

APPROVED



Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

October Governance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday October 19, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Location

Please go to zoom.com and join meeting.

ID to join: 601 495 1069

Through a culturally responsive, child and family-centered Montessori education, Sankofa Montessori ensures that all of our students develop the knowledge, skill, and agency to have a life of purpose.

Committee Members Present

A. Nash (remote), E. Moore (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote), S. Harvey (remote)

Committee Members Absent

None

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Karacalidis called a meeting of the Governance Committee of Sankofa Montessori to order on Thursday Oct 19, 2023 at 10:32 AM.

C.

Approve Minutes

A. Nash made a motion to approve the minutes from September Governance Committee Meeting on 09-14-23.

E. Moore seconded the motion.

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

II. Content

A. Leadership Team Updates

Enrollment

For this month we are 94 students--that was what was recorded for FTE

As of Tuesday enrollment is at 89

5 students starting at the end of October

Goal by next FTE in March is to be at minimum of 94

Got yard signs to help with recruitment which has increased interest

Also have the signage for the school so you know the school is there

Enrollment for 24-25 going live on Friday

Per charter contract need to be at 504 students by year 5 when contract ends

- Exit interviews? Can you send us a summary? --some say they are dissatisfied; move to homeschool; montessori not a good fit; moved to school in district
- Began at 143, now at 89: had a to layoff some staff; at what number would we have to decrease again--would have to drop down to 50 to need to decrease staff again; currently have enough students to not need to eliminate any more classrooms
- Question: Has Jasmine already created her recruitment plan? Can we see it? She has and Sarah will send the link to the plan our way

Staffing updates

- 4 lead guides still present
- 4 co-educators; 1 gave letter of resignation (last day is October 27)
- Hired a floater to serve as a substitute teacher--going to promote her into full time co-educator position
- Question: What is the name of the academic director? Shani--Where is school now that testing has occurred?--Presentation will occur next Wednesday

Staff and School Culture

- Having one on ones with staff--concerned about teacher burnout; challenges related to high special education population in school
- Trying to find areas that they can take things off the teachers' plates
- Fall break was helpful in giving everyone a breather; all staff returned
- Goal is to have everyone return after the Christmas break as well

- Special education teacher starting next week (delayed start because her father passed)
- Suggestion: look into provide mental health support for staff

Maternity Plan

- Sarah not physically at school, but can be in a few weeks; working some a couple of days from home
- Working at 50% of capacity

GEERS grant

Initially gave \$270K

Reapplied for additional money \$11K--money given and Board needs to vote to accept

We will need to ratify the Board guidelines again at the November meeting--bringing to the next Governance meeting--Full Board needs to vote on Board guidelines and Student Handbook and will need to vote on approval at the November meeting

December Governance--Sarah will bring calendar and lottery for discussion

Ribbon cutting--not taking place

III. 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 11:23 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis