APPROVED

Lowcountry Montessori School

Minutes

Board meeting

monthly board meeting

Date and Time
Thursday September 24, 2026 at 4:30 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. Whitaker (remote), A. Wright, G. Alexander, L. Lyles, O. Hawkins, T. Brosnan

Directors Absent
A. Chavarria, A. Walker, M. Thompson

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
G. Alexander

Guests Present
B. Shaffer (remote), E. Chapman, K. Chapman, K. Forbes, M. Watkins (remote), S. Fox

I. Opening Items

A.

Call the Meeting to Order

T. Brosnan called a meeting of the board of directors of Lowcountry Montessori School to order on Thursday Sep 24, 2026 at 4:32 PM.

B. Determination of Quorum

C. Reading of the Mission Statement

Read by T. Brosnan

D. Approval of Agenda

A. Wright made a motion to approve the agenda.
O. Hawkins seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Whitaker	Aye
O. Hawkins	Aye
T. Brosnan	Aye
A. Wright	Aye
G. Alexander	Absent
M. Thompson	Absent
A. Walker	Absent
L. Lyles	Aye
A. Chavarria	Absent

E. Statement of Compliance with FOIA

Statement of Compliance with FOIA read by T. Brosnan

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approve minutes prior minutes

A. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from Board meeting on 08-27-26.
O. Hawkins seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Wright	Aye
M. Thompson	Absent
T. Brosnan	Aye
O. Hawkins	Aye
G. Alexander	Absent
A. Chavarria	Absent
L. Lyles	Aye
A. Whitaker	Aye

Roll Call

A. Walker Absent

III. Public Comment

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

G. Alexander arrived.
Public comment provided by E. Chapman

IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance Report

Provided by J. Strickland-report attached

Haven't seen hard numbers what funding will come in at for all the Charter schools network wide, but very confident will come in higher than anticipated for Sept - Dec

Revenue YTD- 827,169
Local Revenue-85,408
State EIA Funding-741,761--vast majority of funding
Federal Funding-0

Expense YTD- 803,327
Net Revenue YTD- 23,842

Unrestricted Cash- 398,822
Money Marketing- 291,722- talking with the finance committee and admin, will leave alone to continue to earn interest

Days Cash on Hand- 27.26

Grants for FY 2027 haven't been approved as of yet- won't see any funds until December/ January at the earliest

52.16% -YTD Ratio of Instructional Spending

A. Wright- Early Childhood section 139 what's going on there?
J. Strickland- A discrepancy between coding and the budget. A lot were approved before the first payroll went out. If Admin approves, can reclassify them, believe those employees can be coded under kindergarten, still rolled under instructional spend.

G. Alexander- Have Auditors been in touch with you?

J. Strickland- All financials have been sent, the auditors have a list of what they need, our team is working on any documents they need. It is being worked on.

B. Governance

Board Retreat October 24th

G. Alexander- What would the board like to see?

A. Wright- record keeping for minutes for the committees, Board decorum (appropriate behavior for board members / boundaries-- when to recuse, when to act as parents)

T. Brosnan- do we need to do yearly certification?
L. Lyles- the email read all new and reappointed?
A. Wright- yeah within a year
G. Alexander- so that would be 90% of the board.

A. Wright- State Law requires all new charter school board members to complete initial board orientation training, for newly elected, appointed, re elected, and re appointed board members.

O. Hawkins- Martha had mentioned putting together materials?
S. Fox- Yes, coding and going through the budget so we understand what is being talked about. Also, I recommend going through the Charter, if you haven't, there are some things that we need to amend, it makes me want to do a once over on it, so if there is anything we want in it or don't want in it, we can figure it out.
A. Wright- We only have three hours, that may need to be a workshop
S. Fox- I agree, it's something I have started to make a list on and need to get with staff for.

G. Alexander- What time did we agree on?
A. Wright- 9-12
L. Lyles- 9-1

C. Vote on Finance Committee minutes

V. Director's Report

A. September Update

Presented by S. Fox- report attached

Still have staff coming in Lower El to help, don't have a timeline to end yet.
Looking for a close adult for a student in high school.

After 45-day count would like to re-access where we are at financially and see if there is something we cand do to help with the office admin, and a person to help with the elementary.

School Spirit Week also Red Ribbon Week
Staff member asked if we could provide a panel discussion for High School and separately Middle to the effects of drug use, with an Opt -Option. The realities of how addiction can affect people and the ripples it sends out. Panel of counselors, Officer Doug, the staff member, possibly Beaufort Drug and Alcohol

10-12-26 from 4:30-7:30 Garden Dinner
*Discussion about time and activity line up

Talking to Candance about doing adult cooking classes, she said yes and maybe doing workshops, and open to the community.

L. Lyles- Is there an update for the Grant
S. Fox- No update, but Martha has a list of facilities things to ask for.
M. Watkins- Jonathan is supposed to keep me posted, still not open from what we are hearing.

B. Maintenance report

Presented by M. Watkins- no report to attach

They are actively looking to put the field we use for parking on the market. Need to seriously consider what may happen if we lose access to the field. We had gotten some quotes to clear the land in the back behind the makers space, if we amend the fence by the basketball court, we could potentially add a few more parking spaces there. The quote to clear came back about 7k, that is to grade it for parking quality land. Need to clarify how much land they quoted to clear. They did send an agreement that we have to sign, do not know what that entails, don't know if they are going to start charging us to use it.

L. Lyles- The church sent us something?
S. Fox- They haven't sent it, they mailed it, have not received it.

T. Brosnan- Would the right of way when they sell it, go through their property or through our school?
S. Fox- It would not go through our school, they did say when they were talking to us about purchasing it, that they would be willing to have some sort of extension through their property, but they don't want to. The cost was just way too high. It is challenging to get into it. Has been professionally appraised, but no soil sample done. Their insurance changed, so they were sending us an agreement and use form. There is student parking,

but only like one person parks there, and six spots blocked off because of the basketball hoops, we could maybe use. Biggest issue is events, maybe they would let us rent their parking lot for events.

VI. New Business

A. Fundraising Committee

A. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from Fundraising Committee Meeting on 08-24-26.
O. Hawkins seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Presented by A. Wright

Next meeting October 14th at 5pm

October 22nd- Trunk or Treat and It girls Dance

November 5th Food Truck Night- so far have 3 food trucks, Omar working on getting more. Will also have student versus adult volleyball.

B. Board Members

L. Lyles- Touch on the training stuff, to make sure we have all looked at and know we have to go to the training.

G. Alexander- Are we going to Port Royal for the Trunk or Treat
A. Wright- Have we heard anything about it?
S. Fox- Not that I have seen was looking because Octoberfest should be coming. But I feel like Lizzy sent that to me last year.
L. Lyles- I did, I will look and find it and send it.
A. Wright- I think it would be nice to have a presence.
S. Fox- Do have a student excited to be the Mascot and he currently has the suite.

VII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

G. Alexander made a motion to go into executive session for personal matter.
A. Wright seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
G. Alexander made a motion to leave executive session.
A. Wright seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Other Business

A. Vote on matters from Executive Session, if required

No matters from executive session require voting

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

A. Wright made a motion to adjourn meeting.
G. Alexander 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 6:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Lyles

Documents used during the meeting

- 2026.08.31 LMS Financial Packet.pdf
- 2026_08_24_fundraising_committee_meeting_minutes.pdf