

Gathering Waters Board Agenda

August 14, 8:30 a.m.

The mission of Gathering Waters Chartered Public School is to offer students in the Monadnock region an education that enables them to discover their interests and capabilities; explore the surrounding world; and cultivate a lifelong love of learning, a sense of community responsibility and understanding of environmental sustainability. We carry out this mission by providing a rich and engaging curriculum that integrates the arts, meaningful practical work, outdoor education and service to the larger community.

Our vision is an inclusive school culture of compassion and respect where deep interest in others goes hand in hand with individual growth. The educational environment enables students to develop self-confidence, self-knowledge, intellectual flexibility, and the capacity for creative problem solving that supports ethical action in their local and global communities.

Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education

1. Image of the Human Being:

Public Waldorf education is founded on a coherent image of the developing human Being.

Each human being is a unique individual who brings specific gifts, creative potential, and intentions to this life. Public Waldorf education addresses multiple aspects of the developing child including the physical, emotional, intellectual, social, cultural, moral, and spiritual. Through this, each child is helped to integrate into a maturing whole, able to determine a unique path through life.

Rudolf Steiner's educational insights are seen as a primary, but not exclusive, source of guidance for an understanding of the image of the human being.

2. Child Development:

An understanding of child development guides all aspects of the educational program, to the greatest extent possible within established legal mandates.

Human development proceeds in approximate 7-year phases. Each phase has characteristic physical, emotional, and cognitive dimensions and a primary learning orientation.

The Public Waldorf educational program, including the curriculum, teaching methodologies, and assessment methods, work with this understanding of human development to address the needs of the individual and the class in order to support comprehensive learning and healthy, balanced development. Our developmental perspective informs how state and federal mandates, including curriculum sequence, standardized testing, and college and career readiness, are met.

3. Social Change Through Education

Public Waldorf education exists to serve both the individual and society.

Public Waldorf education seeks to offer the most supportive conditions possible for the development of each student's unique capacities and for engendering the following qualities to work towards positive social change:

A harmonious relationship between thinking, feeling, and willing;

Self-awareness and social competence;

Developmentally appropriate, academically informed, independent thinking;

The initiative and confidence necessary to transform intentions into realities; and

An interest in the world, with active respect and a feeling of responsibility for oneself, one's community, and the environment.

Such individuals will be able to participate meaningfully in society.

4. Human Relationships:

Public Waldorf Schools foster a culture of healthy relationships.

Enduring relationships — and the time needed to develop them — are central to Public Waldorf education. The teacher works with each student and class as a whole to support relationship-based learning.

Healthy working relationships with parents, colleagues, and all stakeholders are essential to the well being of the student, class, and school community. Everyone benefits from a community life that includes festivals, events, adult education, study, and volunteer activities.

Public Waldorf education encourages collaboration in schools, within the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, among all schools working out of a developmental approach, in conjunction with the broader field of education.

5. Access and Diversity:

Public Waldorf Schools work to increase diversity and access to all sectors of society.

Public Waldorf schools respond to unique demands and cultures in a wide range of locations in order to provide maximum access to a diverse range of students. Schools work towards ensuring that students do not experience discrimination in admission, retention, or participation.

Public Waldorf schools and teachers have the responsibility to creatively address the developmental needs of the students with the most inclusive possible approaches for all learners.

The Public Waldorf program and curriculum is developed by the school to reflect its student population.

6. Collaborative Leadership:

School leadership is conducted through shared responsibilities within established legal structures.

7. Schools as Learning Communities:

Public Waldorf schools cultivate a love of lifelong learning and self-knowledge.

In Attendance: Gabrielle, Dan, Janet, Theresa, Eliza, Anny, Jonny, Holly, Elizabeth, Emily, Eliza

Non voting Member: Luke Goodwin

Other Attendees: Justin Somma, Jed Hart, Sara Norris

I. Principle #3 -Emily

II. Approve Minutes from 7/17/2021 meeting Motion to approve: Gabrielle /
Second: Jonny / Vote: Unanimous

III. Intro to Jed and Special Ed report - Academic Support Administrator - Has
been communicating with students' local districts to coordinate services for
PT/OT. Integrating IEP students w/ main student body

IV. Updates

- A. DEIJ - Eliza to give updates at next meeting
- B. Development/Fundraising - Holly - \$81,654.29 in gross donations.
Working to set up fundraising software to better track.
- C. Parent Council - Sara - 1st meeting was last Thurs.. 12 + parents
attended. All class reps in place except 4th (Sara filling in). Sara is acting
President, and Kelly O'Shea (6th grade parent) is Vice President. Kelly
Corson has stepped up to be Faculty Rep (pending approval - Luke
working w/ faculty to finalize). Looking for Parent Liaison position.
Currently identifying roles and responsibilities for council.
- D. COVID Reopening Plan-Luke elaborated on forthcoming Covid 19
reopening plan - We will follow NHHHS & CDC recommendations -
Autonomous from SAU29 decisions. Medical Advisory Group being
formed - reaching out to local parent body and community for members.
Members so far: Gabrielle and Whitney Linnenbringer.

V. Approve change of Address on Savings Bank of Walpole Account to 98
South Lincoln, Keene, NH 03431 Motion to approve: Gabrielle / Second: Janet /
Vote: Unanimous

VI. Proposal to hire FT Communications Manager vs. Development
Coordinator-30K impact-Motion to approve-Gabrielle/Second Elizabeth Vote:
unanimous approval

VII. 2000 salary Boost to Special Educator and Counselor-Motion-
Elizabeth/ Second Jonny 2 abstentions; 7 approve

VIII. Policy Discussion and Approval

Grievance Policy, Confidentiality, Sexual Harassment, Pupil safety and violence
prevention, Limiting the use of child restraint practices, Reporting of suspected
abuse or neglect, Records retention, Developmentally appropriate daily physical
activity, Salary Structure- Motion to approve: Emily / Second: Anny / Vote:
Unanimous approval

IX. Committee Structure and Executive Committee Update chair, co-chair,
treasurer, secretary - 1 Year Terms

Co Chair - Elizabeth Hamshaw - Motion to approve: Gabrielle / Second: Emily /
Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer - Jonny Norris - Motion to approve: Gabrielle / Second: Emily / Vote:
Unanimous

Secretary - Daniel Kurz - Motion to approve: Gabrielle / Second: Emily / Vote:
Unanimous

X. Process for new Committee Members-approved by the committee itself but
no need to have Board approve? Board Approval not required - Motion to
approve: Jonny / Second: Gabrielle / Vote: Unanimous

Closing Verse-

You have been joined by fate together
To unfold the powers
Which are to serve a good creative work.
Wisdom itself will teach you as you walk on the soul's path
That greatest things can be achieved
When souls who give to each other spirit certainty
Unite and work towards the healing of the world in faithfulness.

- Rudolf Steiner (From Benedictus, a character in the Mystery Dramas or also called the
Portal of Initiation-thank you to Janet for bringing this)

**Next Meeting: Saturday 9/11/2021 9 a.m. - Future meetings to be 2nd Saturday of
each month @ 9 am**