APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Full Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday March 27, 2024 at 6:30 PM

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.

Directors Present
A. Allen-Thames (remote), A. Grant (remote), A. Nash (remote), F. Sheffield (remote), G. Edward (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote), K. Williams (remote)

Directors Absent
E. Moore

Ex Officio Members Present
S. Harvey (remote)

Guests Present

Adrian Jones (remote), Amanda Sivert (remote), Juliana Williams (remote), Rhushanda Barnes (remote), Robbie Phillips (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Karacalidis called a meeting of the board of directors of Sankofa Montessori to order on Wednesday Mar 27, 2024 at 6:33 PM.

C. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Nash made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 02-28-24.
A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Meeting Updates

A. Academic Committee

Enrollment
2024-25
87 K
25 1st
14 2nd
12 3rd
138 newly enrolled
64 returning students
Total=202 students

Campaign for recruitment ended March 15

There were 128 unsubmitted applications when the committee met

Personnel
1 new Special Ed teacher hired and began

Suspensions/Expulsions
K-0 OSS, 0 ISS
1st-6 OSS, 1 ISS
2nd-0 OSS, 1 ISS

Noted that all suspensions occurred on a day when there was no outdoor recess

Institute active indoor recess on inclement weather days with body movement to hopefully curb some of the misbehavior

January MAP testing
Data showed that some students were taking too long to answer each question, and some taking too little time
Noticed a dip in scores from the Fall testing
Will have students do testing in their own classrooms for the Spring testing instead of pulling them out for testing
Teachers will have oversight as they test
Also looking at Reading Mediation teacher tracking data, looking at pre and post math curriculum to see where there are gaps prior to Spring testing

Attendance
Above average at 92%

Plan to implement AM Morning Cycle to improve curriculum and will be led by teachers and co-teachers. PM Cycle will focus on literacy and math through seminars led by the teacher. New schedule will not be implemented until 2024-25 per Sarah.

Discussed delaying 2nd phase of construction by 1 year and instead maximizing current space to maximize growing enrollment.

School receiving donation from the Brown Toy Box

3 additional students identified for special ed through evaluation

B. Finance Committee

February Finance Report
Received $313,267
Expenses=$211,934
- Salaries=$75,867
- Benefits=$21,257
- Professional services= $44,855
- Building services= $39,845
- Supplies=$7,183
- Uncategorized expenses=$5,620 of uncategorized expenses.

Positve cash flow=$101,333
Ending balance of the operating account=$463,807.

Based on Edtec's projections, we are projected to end June 2024 with $142,446 of cash in the operating account. This is an increase of $282,572 from January's projections. The main differences from the previous projection were due to Sarah's successful efforts to 1) request redfinED's funds earlier, 2) getting Charter School Development Corporate to delay rent payments, and an increase in (Quality Basic Education) QBE funding.

Based on the current projection, the lowest balance (besides June 2024) will be in May 2024 at $142,446. Cash on hand ranges between 20 and 44 days between March 2024 and June 2024. Cash on hand will be 44 days in March 2024 and drop to 20 days in June 2024.

We are projected to have a positive cash balance through June.

From Sarah--New School Venture Fund agreed to give us half of the funding we would be getting in July; forward funding $75,000 in April

C. Facilities Task Force

Pause for moving forward with renovation on the 2nd level

Will report back once new plan is outlined

D. Governance Committee Meeting

A. Nash made a motion to Accept the CSP State Entity subgrant award of $1.25 milllion by the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF)with the conditions and requirements set forth in the CSP Subgrant Agreement with the SCSF.
K. Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Received $1.25 million grant from CSP to support the opening and preparation/opening and preparation for the operation of a replicated high-quality/expansion of a high quality charter school in Georgia.

This is the max that we could receive

Can only be reimbursed 90 days back
expenses in June, July, Aug 2023 cannot be reimbursed
Can be reimbursed back to Nov. 20, 2023-approximately $45,000
We can submit purchase orders for items to be directly paid, rather than covering the costs and submitting for reimbursement going forward

III. Executive Director's Corner

A. Updates

Staff Updates

6 classrooms next year-adding one class to each level
Asking all current staff back
2 confirmed-lower elementary
2 confirmed-primary
Offers out for remaining openings, with exception of special ed and last primary slot
Working with Teach for America to fill the last 2 slots

Hired Associate Director of Curriculum and Instruction (Christa Farrow)-she will be coming to the April Board meeting

2023-24 still have all of our staff, and new special education teacher started and is working on her caseload and working with kids (began a few weeks ago)

Corrective Action Plan

7 findings out of all measures, and had an opportunity to correct those findings
Submitted corrective plan on those findings, and they were all accepted
Able to get partial points back towards our total comprehensive performance framework score
Our academic score will be missing because we do not take the Milestones until 2024-25
Will be a score for Operations and Finance

Strong Finish

39 days from last day of school
Spring Break begins next week
April 8-Staff PD, last one before year end
State of the School Address-for returning and prospective families
will outline priorities for 2024-25
Academic priorities:

1. skill building, specifically around preparing students to understand what the MAP assessments are (making sure kids can transfer skills learned in the curriculum to the test)
2. Supporting teachers to focus on data responsive planning
3. Finishing strong with Montessori Reading and Remediation Pathway-when used with fidelity the data shows that the students are growing

Reminders:

Art Show-March 29 (Friday), 1-2pm
Launched Double Good Fundraiser-to raise money to purchase Montessori Materials and have a field experience for 2023-24

Sold 4451, and the school gets half of those earnings-$2, 275.50 (as of 1pm today)

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

F. Sheffield made a motion to Adjourn.
K. Williams 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 7:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis