



# Lowcountry Montessori School

## Minutes

### Board meeting

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#### Date and Time

Thursday April 27, 2023 at 5:30 PM

#### Location

Lowcountry Montessori School

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

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#### Directors Present

C. Garnes, G. Alexander, J. Dameworth, J. Ephland, J. Poole, L. Young, S. Boggs

#### Directors Absent

*None*

#### Guests Present

A. Horn, Alyssa Blitch, Denise Aira, S. Fox

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Determination of Quorum

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

G. Alexander called a meeting of the board of directors of Lowcountry Montessori School to order on Thursday Apr 27, 2023 at 5:39 PM.

**C. Reading of the Mission Statement**

**D. Approval of Agenda**

C. Garnes made a motion to Approve Agenda.

J. Ephland seconded the motion.

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

**E. Statement of Compliance with FOIA**

**II. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approve minutes from 03/23/2023 Regular board meeting.**

Table Approval of Minutes from 3-22-2023

**III. Public Comment**

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

Jennifer Poole, student parent, raised concerns and questions regarding the senior trips. She felt that the planning was disorganized and wished for staff to address the frequent changes to the trip plans. Staff briefly replied that they did have many issues with the trip planning and that many lessons were learned; they insisted that the process would be more streamlined moving forward.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. Finance Report**

Alyssa Blitch from Prestige provided the finance statements for period ending 3/31/2023 and reviewed some items of note. Ms. Blitch advised that they were reviewing the coding of several line items, which appeared to be misrepresenting some expense and income lines. The budget for FY2024 has been drafted and will be formally presented at the May Board meeting. No action was taken.

**B. Governance**

**C. Facilities**

Director Horn provided an update on Facilities, as provided to her by Martha Watkins. Required maintenance was being done, rather than replacement, due to high price quotes and current available funds. Many projects were being undertaken by existing staff rather than outsourced for savings. No action was taken.

**V. New Business**

**A.**

### **Vote on Financial**

Director Horn provided the Board with the most recent cost of the school project, which had gone up by \$55,307.74.

C. Garnes made a motion to Motion made to use contingency funds to make up the shortfall.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

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

### **B. Discussion of School Bus**

Jennifer Poole stated that she had located a school bus for sale locally and inquired whether this would be a worthwhile purchase for the school. Discussion ensued regarding the possible uses for the school bus, as well as legal requirements that must be satisfied. School administration expressed interest in buying a new bus to ensure compliance with state statutes and also ensure that maintenance was manageable. Several Board members also expressed an interest in pursuing the purchase of a school bus. Boardmember Poole advised that she will do additional research and bring it back to the Board for review. No action taken.

### **C. Teacher Appreciation**

Jennifer Poole advised that May 8-12 was Teacher Appreciation Week. School administration shared their plans for honoring the teachers during the week and the Board expressed an interest in organizing a Friday luncheon for May 12. Boardmembers will be collecting possible donations for raffle during the lunch and will be planning the food and locale for the occasion. No action taken.

## **VI. Executive Session**

### **A. Executive Session**

C. Garnes made a motion to Move into Executive Session.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

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

J. Dameworth made a motion to Move out of Executive Session.

J. Ephland seconded the motion.

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

## **VII. Other Business**

### **A. Vote on matters from Executive Session, if required**

Motion made to offer a contract for employment to Director Amy Horn for a period ending 6/30/2024 which includes a 5% salary increase

C. Garnes made a motion to Approve a contract for employment to Director Amy Horn for a period ending 6/30/2024 which includes a 5% salary increase.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

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

## **VIII. 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 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. Young