APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Full Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday January 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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. Chambers (remote), A. Daniel (remote), A. Nash (remote), E. Moore (remote), F. Sheffield (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote), M. Davis (remote)

Directors Absent
A. Allen-Thames, G. Edward

Ex Officio Members Present
S. Harvey (remote)

Guests Present
Rhushanda Barnes (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 Jan 28, 2026 at 6:36 PM.

C. Previous Meeting Minutes

E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 12-10-25.
M. Davis seconded the motion.
Correction: Should be Lanier Family Foundation
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 05-28-25.
F. Sheffield seconded the motion.
Correction: Edit to reflect that both sets of April meeting minutes reflect that these were public hearings for 25-26Y budget.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Moore	Aye
A. Allen-Thames	Absent
A. Nash	Aye
F. Sheffield	Aye
A. Chambers	Abstain
G. Edward	Absent
K. Karacalidis	Aye
M. Davis	Abstain
A. Daniel	Abstain

II. Academic

A. Highlights

J**an. 14 Meeting Highlights**
Total enrollment: 118, down by 7 from the previous month
Reasons: moving, student needs more restrictive setting, the educational model

Attendance: All grades at 90% or above, except K (88%)
Staff absences decreased in December

Suspensions/expulsions
K-1
1st-2
2nd-2
3/4--0
Primary reason: physical aggression

Standardized testing/screening

Students have completed MAP, DIBELS IXL and Lexia
Paying attention to 2nd and 4th grade performance in particular
Received updates on performance
Task force will dig deeper into data-meeting scheduled for Feb. 2

PTO Engagement

100 days in school celebration-Jan. 16
Staff/team building event-Jan. 21
Parent-teacher conferences held on Jan. 26
Black History Month presentation-2/27

Task Force

Updates to policies-Board will need to vote on these
Plan for family engagement discussed

Special Education-currently at 16% (19 students)
Anticipate 5 students will qualify for services

Goals

Discuss proposed calendar
Start/end time modification proposed-end time 2:30
Potentially end early dismissal on Wednesdays
Lanier Family Foundation Literacy Grant
GSU PhD student coming to monitor and supervise work and progress of the students

B. Next Steps

Recruitment
Meeting scheduled for next Thursday
Alex met with Jasmine last month
Recruiter began
Set up excel spreadsheet to aid in recruitment

Sarah:
Learned from families that there is a lack of awareness of the school and messaging about the school's education model
Need to address these 2 points to help with recruitment

Next year's calendar needs to be approved

III. Finance Committee Update

A. December Financial Report

December net income totaled $245k
Revenue totaled $459K for the month

- Local: $71K NSVF grant payment, $4.5K of rent, $135k of Coupa Charter Fund and $50K Lanier Family Foundation
- State: $104K of revised QBE funding
- Federal: $7k child nutrition program, $29K IDEA grant and $57K of CSP grant

Expenses totaled $213K for the month – a decrease of ~$12K vs prior month due to lower Consultant cost and staff recruitment cost.

Ending cash balance as of 12/31/25 was $771K or 91.5 DCOH. December cash increased by $228K due to grant payments

Discussed school expansion

Transitioning treasurer role
Al will transition into that role and Sarah will provide information to aid in transition

Sankofa now has a Chorus and Step Team

IV. Governance

A. Facilities Task Force

Fawn will be meeting with Cameron to get insight into possibilities for Sankofa

Current mortgage holder
Wants Sankofa to provide plan for maximizing current space
Not willing to pay architect (need that to make plans for daycare facility and master plan)
Daycare has moved out so want to plan for classroom expansion and renovate 2nd floor

B. Upcoming Reviews/Discussions

ED Contract Review (term ending)

Budget Review
Will occur during finance comm. meetings
To discuss budget amendment and budget for next school year
Full Board will need to vote on budget at a future meeting (after public hearings)

Governance Training

If not already registered please let Errika know because other methods of training will need to be worked out so we are in full compliance

V. Public Comment

A. Community Talk

No public comments

VI. 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 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis