

September 16, 2026

Dear Members of the Austin Waldorf School Community,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed the first month of the new school year. I have especially enjoyed reconnecting with longtime friends and welcoming new families to our campus. I had the opportunity to speak with many of you at the school's All-Community Meeting on August 24, and I look forward to continuing to connect with our community throughout the year.

In the spirit of connection and clarity, I am writing to provide you with an update on the composition and activities of the Board of Trustees. Because much of the Board's work happens behind the scenes, I would first like to briefly share its role within the school.

The Board holds ultimate responsibility for the long-term health and success of Austin Waldorf School. The Board ensures effective governance; stewards the school's resources; provides financial, legal, and strategic oversight; and hires, supports, and evaluates the Head of School.

On July 1, the Board welcomed five new trustees: Andrew Beyer, Kevin Jones, Leslie Hall, Rebecca Judis, and Yedidya Nisan. These dedicated individuals bring a broad range of professional expertise and experience to the Board, including entrepreneurship, law, marketing, education policy, property management, nonprofit governance, strategic planning, and program evaluation. Each will serve a three-year term. To learn more about all of our trustees, visit the [Our Leadership](#) page on the AWS website.

On August 14–15, the Board held its annual planning retreat. The retreat provided an opportunity to orient new trustees, assess the school's current financial and organizational conditions, and identify priorities for the Board's work this year. We also welcomed Mike Cobb, an education consultant from [Mission and Data](#), to facilitate a session on best practices in governance and leadership at independent schools.

On September 14, the Board held its first regular meeting of the 2026–27 school year, with discussions focused on governance, finance, communications, and strategic planning. In collaboration with the school's Chief Finance and Operations Officer and Head of School, the Finance Committee presented the 2026–27 operating budget to the Board for review and input. I expect the final budget to be presented for approval within the next couple of weeks. The school will be entering a third consecutive year with a balanced budget and a strong financial position. We will share additional information about the budget with the community once it has been approved.

The Board also approved the Head of School's goals for 2026–27. These goals focus on community communications and culture; student enrollment and retention; and continued organizational and strategic development. These priorities reflect the Board's commitment to supporting strong school leadership aligned with the school's mission and long-term goals.

Finally, the Board discussed several important areas of ongoing work, including implementation and review of the school's governance model, which will continue to be reviewed throughout the year; the school's grievance and whistleblower policies for addressing community concerns; and the strategic planning process that the school will undertake this year. The strategic planning process will provide an important opportunity to clarify our priorities and establish a shared vision for the future of Austin Waldorf School. I'll be sharing more about the strategic planning process with the community in the coming weeks and months.

In closing, I am confident in the strength and dedication of our Board, and the capacity and commitment of our administrative leadership, faculty, and staff. I look forward to working together to support the continued growth and success of our school.

I will continue to provide updates to the community following each Board meeting. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a wonderful school year.

Warmly,

Temaria Davis

President, Board of Trustees