

APPROVED



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