

Who Are We?

The La Tierra Board of Directors is a group of individuals using our skills, perspectives, experiences, and networks to help our school achieve its goals.

Why Do We Serve?

Our members believe that every child deserves to attend an excellent school. We believe that serving on an unpaid, independent, charter school board is an excellent way to have a substantial and ongoing impact on our community. If you are interested in joining our board please let us know.

Why Are We Sending This?

Public charter school boards provide the strategic vision for the school, hire leaders to run the school, hold those leaders accountable for academic success, and provide financial oversight.

We are seeking more ways to have our community members work with the school and board to achieve our goals. Please be on the lookout for some upcoming volunteer opportunities. Please also share ideas you have for our school.

Get to Know Your School Board!

A recent school survey indicated that our board needs to do more to collaborate and communicate with our families.

We hope this publication serves as a first step in a more meaningful partnership with our school community.

We'd love the chance to introduce ourselves and invite you to connect with us. Visit our webpage for board member bios and contact information.

<http://bit.ly/3IAWgZz>



Let's Connect!

All members of the public are welcome at our meetings which are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:15 pm on the school campus. All meeting dates can be found on the school calendar.

Visit <https://bit.ly/40cMLyy>





Board Accountability

By law, the board is held accountable by our authorizer (Arizona State Board for Charter Schools), the state, the federal government, and the public to ensure that the school is operating in accordance with its original purpose and doing so in a responsible manner. But our board's legal and fiduciary responsibilities are just the beginning. To advance the mission and ensure high student achievement, the board follows exemplary governance practices, focusing on student wellbeing, strategic action, recruitment of exceptional school leaders, raising funds to support the school's programs and operations, and meeting all compliance expectations. The board invests in proven governance best practices for board composition, meetings, and dynamics to manage itself and school leaders effectively.

Fundraising and Support

The board recognizes the importance of raising funds to support the school's programs and operations. In addition to ongoing resource acquisition, our board members give an annual financial gift at a level that is personally significant.



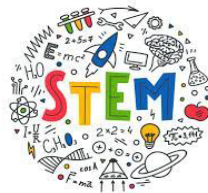
To increase nutritional programming and lunch/snack assistance for the current school year our board secured a generous grant from No Kid Hungry.



Our board secured an initial grant from the Arizona Community Foundation to bring our school counselor to the school.



Our board established a partnership with the St. Mary's Food Bank in 2022 which continues to provide afterschool and weekend meal assistance.



In partnership with the Undergraduate Research Institute and STEM Outreach at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, many of our classes have benefited from STEM programming provided by Embry-Riddle students.



On the Agenda

Having finally concluded our lease negotiations, the board is excited to spend the spring quarter focused on drafting the 2023/2024 school budget, revising the school technology plan, completing annual performance evaluations for our school administrators, conducting our annual charter compliance review, and beginning the next strategic planning cycle.

Spotlight on La Tierra Leadership

La Tierra's directors have always faced an overwhelming challenge. They need expertise in the school's unique instructional model, as well as exceptional skills in public school administration, staff management, budgeting, grant writing, marketing, student discipline, strategic planning, community engagement, fundraising, tech support, vendor management, and much more!

And since La Tierra's wonderful administrators also need to sleep, our board has implemented a flexible leadership structure that allows us to utilize the unique strengths of our team from year to year.

We understand it can be confusing and we'd like to introduce our current school leaders and clarify their roles in the organization.

School Director – Julie Jongsma

Miss Julie is the chief administrator and school leader. She is responsible for the successful leadership and management of the school according to the strategic direction set by the Board of Directors.

Her primary responsibilities include:

- Develops organizational goals and objectives consistent with the vision, mission, and strategic direction of the school.
- Serves as the school's key spokesperson and primary face to the internal and extended school community.
- Establishes a school culture that is safe, academically rigorous, socially stimulating, and intellectually challenging for students and staff.
- Acts as a professional advisor to the Board of Directors in all aspects of the school's activities.
- Serves as the staff's primary liaison to the Board, bringing updates, concerns, recommendations, and resource requirements to the board's attention while fostering effective teamwork among all parties.
- Oversees all administrative programs, services, and activities including managing the annual operations budget, facilitates, human resources, and vendors.
- Develops, monitors, and modifies approaches to school-wide discipline protocol.

Understanding the Board's Relationship with School Leaders

Employing strong, highly competent leaders increases our school's ability to succeed. Our board not only hires talented school leaders but strives to build an effective, productive, and trusting relationship, working in constructive partnership on behalf of the students and their wellbeing. Our goal is to both support school leaders and hold them accountable to mutually agreed-upon expectations. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and annual goals are established collaboratively. Ongoing performance evaluations ensure accountability, progress assessment, discussion, and support evaluation.

Academic Program Coordinator – Dawn Klaiber

Miss Klaiber is the instructional leader of the school. She is responsible for increasing student achievement by securing funding and implementing instructional practices and strategies endorsed by the board and in accordance with Arizona state standards.

Her primary responsibilities include:

- Manages and applies for all state and federal grants ensuring the school receives funding and operates in compliance with all local, state, and federal funding regulations.
- Provides supervision, training, and evaluation of instructional personnel while keeping the learning community up-to-date with learning modules, state compliance, and new standards for education.
- Serves as the Title I Coordinator and District Test Coordinator, tracking student progress and ensuring individual student assessment data is being used for early intervention and data-driven instruction in all classrooms.
- Supports the Director in implementing strategies that integrate all community members in school-wide programs, projects, and activities including.
- Supports the Board's effective governance by preparing monthly reports, proposing relevant priorities that combine the best interest of students with the focus and directions the board desires, and implementing key annual action plans that align with the school's annual goals and multi-year strategic plan.