



Lowcountry Montessori School

Minutes

February Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 26, 2025 at 5:30 PM

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, J. Poole, K. Scott

Directors Absent

G. Alexander

Guests Present

A. Horn, Amanda Morgan (remote), B. Shaffer (remote), Bain Vaughn (remote), C. Rentz (remote), Cindy Hunt (remote), Lizzy Lyles, M. Watkins, Natasha Orembsby, Rose Beck (remote), S. Fox, Valerie Romig

I. Opening Items

A. Determination of Quorum

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Reading of the Mission Statement

D. Approval of Agenda

A. Wright made a motion to Approve amended agenda.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

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

E. Statement of Compliance with FOIA

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approve prior minutes

A. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from Board meeting on 01-23-25.

K. Scott seconded the motion.

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

III. Public Comment

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

Chad Rentz addressed the board with concerns.

Addressing a critical issue

Alarming rate on pay being too low

Our school earns less 25% less than the surrounding area

Needs additional compensations for guides

Valerie Romig

Valerie is raising concerns regarding transparency. The director cited an incorrect FOIA laws.

She will continue to push for openness. She feels there are clear and blurred lines.

Things are being done behind closed doors. Asking the board to take a hard look at current leadership and ask if this is the leadership we want to continue making choices for the school.

IV. Director's Report

A. Monthly Update

Amy stated: Side notes

Greg previously Asked about salaries and benefits why so high

4 individuals who are tied to grants must get reimbursements for the district to turn in for it.

So, we will see it come down.

Bain Addressed the

New program I READY

Diagnostic was taken twice. It will be given again in March. Feb Data seeing a 50% in all classes except for one who is on or above grade level. One classroom performing a bit below. Math statistically scored lower than reading. We are seeing positive trends overall.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Report

B. Governance

C. Facilities

D. Camera System

Becky Discussion of Camera System.

Cameras system does not connect to current system and was not set up properly. Placed into the closet and cannot use it. I was told it was not done properly.

A. Wright made a motion to Add the camera system Correct component.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

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

VI. New Business

A. New Business

Kristine asked for field trips to have a price break down for costs. SO parents are able to see where the money is going towards. Amy said she would work on that.

Asked if personal parents can reach out to classrooms to do fundraisers.

Sarah said parents are able to reach out and to do fundraisers

B. Star Program

Discussed star program and the updates regarding the TEP program.

We will work with school admin to review policies to potential add to include the TEP program.

Debbie asked for the current policies and was directed to the school website.

C. Budget items

Kristine had questions about budget line items

"If those that have an expense packet could look at page 5 on the statement of revenues and expenses the very first line is the regular salary for learning disabilities that totals \$109,119.58. Everyone see that? At the end of December that number was only \$57,962.75. What am I missing that we added over \$51,000 in payroll there in January when we've only spent that much all year so far?" **Amy stated that heather with the**

financial company is trying to shift everything into the right category. There are 5 close adults.

"Also, same packet page 7 and 8 cover operations and maintenance of plant. Page 8 has the total percent remaining at negative 6.37%. We've got 5 months left to get through. What's the plan here to stop the bleeding in this department? If you look at the repairs and maintenance services line on page 7 totaling \$53,410.90 that was only \$30,546.94 in December. Again, what on earth is all of this money being spent on? That's almost \$23,000 in one month."

Amy Stated: Construction cost can be reimbursed (fencing, cameras, tvs, furniture) so once that starts to be reimbursed it will start to level out.

D. Carline

Kristine had received several complaints and concerns from parents.

Carline time was moved with less than a days notice and several parents brought concerns about the change made so quickly with little to no time.

Admin said it was for the teachers to be able to use a few extra minutes at the end of the day.

Board advised them to revert back to the old time and make changes at the beginning of the school year instead of during.

E. Checking account for itgirls

Jennifer had money for a fundraiser for the club. She started an account with the money so she does not have to carry the money around.

Jennifer is putting money into an account at first federal bank.

Amy stated the money needs to go through the school since it is a club.

F. Computers Grant Vote

The school received two grants to purchase computers

A. Wright made a motion to Motioned to allow the school to purchase and use both grants for new the computers.

K. Scott seconded the motion.

The grants requires the school to purchase the computers first to get repayment.

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

G. 3 & 4 Year Olds Free program

Amy asked to add 3+4 year old program vote for next month but discuss today. Amy stated that Greg Said "the school needs to make money."

Amy is hopeful for the board to continue doing free program to encourage more parents and students. We have a waitlist. Tabled to vote on the matter to continue allowing free program.

H.

Construction Surplus Discussion

Amy will compile what has been used so far. Amy stated we can send funds back or spend it. Amy suggests we put the funds in an interest bearing account. There's 400-500,000 dollars left it needs to be decided on within a few months.

VII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

D. Slazyk made a motion to Go into exec session mid meeting.

A. Wright seconded the motion.

6:59 PM

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

A. Wright made a motion to Exit exec session and continue regular meeting.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

7:16 PM

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

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

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

7:34 PM

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

A. Wright made a motion to End Exec Session.

D. Slazyk seconded the motion.

8:01 PM

The board **VOTED** 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 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Scott