



Lowcountry Montessori School

Board meeting

monthly board meeting

Published on April 22, 2025 at 12:26 PM EDT

Amended on April 22, 2025 at 1:23 PM EDT

Date and Time

Wednesday April 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM EDT

Location

Low country Montessori School

The mission of Lowcountry Montessori School is to provide an authentic Montessori education building a foundation for lifelong learning.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:30 PM
Opening Items			
A. Call the Meeting to Order		Gregory Alexander	1 m
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B. Determination of Quorum		Gregory Alexander	1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
C. Statement of Compliance with FOIA	Discuss	Gregory Alexander	1 m
D. Reading of the Mission Statement 1 Read Mission Statement 2 Pledge of Allegiance		Gregory Alexander	5 m
E. Approval of Agenda	Vote	Gregory Alexander	1 m
II. Consent Agenda			5:39 PM
A. Approve prior minutes Approve minutes for Special Board Meeting on April 10, 2025	Approve Minutes	Gregory Alexander	5 m
B. Approve MInutes Approve minutes for Board meeting on March 26, 2025	Approve Minutes	Gregory Alexander	5 m
III. Public Comment			5:49 PM
A. Public comment period, limited to 3 minutes per person. Regular Board Meeting Wednesday April 23 · 5:30 – 6:30pm Time zone: America/Newyork Google Meet joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/hhs-sizn-hzr Or dial: (US) +1 314-649-9352 PIN: 371 751 881# More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/hhs-sizn-hzr?pin=5828567926385	FYI		12 m
IV. Committee Reports			6:01 PM
A. Finance Report Finance update	Discuss	Prestige Accountant	20 m
B. Governance Election update	Discuss	Gregory Alexander	15 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
Teacher appreciation			
C. Facilities	FYI	Martha Watkins	10 m
Update on facilities.			
D. Fund raiser committee	Discuss	Angela Wright	5 m
Update on Fundraiser			
V. Director's Report			6:51 PM
A. Monthly Update	FYI	Amy Horn	10 m
Director Report			
VI. New Business			7:01 PM
A. New Business	Vote	Gregory Alexander	16 m
Discussion and Vote on next year Budget 2nd reading			
B. Strategic planning	Discuss	Amy Horn	10 m
Discussion of Strategic planning			
C. Vote on Teacher Pay Scale for 2025/2026 school year	Vote	Amy Horn	5 m
Vote on teacher pay scale			
D. Vote on continuing primary free program	Vote	Amy Horn	10 m
Vote on continuing keeping Primary Free 3 & 4-year-old			
E. Discuss and vote on School Bus	Vote	Greg Alexander	10 m
look at and vote on school bus for school			
F. Discuss and vote on using USDA funds	Vote	Amy Horn	10 m
VII. Executive Session			8:02 PM
A. Executive Session	Discuss		30 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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This session held in accordance with SC Code of Law, Title 30, Chapter 4, meaning it pertains to one or more of the following types of discussions:

- Section 30-4-70(a)(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.
- Section 30-4-70(a)(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

VIII.	Other Business		8:32 PM
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A.	Vote on matters from Executive Session, if required	Vote	Gregory Alexander		5 m
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IX.	Closing Items		8:37 PM
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A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Gregory Alexander		2 m
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Coversheet

Approve prior minutes

Section: II. Consent Agenda
Item: A. Approve prior minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Special Board Meeting on April 10, 2025

DRAFT



Lowcountry Montessori School

Minutes

Special Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday April 10, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Location

Lowcountry Montessori School

The mission of Lowcountry Montessori School is to provide an authentic Montessori education building a foundation for lifelong learning.

Directors Present

A. Wright, G. Alexander, J. Poole, K. Scott

Directors Absent

D. Slazyk

Guests Present

A. Horn, B. Shaffer (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

II. Finance

A. First reading of the budget

Will add 35 students to upper el this is a 3% increase in staff pay how the projections of the revenue were made.

That based on the number of students by grade level and or those with learning differences being weighted. Special needs are weighted differently EFA funding sheet shows numbers

how the enrollment projections match up with this year's current enrollment for each of those categories. We still have waitlist and projections are pretty on par

I'd like to understand the wage scale and why and how that works. For example,

is there starting wage based on their years of instruction?
Yes

is there an extra bonus if they have Montessori certification for the grade they're teaching?
Yes Montessori Cert and state cert extra 2k and 1k respectively
after 3 years 500 increase 7 years 1k increase

Do they document that the teacher has been certified by Montessori?
Yes documentation

There's often teachers who take the training and never complete the handing in of materials or practicum and don't get their certification

Yes someone left and someone that didn't complete the training.

We have one paying back the school now because she didn't complete the contract. 2 year commitment after training.(1-1.5 years to complete) 10-14k Expenses for training.

Training and contracts still profit more than losing. Most people follow through.

Angela addressed the Lunch amount increase. Amy stated they anticipated the Cafe will be up and running.

Jen asked a question about (separating line items) out different fundraisers possibly.

Angela asked why there were two lunch lines. One is for the cafe

Greg asked what is the difference from the bills this year from next year. Electric bills projected because of new building

Operation and maintenance shows a ~70k jump for that.

Greg asked what the 3% raise does to put our salaries and how does that have us comparing.

He asked what percent of the budget were we. We were at 80 percent and was hoping it was coming down. What is the percentage?

Amy stated we were always going to be over the 30-40% for salaries. The percentage she tallied 72%

Becky stated Beaufort County says after 28 years there isn't a pay increase for years of teaching service.

Greg asked if we have heard anything about funds that may be cut this year. Amy said nothing as of yet, USDA funds are not something we get. She said possibly IDEA Funds but Becky doesn't see that happening.(70k IDEA funds)

Greg asked if Martha found anything that may need replacing. Amy stated there's always going to be things but we do need to put together a schedule of things that need to be replaced.

Have any teachers indicated they are not coming back next year. Assistant moving, Michael Bell not coming back, Emily Fowler not coming back.

Greg asked what is Part time position(50k)

Put it in as a place holder for Admin/ another VP part time just a placeholder but possibly under if need be with the increase in students.

Greg asked for more details for the part time position. Would the person work another job?

Amy said this would not be an ISR position. ISR would be a hourly person.

Greg asked if Amy has someone to teach Health yet. She said she's working on it with training.

A. Wright made a motion to Approve the first reading of the budget with a 3% raise.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Executive Session if needed

A. Wright made a motion to Go into Exec Session.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

A. Wright made a motion to leave exec session.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Scott

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: II. Consent Agenda
Item: B. Approve Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Board meeting on March 26, 2025

DRAFT



Lowcountry Montessori School

Minutes

Board meeting

monthly board meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 26, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location

Low country Montessori School

The mission of Lowcountry Montessori School is to provide an authentic Montessori education building a foundation for lifelong learning.

Directors Present

A. Wright, D. Slazyk, G. Alexander, J. Poole, K. Scott

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Horn, B. Shaffer (remote), Bain Vaughn (remote), Chance Massey With Copper Advisors, M. Watkins, Prestige (remote), S. Fox

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

G. Alexander called a meeting of the board of directors of Lowcountry Montessori School to order on Wednesday Mar 26, 2025 at 5:39 PM.

B. Determination of Quorum

C. Statement of Compliance with FOIA

D. Reading of the Mission Statement

E. Approval of Agenda

Voted to Amend the agenda to add the votes to approve previous minutes.
Jennifer motioned to amend
Angela Seconded

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approve prior minutes

D. Slazyk made a motion to approve the minutes from February Board Meeting on 02-26-25.
J. Poole seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Approve Minutes

D. Slazyk made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board meeting on 03-06-25.
J. Poole seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

III. Public Comment

A. Public comment period, limited to 3 minutes per person.

Valerie Romig

Presented her findings to the board based on pre-signed checks and she urges the board to adopt a policy that makes this more fiscally responsible.

Cindy Hunt

Discussed how the staff went through a lot of transitions and invited the board members to come visit and see the school and how well it runs. She stated she does not see board members on campus. She stated when transitions were needed no one complained or didn't put forth the effort. She asked that we take this into consideration when we discuss raises.

IV. Committee Reports

A.

Finance Report

B. Governance

Greg stated he takes responsibility for not being released.

Kristine shared info about the election process and how many seats are elected and when they take place.

We scheduled a

Governance meeting

Scheduled for 5pm Monday March 31th

Kristine emailed to Ask Kevin from Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina If the board members who don't have kids get a vote. Kevin replied stating If board members do not have a student enrolled at LMS they would not be an eligible voter.

C. Facilities

Greg apologized because he asked for a shortened version of the reported issue at the last meeting.

Martha explained how every little purchase (\$5,000 or greater) must be approved and how it is a struggle and frustrating because it's hard to shorten the explanation of what each report and quote. Greg asked Martha to get with her staff and see what items could be added into the budget to keep from asking for example to paint each time. Add things into the budget that happens every year.

V. Director's Report

A. Monthly Update

Bain Presented I Ready Data

Data shows things are getting better and the progress in the right direction.

VI. New Business

A. New Business

Check Writing Policy

Anything over 2000 gets signed off by Amy

Reimbursements don't need okayed by Amy but they are watched through the accountants.

Jen and Debbie asked if there is a mileage form. Rose double checks the State calculation about .70\$ a mile

Debbie asked why it doesn't go through payroll. Sara and Amy said it would be taxed. Kristine Voiced her concerns about how we should not have pre-signed checks. While reviewing financial documents Kristine found Amy, Sara, and Becky have all signed a check for a reimbursement or mileage to themselves. Optically this isn't great. Greg agreed and asked them to change this.

B.

First Reading of Budget

J. Poole made a motion to table the first reading of the budget until next board meeting.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Vote on COLA for 2025/2026 school year

J. Poole made a motion to move until next meeting.

A. Wright seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Vote on engagement of accounting firm

J. Poole made a motion to Move into exec session.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. Vote on USDA Funds

K. Scott made a motion to Table the vote until next meeting or special meeting.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Vote on Next year school calendar

D. Slazyk made a motion to APprove 25-26 School Calendar.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

G. Vote on 3 & 4 Year Olds Free program

J. Poole made a motion to Table the program to next meeting.

A. Wright seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

H. Discussion of rental space

Amy said we have several spaces wed like to rent which will include increase on liability insurance. Would like some ideas from board on options.

Examples:

Open air gym, open space in HS, Kitchen, Makerspace potentially.

Greg asked for pricing.

Debbie asked that she finds comparable spaces.

Angela's biggest concern was liability insurance.

Greg asked Amy to contact the counsel of Beaufort county asking to waive the fee for the Y Gym.

VII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

J. Poole made a motion to go into exec session.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Slazyk made a motion to Leave exec session.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VIII. Other Business

A. Vote on matters from Executive Session, if required

D. Slazyk made a motion to Use Copper as our accounting firm(with reference check).

J. Poole seconded the motion.

Switching as soon as possible

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Scott

Coversheet

Discuss and vote on School Bus

Section: VI. New Business
Item: E. Discuss and vote on School Bus
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Lowcountry Montessori Thomas Activity Bus 4-21-25.pdf



Lowcountry Montessori



Thomas Activity Bus, 14-Passengers + driver



Thomas Built Buses body (built in High Point, NC)
Chevrolet 3500 chassis (built in Wentzville, MO)

MAJOR COMPONENTS included:

20' Overall Length, Chevy Vortec 6.6L gas engine 401HP/464-TQ, Auto. Trans., Upgraded Rear 60K BTU AC System w/ Driver's Dash AC, Front/Rear Heating, Exterior White w/ Lowcountry Montessori exterior lettering/logo, Tinted Passenger Windows w/ Black Window Frames, Tilt Steering, Passenger Seating: High Back / Armrest / Gray Upholstery / Seatbelts (lap-type), Gray Floor Covering, Interior Acoustic Ceiling Panels, Chevy AM/FM Radio, LED Exterior Lights, Interior Overhead Storage Racks, Open space in Rear Corner, MFSAB No Stop Arm/No Warning Lights/No Crossing Gate, Backing Camera, Rear Door Lock, Fuel Door Lock, Catalytic Converter Guard, + all standard features
Warranty: Chevrolet Chassis*: 3 years/36K mi., 5yr/60K Powertrain warranty, Thomas Body: see warranty sheet *(whichever occurs first, excludes wear items)

Purchase Price \$ 85,980.00 (\$500. SC IMF due at DMV)

NOTE: Buses available IN-STOCK. Limited availability.
Subject to prior sale. Meets all applicable Federal FMVSS for MFSAB buses.

CONTACT: Todd B. Manuel (cell) (803) 606-0804 todd@interstatetransportation.com