

APPROVED



Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

November Governance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday November 9, 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 Nov 9, 2023 at 10:35 AM.

C.

Approve Minutes

E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from October Governance Committee Meeting on 10-19-23.

A. Nash seconded the motion.

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

II. Content

A. Leadership Team Updates

Enrollment dashboard is live

5 students began between end of October and today

Currently enrollment holding at around 90 students

2 FTEs-submitted 94 for October; need to make sure at that number by March

What is the plan for getting to that number? Goal is to get to 94, going into 2024 keep recruiting before March. Will stop recruiting after FTE in March.

Will families be making changes to school environment in February-March?

- Recent enrollees coming from homeschool environments.
- Probably will not have much movement in February.
- Most movement will happen in December-January.
- Sarah will check with Jasmine about the enrollment landscape entering the second semester and timeframe for families making school changes.
- Might be able to tap into Charter School Fair and Independent School Fair to continue recruitment.
- Conducting tours every Thursday and Friday

Number of applications for 2024-25: 48 K, 26-1st, 12-2nd

- In better position than last year
- Need to be at 252 next year. Need to bridge that gap as soon as possible to get to 504 by end of charter term at year 5
- For K need to be at 128 K, that includes the kids that are moving up. Right now around 50, need 115. 1st grade add 4, 2nd grade add 15
- K is biggest area we need to add numbers to

Some families left because they didn't understand Montessori and what their children were learning; putting mechanisms in place to make sure curriculum model clear

- Putting in place a curriculum night in the Fall; will also have one in Spring for incoming families
- Requiring new enrollees to attend curriculum night and information sessions to make sure they understand
- Current families will be at pop-up classrooms to help field questions for new potential families
- Think of ways to include current families in recruitment and understanding of school--Consider including current families in curriculum night to help new families navigate and understand Montessori

Sarah will send us updates on enrollment checks and staffing changes

Enrollment policy--not many changes; now requiring families to sign acknowledgement that they received the community handbook and will abide by the policies (recommendation from school)

Changed to Infinite Campus as enrollment platform

Lottery--will happen 1st Friday in March
add specific time application due

Needs Governance to review Enrollment Policy, Community Handbook and Code of Conduct; make comments before full board meeting

Community Handbook

- Previous no homework policy--policy change to remove no homework (based on feedback from families that they want their children to have homework)
- Will give flexibility to have homework or not, but provide something to parents to give them insight into what their child is learning

Code of Conduct--some current students with serious behavior that could lead to expulsion; expanding behavior that could lead to expulsion to capture serious behavior

- Can continued violent behavior lead to expulsion? Are there some actions that should result in immediate expulsion based on single incident? Should a range of behavior and levels of discipline up to expulsion?
- Concern about disruptions to school environment, student/staff safety
- Does there need to be some language added regarding parents who are not cooperating with the school to resolve issues with their students or monitor their own behavior?

Now will only be voting on the Enrollment Policy policy at November full board meeting

Behavior Interventionist possible add to staff: 35,00-55,000 depending on experience

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 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis