# Sankofa Montessori

# Minutes

## Full Board Meeting

**Date and Time**
Wednesday April 29, 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), F. Sheffield (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote), M. Davis (remote)

**Directors Absent**
E. Moore

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

**Non Voting 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 Apr 29, 2026 at 6:34 PM.

### C. Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 03-25-26.
F. Sheffield seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## II. Governance

### A. Facilities Task Force

**Daycare status**

- Moved out April 1
- Requires renovation to occupy

**WCS Update**

- Met with school leader to discuss plan of action/proposal that they will send
- Looking to have 150 students  grades 6-9 next year
- Options are WCS renovates Daycare building (8 classrooms) or placing modulars on property (requires zoning amendment for Sankofa)
- Scheduling on site visit with Sarah
- Asked them to send enrollment projections
- WCS looking for 2 years at Sankofa with option to renew for additional 2yrs (would WCS need more space if they choose to renovate Daycare, then extend occupancy)
- Anticipate occupancy beginning 27-28
- Preference is for WCS to renovate daycare building (modulars would leave site) so that Sankofa has space to grow or option to rent out space to another school once WCS leaves

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

**Line of Credit**

- With South State Bank

- Up to $85,000
- Board Chair would be the authorized person on the account
- Added last year as a back-up; did not draw on it last year
- Required to renew each year
- Can  use to cover short term needs or bridge gap during delays in reimbursement

F. Sheffield made a motion to Renew line of credit with South State bank up to $85,000 with the Board Chair as authorizer.
A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## III. Academic

### A. Highlights

**Enrollment**
Current-123 students
25 withdrawals this school year

**Attendance**-slight decrease across grade levels

**Staffing**
Hiring new teachers across all grade levels
6 contractors
Absences-slightly lower than last month

**Suspensions**
Primarily for physical aggression

**Standardized Testing**
Began MAP testing
3/4 will begin Milestones next month

**Academic Task Force**
Will meet in June
Plan to review dashboards and data from this school  year

**Special Education**
5-MTSS all for academic
10 gifted students

**Goals**
Discussed goals around standardized testing
Attendance-have less than 5% absent

### B. Next Steps

- Board outreach to incoming families would be helpful for enrollment
- Policy and handbook amendments will be sent to Board members to review; will need to vote on those changes at the next full board meeting

## IV. Finance Committee Update

### A. March Financial Report

- March month-end: March closed with monthly net income of approximately $23K, supported by $259K in total revenue. Ending cash was $571K, or 68 days cash on hand, up about $8K from the prior month. Year-to-date net income through March was approximately $283K.

- Current FY26 outlook: The updated March forecast projects approximately $138K in net income for FY26, which is a favorable improvement from the amended budget / prior forecast. The main drivers are about $28K in additional revenue—primarily from the $24,877 Educators Supplement Grant, rental income, and donations—offset by about $20K in additional expenses, including the planned educator supplement payout and CSP-funded leadership professional development. The forecast also projects approximately $427K in ending cash, or 50 days cash on hand, at 6/30/26.

- March report context: Revenue is generally tracking in line with expectations under the amended budget, with local revenue at 97% and state revenue at 82%. Federal revenue is currently at 64%, with some grant activity still pending reimbursement, including CSP draws that were noted as partially approved for a May 1 payment. Expenses remain generally aligned with expectations as of this point in the fiscal year.

### B. SY 26-27 Budget Public Hearing

- FY27 budget overview: The proposed FY27 budget is built on an enrollment assumption of 165 students and projects approximately $3.56M in revenue, $3.47M in expenses, and $91.8K in net income. Revenue is budgeted to grow by about 10%, while expenses are projected to increase by about 12.7%, driven largely by personnel costs, salary increases, and new positions.

- Other noteworthy board callouts: The FY27 budget assumes a revenue mix that is heavily dependent on public funding, with approximately 80% from QBE, 11% from CSP, 5% from Title/IDEA, 3% from nutrition, and 1% from donations and other local sources. Personnel costs account for nearly 50% of the operating budget, staffing is projected to increase from 16 roles to 19.5 roles, and projected ending cash for FY27 is approximately $414K, or 44 days cash on hand. As discussed in the Finance Committee, key forward-looking considerations include enrollment conversion, CSP spend-down and reimbursement timing, staffing growth, and long-term sustainability as CSP funding sunsets in February 2027.

Question re: staffing

- Increase in teachers needed due to adding a 5th grade and replacing teachers who are leaving
- Salary increases based on benchmarking across the state
- Adjustments based on change to leadership structure and admin
- Accounts for 50% of operating budget

F. Sheffield made a motion to approve the budget for SY 26-27.
A. Daniel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## V. Staff Appreciation

### A. Week of May 4- 8: Our Staff is First Class

Theme: Our Staff is First Class
Discussed plans for upcoming Staff Appreciation week
Wanted to put this on the Board's radar
Financial support from Board requested for the week's activities

## VI. Public Comment

### A. Community Talk

No public comment

## VII. 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 7:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis