



Lowcountry Montessori School

Minutes

Board meeting

monthly board meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday June 25, 2025 at 5:00 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. Chavarria, A. Wright, G. Alexander, J. Poole, K. Lyon, L. Lyles

Directors Absent

K. Scott

Guests Present

A. Horn, M. Watkins, Mary Allison Cauldwell, 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 Jun 25, 2025 at 5:25 PM.

B. Determination of Quorum

C. Statement of Compliance with FOIA

D. Reading of the Mission Statement

II. Public Comment

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

Matt Thompson

Asked that this meeting be focused on budget. Recommended a third party intervention if needed to address concerns raised at other meetings. Encouraged board to focus on transparency

Amanda Sox Agduelo

Shared concerns about community lack of knowledge about LMS. Would like school to be more involved with local community at large through concerted outreach efforts to create more public awareness of what LMS offers.

III. Committee Reports

A. Finance Report

Chance Massey with Copper Advisors led this discussion.

There will be no "miscellaneous" item on financial reports moving forward. Employees will now be coded accurately.

We will not hit budgeted 4.3 million in state aid for FY 25

Greg asked about accuracy of per pupil funding

We will have to pay back last year's funds not used from deferred revenue. Revenue can only be deferred for 1 year.

Alonso asked about current deferred fund usage

Status of LMS was LP before becoming 501c3 but some payroll was still being filed at LP; Copper is amending and making changes to align accurately

July and August pupil counts are dependent on day 135; Days 45 and 135 counts are most important.

Lizzy asked what date we need to know about deferred revenue usage; Chance said by date of audit and noted current deferred is likely spent but not coded correctly

Alonso asked for numbers to be shared when available on what will be sent back and what is unspent.

B. Governance

Jennifer Poole shared an update on process of hiring new director

Some interviews scheduled for tomorrow morning

Listing time has been extended

Heather Pottenger (committee member) shared that the listing has been shared in more Montessori focused spaces

C. Facilities

D. Fundraiser committee

Angela Wright shared that the June 12 meeting was postponed due to low attendance; an email was sent to committee members to regroup and choose a new date

Jennifer Poole shared that community engagement is a focus

Wants to create "funding fun days" to communicate to parents the importance of attendance on count days and encourage students to want to attend

Lizzy Lyles asked if students have to be there all day for attendance to count on count days; Sarah Fox said she would find out.

IV. Director's Report

A. Monthly Update

Enrollment: 90 seats filled; 2 offers are pending

Attendance was low on 135th day (several students moved)

All state testing results are currently embargoed (will be sent in Fall)

Kayla Lyon asked who runs social media; Sarah Fox said strategic plan includes who posts on certain days (Amy, Sarah, and Kelly G.)

Greg asked about email from insurance company re: litigation; Amy said it pertains to an injury

Jennifer asked about rental breakdown; will be discussed in budget meeting

V. New Business

A. New Business

A. Wright made a motion to approve next year's budget.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

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

B. Vote on 3 and 4 year old program

A. Wright made a motion to approve free program for 3 and 4 year olds.

L. Lyles seconded the motion.

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

C. Update on FOIA request

Will be discussed in executive session

VI. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

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

A. Chavarria seconded the motion.

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

J. Poole made a motion to exit executive session.

K. Lyon seconded the motion.

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

VII. Other Business

A. Vote on matters from Executive Session, if required

A. Wright made a motion to offer a new director salary range of \$110,000 to \$125,000.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

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

J. Poole made a motion to retain Greg Alexander's appointment to the board.

A. Wright seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

K. Lyon made a motion to to adjourn meeting.

J. Poole seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Wright

Documents used during the meeting

- financials May.pdf
- Facilities Report 6_18_25.pdf

- FY 26 Budget Draft V5.pdf