APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Full Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday March 25, 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. 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)

Guests Present
Nicole Jalen (remote), Rhushanda Barnes (remote), Silka Craig (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 25, 2026 at 6:32 PM.

C. Previous Meeting Minutes

M. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 02-25-26.
A. Daniel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Governance

A. Facilities Task Force

WCS

- Sent proposal for WCS co-habitation that needed comments-needs comments as soon as possible
- Meeting upcoming with WCS

Renovations

- Met with architect to map out plans for classroom space renovations
- Plan to convert 2 classrooms into 3 to maximize current footprint

Outdoor spaces

CSP approved payment for outdoor space connected to Daycare and outdoor classroom
Possible community service partnership with Al's organization
1st day of school Aug. 3 so want to have projects completed before that date

Daycare on schedule to move out on April 1

B. Policy Approvals/Upcoming Reviews/Discussions/

Social Media Policy

- Legal requirement; SB 351; requires schools to have social media
- Protects school from liability
- Due April 15
- Describes prohibited conducts and covers conduct off campus
- Covers staff, students, and families
- Ramifications of violation
- Outlines reporting protocol

- Currently looking for best tools to add security to Firewall
- Responsibilities of stakeholders to maintain safe environment related to social media

Questions

- Does policy need to address that we are looking for tools? May need to amend language to reflect that we will use tools rather than any specific tool (search ongoing)
- Is social media policy included in the discipline policy? Student code of conduct includes language related to use of digital platforms

M. Davis made a motion to approve Social Media Policy.
A. Daniel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

ED Contract

- Still under review
- Please review and send questions
- Changes will be made, but need to review with budget in mind for SY26-27

Budget Hearings

- Public Hearing dates listed in Agenda
- 4/15 will be in person at Sankofa

III. Academic

A. Highlights

Enrollment Recruitment Update

- Alex meeting with Jasmine to
- 13 K registrations confirmed
- 32 registrations
- 29-2nd
- 15-3rd
- 17-4th
- 12-5th
- Coaching Jasmine on turning interest into applications and confirmed registrations
- All hands on deck for recruitment
- In person registration every Tuesday

Goals for SY26-27

- Potential changes for how data is tracked

- MAP will have 3 sections (Language Arts added)
- LEXIA data-looking at individual minutes (some students may need more/less time)
- School contemplating switch to IXL from LEXIA
- Spring MAP testing coming up April/May
- Georgia Milestones testing also coming up

Total enrollment 120

Staff Updates

- Hiring for gaps in grade levels
- Adding PE teacher
- Replacing ESL teacher (retirement)
- 2 teachers on PIP
- Sending 3 teachers for MTE training (Montessori training) in Atlanta

Suspension

6 total-physical assault primary basis

Special Education Data

- 7 students in special education
- 4 students in initials
- ESL-5 students
- Gifted-10 studnets
- 13 students-for MTSS as planned

Attendance

- Remains stable

Fundraising

Double Good fundraiser-raised $14,000 (net to Sankofa ~$7000)

B. Next Steps

New recruitment coordinator

- Helping with organization of leads
- Has added capacity to recruitment work
- Working towards carrying interest through to complete registration

Academic Standing

- SCSC call with Academic Committee led to Task Force
- More intentionality around tracking data to move towards improvement/student achievement
- Want to make sure we meet academic criteria of authorizer
- Trying to make sure more students make grade level, but also those that don't are seeing progress
- Working towards getting monitoring of student hours consistent across all spaces (which also means supporting teachers in reaching those benchmarks)

IV. Finance Committee Update

A. February Financial Report

February Finance Report

- **February month-end:** February closed with a monthly net loss of approximately **($106K)**, and an ending cash balance of **$563K**, or **66 days cash on hand**. Year-to-date net income through February was approximately **$253K**.
- **Improved full-year outlook:** The current February forecast projects **$130K in net income** for FY26, which is a favorable improvement from the prior forecast and reflects an increase in the midterm QBE allotment. The forecast also projects approximately **$434K in ending cash**, or **51 days cash on hand**, at 6/30/26.
- **Budget amendment rationale:** The proposed amendment aligns the board-approved budget to actual performance and updated projections. Compared with the original budget, total revenue is projected to be **$833K below budget**, driven primarily by lower state funding tied to enrollment, while total expenses are projected to be **$895K below budget**, reflecting staffing reductions, facilities savings from not moving forward with modulars, and other expense adjustments. The amendment results in projected net income of **$130K**, which is **$62K better than the approved budget**.
- **Other noteworthy board callouts:** During the finance committee it was discussed that this amendment is a normal mid-year governance step when there are material variances, especially after the midterm allotment provides more funding certainty. The committee also noted several forward-looking considerations that will continue to matter as we move into FY27 planning: enrollment conversion, teacher compensation, facilities constraints, and the cash timing impact of reimbursement-based CSP expenditures.
- **Public Hearings:** As a reminder, the March 18 finance committee meeting served as the first public hearin**g** on the FY25–26 Budget Amendment. A **second public hearing** will be held on **April 15 from 5:30–6:30 PM at Sankofa Montessori (5881 Phillips Drive, Forest Park, GA 30297)**, followed by our formal board meeting on April 29th. We would welcome a strong in-person turnout from board members who are able to attend, as we move toward final adoption of the budget.

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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis