APPROVED

# Sankofa Montessori

## Minutes

### Full Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**
Wednesday February 25, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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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.

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**Directors Present**
A. Allen-Thames (remote), A. Chambers (remote), A. Daniel (remote), A. Nash (remote), E. Moore (remote), F. Sheffield (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote), M. Davis (remote)

**Directors Absent**
*None*

**Ex Officio Members Present**
S. Harvey (remote)

**Non Voting Members Present**
S. Harvey (remote)

**Guests Present**
LaDonya Buchanan (remote), Marcoah Pursley (remote), Rhushanda Barnes (remote)

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## 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 Feb 25, 2026 at 6:33 PM.

### C. Previous Meeting Minutes

E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 01-28-26.
A. Daniel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## II. Academic

### A. Highlights

Task Force update

- Met early Feb and reviewed the dashboard
- Progress and goal setting for standardized testing based on student data
- Data reviewed with families and teacher conferences held
- Goals for suspension and for culture and staff set
- Leadership team working on strategies to improve student performance on IXL and LEXIA

Staff updates

- 75% of staff set to return for next school year
- All teachers certified at least at T-4 level
- Offers going out next week (all but 3 returning)
- Hiring Fair this weekend-Sarah will attend
- Absences-stable

SCSC-CCRPI mandatory band score

- Last year's results: academic performance did not meet standards; financial approached standard; operations met standards
- This year: goal to show growth in academic performance

Enrollment

- 118 students currently enrolled

- 24 withdrawals (#1 reason need more restrictive setting; #2 reason moving; #3 reason GADOE requirements; #4 reason dislike school model)

Suspensions

- Both in K
- Related to physical aggression

Special Education

- 15 students
- 4 assessments in progress
- Combination of ESL, gifted, and 504 plans
- 13 in MSE trackway for independence

Student Attendance

- Increase overall for January across all grades
- 3% decrease in absences in 3rd grade
- 2% decrease in absences in 4th grade
- Tardies still a problem, but leadership team working on strategies to help decrease

**B. Next Steps**

Recruitment status

- 23 applications for K; 4 have turned into registration
- 2 applications each for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade; none turned to registration
- 1 application 4th; none turned to registration
- Goal for next year is 175 enrolled
- Current status at 98 attending (77 short of goal)
- Working on getting applications turned into registrations
- Will also set up touch points over the summer to ensure registered students show up

Strategies for helping families complete the process

- Ex. Having a registration day (weekly) to assist families in completing registration and next steps
- Rhushanda updated group that at least one Registration Day occurred last week
- Jasmine manages overall process; recruiter focused on following up on leads, tracking them and getting applications in
- New recruiter starting on Friday (Sarah outlined onboarding process for recruiter)
- Talking points for Board members to help us push recruitment and enrollment

Needs from Board

- Let Board know if help needed related to incentives proposed for IXL/LEXIA progress
- More visibility from Board at the school/school events

## III. Finance Committee Update

### A. January Financial Report

January Report

- January closed with a net loss of **($105K)**
- Ending cash of **$670K** (approximately 80 days cash on hand)
- Projected FY year-end balance of approximately **$270K** (33 days cash on hand)
- Full-year forecast remains near breakeven at a projected **($21K)** loss
- While we remain fiscally compliant and within standard, we are closely monitoring cash compression driven primarily by enrollment-related QBE adjustments
- As startup grant funding phases down next year, continued focus on enrollment growth, disciplined spending, and increased private fundraising efforts will be important
- Board encouraged to consider how we may leverage our personal and professional networks to support relationship-building and potential private funding opportunities.

Public Hearings for Budget

- Scheduled to hold public hearings (dates below) for the FY25–26 Budget Amendment and the FY26–27 Annual Budget
- At least one board meeting related to the budget will need to be conducted in person prior to final adoption
- Need to review dates for potential dates for the budget hearings we might be able to attend in person.  Al will follow up via email to set date and time.

## IV. Governance

### A. Facilities Task Force

Updates on Wright Community School

- Daycare actively moving out (last day April 1)
- approached again about WCS moving on site (proposing 2 years in modulars)
- WCS would have grades 6-9
- Anticipated 140 students
- 10 classrooms would meet WCS model
- Proposing 12 classroom modulars on site (2 for Sankofa to use the 1st year)

- Waiting on projections for final cost
- Sankofa proposed having them renovate the daycare building based on cost instead of modulars
- Would need to go to City of Forest Park for variance due to the number of proposed modulars (Sankofa currently approved for 8 on site)-takes months and riskier if they deny adjustment to variance

Fawn will forward plan for modular plan set up from last year

### B. Policy Approvals/Upcoming Reviews/Discussions/

M. Davis made a motion to approve the school calendar for SY 26-27.
A. Daniel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

ED Contract

- Up for renewal at the end of this year
- Everyone on Board needs to review it to determine what if any changes need to be made

## 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 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis