River has three classrooms that could hold additional classes.
- Finance – Desire to increase our reserves.

14. **The board recited the Motto of the Social Ethic –**

15. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm**

Respectfully Submitted by Amala Easton.

Katie Gerski-Keller, Chair

Date

**Golden Valley Orchard
Budget Summary**

Enrollment	293	304	304
ADA %	269.56	285.76	285.76

SACS Code Description		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26			
Revenue							
	State LCFF Revenue	3,062,634	3,379,123	3,486,067			
	Federal Revenue	121,011	74,908	74,908			
	Other State Revenue	634,635	549,165	549,360			
	Local Revenue	80,000	80,000	80,000			
Total Revenue		\$ 3,898,280	\$ 4,083,196	\$ 4,190,334			
Expenses							
1000	Certificated Salaries	1,184,302	31.3%	1,219,832	32.0%	1,256,426	32.0%
2000	Classified Salaries	416,132	11.0%	428,616	11.2%	441,475	11.3%
3000	Benefits	561,228	14.8%	572,745	15.0%	592,118	15.1%
	<i>Total Personnel Expense</i>	<i>2,161,663</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>2,221,193</i>	<i>58.2%</i>	<i>2,290,019</i>	<i>58.4%</i>
4000	Books and Supplies	272,080	7.2%	277,522	7.3%	283,072	7.2%
5000	Services and Other Operating Expenses	1,350,462	35.7%	1,315,712	34.5%	1,349,976	34.4%
6000	Capital Outlay -						
7000	Other Outgoing						
Total Expenses		\$ 3,784,205		\$ 3,814,426		\$ 3,923,067	
Surplus / (Deficit)		\$ 114,075		\$ 268,770		\$ 267,267	
As a % of LCFF Revenue		4%		8%		8%	
		\$ 114,075		\$ 268,770		\$ 267,267	
Beginning Fund Balance		35,060		149,135		417,904	
Ending Balance		\$ 149,135		\$ 417,904		\$ 685,172	

**Golden Valley River
Budget Summary**

Enrollment	305	317	317
ADA %	289.75	301.15	301.15

SACS Code Description		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26	
Revenue							
	State LCFF Revenue	3,345,127		3,618,430		3,733,020	
	Federal Revenue	140,061		87,016		87,016	
	Other State Revenue	694,780		598,909		599,093	
	Local Revenue	42,025		42,025		42,025	
Total Revenue		\$ 4,221,993		\$ 4,346,381		\$ 4,461,154	
Expenses							
1000	Certificated Salaries	1,460,678	34.3%	1,504,498	34.3%	1,549,633	34.3%
2000	Classified Salaries	564,846	13.3%	581,792	13.3%	599,245	13.3%
3000	Benefits	713,492	16.7%	773,006	17.6%	799,950	17.7%
	<i>Total Personnel Expense</i>	<i>2,739,016</i>	<i>64.3%</i>	<i>2,859,296</i>	<i>65.2%</i>	<i>2,948,828</i>	<i>65.3%</i>
4000	Books and Supplies	271,420	6.4%	276,848	6.3%	282,385	6.3%
5000	Services and Other Operating Expenses	1,250,202	29.3%	1,252,544	28.5%	1,286,644	28.5%
6000	Capital Outlay -						
7000	Other Outgoing						
Total Expenses		\$ 4,260,638		\$ 4,388,688		\$ 4,517,857	
Surplus / (Deficit)		\$ (38,645)		\$ (42,308)		\$ (56,703)	
As a % of LCFF Revenue		-1%		-1%		-2%	
		\$ (38,645)		\$ (42,308)		\$ (56,703)	
Beginning Fund Balance		792,337		753,692		711,384	
Ending Balance		\$ 753,692		\$ 711,384		\$ 654,681	

CAASPP 2023

GOLDEN VALLEY ORCHARD SCHOOL and
GOLDEN VALLEY RIVER SCHOOL
GRADES 3-8

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

- **Students in grades 3-8 take this Summative Assessment every spring. This assessment consists of English Language Arts and Math. There are 2 components for each subject area. This assessment is administered online. Students in grades 5 and 8 also take the CAST (California Science Test).**

Performance Levels

- **1 Did Not Meet Grade Level Standard**
- **2 Nearly Met Grade Level Standard**
- **3 Met Grade Level Standard**
- **4 Exceeded Grade Level Standard**

Golden Valley Orchard ELA

Summative ELA Export

Column Order ?

Organization Assessment Grade Academic Year Subgroup ← →

0 empty rows Display value as Achievement levels
Show Hide Percent Number All Grouped

Organization	Assessment Grade	Academic Year	Subgroup	Students Tested	Achievement Comparison	Average Scale Score ± Error Band	Standard Not Met Level 1	Standard Nearly Met Level 2	Standard Met Level 3	Standard Exceeded Level 4
District Golden Valley Or...	3	2022-23	Overall	32		2428 ± 15	28%	18%	28%	25%
	4	2022-23	Overall	30		2437 ± 16	33%	33%	16%	16%
	5	2022-23	Overall	26		2494 ± 21	26%	11%	42%	19%
	6	2022-23	Overall	24		2503 ± 15	29%	41%	20%	8%
	7	2022-23	Overall	24		2560 ± 22	20%	33%	25%	20%
	8	2022-23	Overall	28		2583 ± 15	10%	35%	32%	21%

Golden Valley Orchard Math

Summative Math

Export

Column Order ⓘ

0 empty rows

Display value as

Achievement levels

Organization Assessment Grade Academic Year Subgroup

Show Hide

Percent Number

All Grouped

Organization	Assessment Grade	Academic Year	Subgroup	Students Tested	Achievement Comparison	Average Scale Score ± Error Band	Standard Not Met Level 1	Standard Nearly Met Level 2	Standard Met Level 3	Standard Exceeded Level 4
District Golden Valley Or...	3	2022-23	Overall	32		2393 ± 12	37%	31%	25%	6%
	4	2022-23	Overall	30		2442 ± 13	36%	26%	33%	3%
	5	2022-23	Overall	26		2454 ± 15	57%	26%	15%	0%
	6	2022-23	Overall	24		2487 ± 20	33%	50%	8%	8%
	7	2022-23	Overall	24		2516 ± 26	50%	16%	12%	20%
	8	2022-23	Overall	29		2568 ± 18	31%	24%	31%	13%

Golden Valley River ELA








Summative ELA 

Column Order 

Organization Assessment Grade Academic Year Subgroup  

0 empty rows Display value as Achievement level

Show Hide Percent Number All Grouped

Organization	Assessment Grade	Academic Year	Subgroup	Students Tested	Achievement Comparison	Average Scale Score ± Error Band	Standard Not Met Level 1	Standard Nearly Met Level 2	Standard Met Level 3	Standard Exceeded Level 4
 Golden Valley Ri...	3	2022-23	Overall	32		2387 ± 15	40%	31%	18%	9%
	4	2022-23	Overall	33		2454 ± 14	36%	24%	24%	15%
	5	2022-23	Overall	24		2512 ± 16	16%	12%	54%	16%
	6	2022-23	Overall	28		2511 ± 14	10%	50%	35%	5%
	7	2022-23	Overall	31		2545 ± 12	16%	35%	41%	6%
	8	2022-23	Overall	24		2558 ± 16	16%	33%	41%	8%

Golden Valley River Math

Summative Math

Export

Column Order ⓘ

Organization Assessment Grade Academic Year Subgroup

0 empty rows Display value as Achievement levels

Show Hide Percent Number All Grouped

Organization	Assessment Grade	Academic Year	Subgroup	Students Tested	Achievement Comparison	Average Scale Score ± Error Band	Standard Not Met Level 1	Standard Nearly Met Level 2	Standard Met Level 3	Standard Exceeded Level 4
School Golden Valley Ri...	3	2022-23	Overall	32		2370 ± 11	53%	31%	15%	0%
	4	2022-23	Overall	33		2441 ± 12	33%	45%	15%	6%
	5	2022-23	Overall	24		2432 ± 17	62%	25%	12%	0%
	6	2022-23	Overall	28		2455 ± 14	60%	28%	10%	0%
	7	2022-23	Overall	31		2515 ± 13	41%	29%	25%	3%
	8	2022-23	Overall	24		2495 ± 21	54%	29%	12%	4%

	8	2022-23	Overall	24		2495 ± 21	54%	29%	12%	4%
	7	2022-23	Overall	31		2515 ± 13	41%	29%	25%	3%

Areas of Growth

Orchard School

- Orchard ELA total 18.16% of students assessed exceeded grade level standard.
- Orchard Math scores increased significantly for students in middle school. 20% of 7th graders exceeded the grade level standard (in 2022, as 6th graders, none exceeded the grade level standard).
- From 2022 to 2023 from 4th grade to 5th grade students in ELA met and or exceeded standards the % increase went from 24% to 61%.

Areas of Growth

River School

- In 2023 70% of River's 5th grade students met or exceeded the standard for ELA, as compared to 2022 in 4th grade only 27% met or exceeded the standard.
- In 2023 28% of River's 7th grade students met or exceeded Math standards, as compared to 2022 in 6th grade only 10% met or exceeded the standard in Math.
- ELA continues to show growth through the grades, less students score in the did not meet standard performance area.

Dashboard Information

- The 2023 California School Dashboard (Dashboard), which will be released on December 15, 2023, reflects a full return of California's accountability system with the reporting of Status (current year data), Change (the difference from prior year data), and Performance Levels (colors) for most state indicators.
- Start your learning journey with these one-to-two-page flyers that help simplify the use and understanding of the 2023 Dashboard.
- [Getting to Know the California School Dashboard\(PDF\)](#)
- [Getting to Know the Dashboard State Measures\(PDF\)](#)
- [How Dashboard Colors are Determined\(PDF\)](#)
- **How to View Performance of a School or District on the Dashboard** (Coming in October 2023)
- **Exploring the Equity Report** (Coming in October 2023)
- **How to Compare Schools on the Dashboard** (Coming in October 2023)
- [Getting to Know the Local Measures\(PDF\)](#)
- [Information on Local Measures for Parents\(PDF\)](#)

Orchard enjoyed its 2nd annual Grandparent's Day today with performances by 3rd, 4th, and 8th grades, bringing tears of joy to many hearts. The children enjoyed sharing their special day with Grandparents and family friends. Overall, teachers were pleased at how well their students behaved for their special guests and could feel all the extra love spread throughout the school. The third-grade Baobab students invited their guests into the Sukkah they built for Sukkot and shared a blessing together as a part of the Hebrew Legends curriculum. The fourth grade Bluebells welcomed many of the same grandparents from May, who commented on the growth in the students in such a short time. Faculty feedback was overwhelmingly positive for the day. Teachers preferred the switch to October over May, since it is a slower time of the school year. The one change teachers expressed was allowing more grandparents to come as some children felt left out, and possibly limiting it to one grandparent/family friend per student. Teachers preferred guests staying for the whole time rather than switching between classes.

Courage Day recap: Orchard enjoyed Sir George and the Dragon performed by the 2nd and 6th grade with a slight plot twist this year. Instead of the King drawing straws, a Queen drew the shortest straw. The class was beaming with enthusiasm and chanted their lines loud and clear for all to hear. The children enjoyed themselves all afternoon with activities on the field. Highlights included an extra loud snoring sleeping dragon, javelin throwing, pillow jousting, face painting, slack line, tug o' war, and story time.

October is book month, and classes will be working on creating book jackets, writing to authors, and getting excited about reading. This year for Halloween, children will be allowed to dress as their favorite book character in addition to characters from the curriculum, as long as costumes are media free and dress code appropriate.

The 4th grade Bluebells will be performing at Friday gathering this week.

Submitted by Heather Peery (Resource Specialist/Faculty Chair)

Board of Trustees Report: October 11, 2023

"The autumn winds blow open the gate, oh Michael for you we wait." This is the opening line of one of my favorite autumn verses, one that is recited every day in my second-grade circle. In its entirety, it speaks to many things such as courage and bravery in facing our metaphorical dragons, but it also welcomes in the new season, as well as each other with a good morning greeting and handshake celebrating unity and community.

Last Friday was a very special day at Golden Valley; our Day of Courage. It is a celebration based on the European festival of Michaelmas, where our second grade Manzanita class treated the school to a wonderful performance of Sir George and the Dragon. In the play, it is though the courage of both Sir George and the princess, working together, that the terrible dragon is defeated; who is not evil but just a bit misguided. And through their compassion and empathy, the defeated dragon is spared and given a new life within the community.

There is a lot of symbolism in this play, but the idea of "restorative justice" is one that stands out to me. This is something we practice here at Golden Valley, where talking through issues, looking at different perspectives, walking in the shoes of others, owning mistakes and apologizing for our missteps, is practiced throughout the grades. We focus on being able to forgive and restore others when they do stumble, because this is something we all do, often, in fact. It's not a crime and punishment model, but one that is heart based, thoughtful, and impactful. I saw this first hand when I sat down with Mrs. Moraga, one of her students, and one of mine concerning an incident that happened. The 5th grade student was able to voice how they felt and how it affected them and the seventh grader was given the opportunity to listen, in a non-threatening manner, and thus, wasn't on the defensive. They heard the other and were able to apologize, allowing the other to be made whole again. Both students were restored and lifted back to where they needed to be. I love this about our school! I know I'm getting off track here, but I thought about this moment as I watched George restore the dragon instead of slaying it.

So again, back to Courage Day which was a smashing success! I saw many curly mustaches on the faces of my students, as the talented 8th grade face painters were in full effect. New games, such as the three-legged relay race, were a big hit (according to my daughter, "It was my favorite activity"). And the Sleeping Giant was as popular as ever! I don't know how he does it but, again, the giant was able to successfully sleep through the entirety of the event. Kudos to Ms. Parker and Mrs. Strawn for their excellence.

Last time out I mentioned how wonderful our two new music teachers are, and that statement is still true. However, Mr. Matt Brown is now our new upper grades Music teacher partnering with the very talented Mrs. Kilpatric in the lower grades. Mr. Brown reports, "My first week went okay... or dare I say good." Knowing Mr. Brown quite well, there is no doubt he has the patience and personality to lead the upper grades. And Mrs. Kilpatrick's class are the closest I have seen to the great Andra Pranto's classes of the past. Music is in good hands at Golden Valley.

Mrs. Bosque is feeling positive about how our kindergarten program is adjusting to the new challenges of having TK aged children. She was able to meet with all the kinder teachers across both schools and create a list of needs to address these new challenges. Moreover, they have a meeting set in December to bring their ideas to leadership. Also, Mrs. Bosque wanted to share that this new group of kinder parents have been amazing. In fact, she had 100% attendance at her last parent meeting. "They are eager to learn and seem to have a great desire to create community" which is such a positive thing to hear. These kindergarten parents are our future grades parents, and the stronger the foundation created by the teachers and parents in kindergarten, the stronger, more community-based classes we will have moving through the grades.

So, all of this is very positive news, and it's all true. And there are so many other examples that occur daily at Golden Valley. But we also have our challenges and struggles. If I am remembering my Waldorf training correctly, Steiner understood the young child lives in the physical world as they develop their physical body. They learn through imitation and need the etheric body, or life forces/attention and energy, of the adults around them (teachers and parents) while they come into their physical body and then develop their own etheric. Hence, the exhaustion kindergarten, first, and even second grade teachers feel at the end of the day. But I feel, more and more, this has become prevalent across the grades, where teachers and staff members are giving so much of their own etheric due to the social and emotional needs of the children. Teaching is a wonderful profession, a giving profession, and a rewarding profession, but in this day and age, it's taking its toll. I realize I just turned 50, but I have never felt so exhausted at the end of the day than I do now; "now" being the years following the pandemic. It's not to complain, as we have all chosen this path, but please know teachers are pretty overwhelmed and feeling the weight of a new reality. Please continue to support Mrs. Miller and the Renewal Room which/who is so vital. And please consider funding any future support systems, extra help, or whatever may be needed to address the needs of the modern school and student.

Thank you,

AJ Lacoste: River Faculty Chair



October 2023

What a success Courage Day was at both Orchard and River campuses. The story of taming the dragon symbolizes the inner courage it takes to face our human challenges. As the days grow colder and the nights grow longer, we must find and bring forth our own inner light when the sun, warmth and growth of the earth are fading. "Michaelmas is a great time to ponder our own inner dragons and to cultivate the courage and strength necessary for self development." – from *Waldorf Publications* newsletter

We are now looking forward to the community events to come— Town Hall meeting, Eagle Chase, Grandparents Day, and Festival of Light in November. We hope many parents and families will be joining these upcoming events.

Being in the classroom is the foundation of building the community that is so wonderful about our school and it is critical that children attend school whenever they are healthy. In addition, as a charter school we are funded based on attendance, and ensuring attendance is the easiest and most powerful way families can financially support our schools.

We are continuing efforts to recruit a robust Board of highly qualified candidates, the Board will continue to reach out to the community for those who would be well-equipped for Board service. As the process for qualification and preparation for Board service can take many months, it is important that the Board continue to recruit and network, bringing new members into this process throughout the year.

For training, support, and organization purposes, most new members are brought on at the beginning of the school year, in August. If you or someone you know are interested in our schools' governance, please contact the Board at bot@gvcharter.org

Annual Giving Campaign: Donations are vital in allowing us to provide the best programs and services we can. Please help us reach our goal of \$100,000 for each campus by contributing. Annual Giving Campaign.

Volunteering: Please consider offering your unique skills and services to one or more of these tremendous groups:

- Classroom: See your class Teacher
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): diversity@gvcharter.org
- Golden Valley Education Fund (GVEF): gvef@gvcharter.org
- Parent Circle (PC) Orchard and River: pc_orchard@gvcharter.org

Kindly,

Katie Gerski-Keller
Board of Trustees, Chair
Golden Valley Charter School

Meredith Willsen
Board of Trustees, Vice Chair
Golden Valley Charter School



GOLDEN VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Submitted by Caleb Buckley, EdD

October 11, 2023

K-8 Tuition for Public Waldorf Schools

The Board meeting will be followed by a Town Hall meeting to discuss some of our long range goals around facilities and enrollment growth. The finance committee met around the status of our current budget and we are recommending a one-time bonus of 1% to returning employees. Our Grandparents Day at Orchard was a huge success with over 70 participants in grades 1-8. Next week we will have a slightly different format at River but also including classroom visits and student performances. We invited Grandparents to volunteer, support our upcoming Eagle Chase fundraiser, and to attend our many festivals.

In October, River will be received brand new handmade wood desks for the class. Orchard will be installing a new shed for the afterschool program. I met with the head of maintenance around some safety items at Orchard. I also met with the director of enrollment for San Juan who is going to offer a talk for our parents around the transition to high school. For the first time since the pandemic began, all of the in-district charter schools will again be collaborating in person. Our big national event this year in the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education conference at the River School in January.



ON CAMPUS



Orchard School – This past month at Orchard we recognized the Madrona 2nd grade, Catalpa 1st grade, and Sequoia 6th grade class for their excellent attendance. We will now move to monthly attendance recognition as we acknowledge and thank all who are making attendance a priority. To support student learning and social/emotional development, it's important to stay home if you're ill and be present if you are well. Scheduling vacations during our breaks and appointments in the afternoon or during a break is helpful for your student's education. Grandparents' day was a joyful event at Orchard. Teachers and students loved having grandparents join the classrooms. So much so that part of our faculty discussion around the day was how we can accommodate more grandparents or family friends joining for the day. Our Courage Day started off with the 2nd g grade Madrona class performing a splendid rendition of "Sir George and the Dragon". We ended the day as we kicked off our food drive with non-perishable items that were donated to the Orangevale Food Bank, supporting local families in need. Students ended the day with activities such as tug-o-war, archery, the Sleeping Giant, and pillow jousting. Students continue to SOAR at Orchard as they demonstrate being Safe, Outstanding, Accountable, and Respectful. After earning SOAR tickets for these virtues, they can turn them in on Friday at the SOAR store for stickers, spirit sticks, friendship bracelets and more.



River School - October is shaping up to be a very busy month at River campus. Eagle Chase is the major focal points for our school this month. This past Friday we kicked off our Eagle Chase campaign with a presentation at our Friday gathering. Last year we managed to raise more money than ever before with over \$60,000. This year, our goal is to raise \$75,000, and we are confident in the enthusiasm of our students and families to do just that. But at Golden Valley, our focus is not just on the school community, but on the greater community as well. Last Friday at our Day Of Courage celebration, we were able to collect over 300 pounds of food for the Orangevale Food Bank while exercising one of our core values- joyful service. Later this month we look forward to our first big festival of the year at the River campus, the Festival of Light, where we will be celebrating various seasonal and cultural traditions from around the world, such as Diwali and Dia de los Muertos. There will be food, live music, storytelling, crafts, and so much more! Lastly, our virtue for the month of October is Assertiveness. Assertiveness is a virtue that requires an incredible amount of courage to exercise. Speaking your truth, setting healthy boundaries, and standing up for what is right is never easy, but always necessary. By modeling proper assertiveness for our children, we impart confidence and teach them to advocate for themselves in constructive ways.

ACCOUNTABILITY & COMPLIANCE

The local indicators, which were reported to the board in June 2023, were submitted to the state last week. The data reported is used to populate part of the CA School Dashboard which will be released in December 2023.

Title I students have been chosen based on achievement data for the 2023-24 school year as part of the Title I Targeted Assistance School process. Parents of selected students will soon be invited to attend an informational meeting at their schools to learn about how students were selected, plans on spending Title funds this year to help support the academic achievement of selected Title I students.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment - We have recorded Parent Information Meetings available for prospective families to watch as well as scheduled in person meetings. We will continue to accept applications and make offers for enrollment when there is an open seat in a class.

Outreach - In October we will have an outreach booth at the annual Nature Fest hosted by Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Our purpose is to promote our two schools offering an activity and information about our curriculum.

Applications for Enrollment for the 2023-24 school year will continue to be accepted. Additional Parent Information Meetings (PIM) are scheduled for October for families to learn more about GVCS and learn how to apply.

September Enrollment and Attendance - Orchard					
	Current Enrollment	ADA	Movement	<i>23/24 Budget Assumptions</i>	
TK	14	97 %	+1	/	/
K	39	98 %	+1		
ABK	22	n/a	0		
OBK	22	n/a	+1		
MBK	11	n/a	+1		
1	44	97 %	(1)		
2	26	96 %	+1		
3	30	96 %	0		
4	30	95%	0		
5	30	95 %	0		
6	25	94 %	+2		
7	27	91 %	+1 (1)		
8	29	94 %	1		
Total	293	95 %	+8 - 2		
				<i>304</i>	<i>92 %</i>

September Enrollment and Attendance – River							
	Current Enrollment	ADA	Movement	<i>23/24 Budget Assumptions</i>			
TK	26	92 %	+2				
K	37	94 %	+2				
CBK	19	n/a	0				
LBK	22	n/a	+1				
PBK	22	n/a	+3				
1	30	97 %	0				
2	30	95 %	0				
3	29	98 %	0				
4	30	97 %	+1				
5	30	99 %	0				
6	27	96 %	0				
7	27	97 %	+1				
8	27	92 %	(1)				
HS 1	1	100 %	(1)				
HS 2	3	100 %	0				
HS 3	4	100 %	0				
HS 4	3	100 %	(1)				
Total	301	95.7 %	+6 - 3			<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>ADA</i>
						<i>317</i>	<i>95 %</i>

MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT

- Marketing is focused on Enrollment and Home Study for this school year
 - Social Media Ads for the Home Study Parent Information Meeting in October
 - Posting actively on Social Media to keep followers engaged
 - Festival of Light on Social Media Ads
 - Outreach Booth for Sierra College Mini Maker Festival and NatureFest at Effie Yaw on October 7 & 8
- Communications
 - Continued training for Room Parents are being trained on using ParentSquare for Class Communications
 - Communication Guideline updates for Weekly Happenings to bring down individual posts
 - Marketing & Development Manager, GVEF, PC, and/or Class rep presenting at each first teacher meeting to create awareness and community engagement for communications. The last parent class meeting is October 12th.
 - Strategic Plan Core Value Cards given in class meetings and brought more throughout the year
 - More video communications from principals and other staff and faculty presented through ParentSquare for diverse voices on the Attendance Campaign, What to do when you cannot be present, and assessments

DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

- Marketing & Development Manager, GVEF, PC, and/or Class Rep is attending all parent meetings to talk about AGC, handout forms, bookmarks, and Core Value Cards.
- ParentSquare Group created of families who currently are not participating. Communications sent weekly.
- ParentSquare Communications going out as stand alone and in Newsletters about AGC
- Handwritten Thank you cards continue to be mailed for the 22-23 AGC participation
- Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day participants received literature about the school and materials and information on how to donate, bookmark, AGC form, cover letter, and remit envelope.

FUNDRAISING with GVEF

- GVEF communicating Eagle Chase Fundraiser this month
 - Collection envelopes sent home 10/6/23
 - Fundraiser will end 10/27/23
- Gala Venue deposit and date secured
 - Seeking Sponsorships
 - Mixer meeting formed the Gala Committee and roles for all involved

SCHOOL	Donors/Household Participation %	YTD Rec'd (FY22/23)	<i>Projected AGC Receivables 22/23 FY End</i>	Goal
GVOS	104/296	\$10,762	\$23,895	\$100,000
GVRS	173/304	\$25,972	\$55,089	\$100,000
General Donation	n/a	\$400	\$2,000	~
Total	278/601	\$37,134	\$80,984	\$200,000