APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Full Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday August 26, 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. Nash (remote), F. Sheffield (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote), M. Davis (remote)

Directors Absent
A. Daniel

Ex Officio Members Present
R. Barnes (remote), S. Harvey (remote)

Guests Present
Krista Harrell (remote), Nikki Goodson (remote), Tiana Stephenson, WCS (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 Aug 26, 2026 at 6:32 PM.

C. Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes from Full Board Meeting on 06-24-26.
M. Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic

A. Highlights

Enrollment

- Target enrollment: 165
- Current enrollment: 127-134

Staff

- 5 vacancies for contract roles
- 11 leads, 4 assistants, 1 custodian, 1 PT nurse, 4 leadership, 2 co-leadership, 4 contractors (gifted, sped consultant, speech therapy, occupational therapy)
- 40 observations of staff members (as of date of last Academic Committee Meeting)

Suspensions
No suspension data yet

Standardized Testing

- MAP testing ongoing-some categories added, language; reading fluency; science for 5th grade only
- Might have preliminary data in September
- K-will be taking G Kids
- IXL/DIBLS data collection for K-5

Academic Task Force-meeting in September

Highlights
Team has newsletter
Special Ed-27 students (20.14% of population)

504-10 students
MTSS-5 students
ESL-5
Gifted-8 students

Grant
Still under Orton-Gillingham grant term-will help with reading proficiency

News from Barnes:

- Goal is 165 students enrolled; Currently at 141, with a couple in the pipeline to enroll (updated from last Academic Committee Meeting)
- Enrollment strategy in place and recruitment ongoing (ex. Prospective Family event at school on Saturday; going to Forest Park Rec Center, reaching out to former students/families about returning)
- Update on observations-up to 67

News from Krista

- NWEA testing will begin next week

Support Needed from Board

- Creating fundraising plan to help sustain systems (ex. CSP funding will end so need to replace those funds)

B. Next Steps

Conflict of Interest

- Board members need to return conflict of interest forms-tonight if possible

Board Monitoring Program via SCSC

- Sankofa under the program this year
- Based on academic and financial performance
- SCSC may come to committee and/or full Board meetings

C. Academic Goals

Full scope of goals will be sent to Board
Vote postponed until Board has an opportunity to review this information

III. Finance Committee Update

A. July Financial Report

Last fiscal year: Finished June with $597K cash on hand

July Financial Report

- Sankofa generated approximately $253K in revenue
- Inncurred $295K in expenses, resulting in a $41.8K loss for the month.
- Expenses increased from June, several July costs were associated with preparing for the new school year, including uniforms, software/subscription renewals, supplies, facility maintenance, and a one-time $12.5K achievement tracking expense.
- Cash position: We ended July with approximately $498K in cash, down approximately $100K from June. We will continue to monitor cash closely as we move through the early part of the school year and receive our normal funding inflows.
- Despite the July loss, our current FY27 forecast remains positive.
- Currently forecasting approximately $228.5K in net income for the full year, compared with approximately $92K in the approved budget. The improved outlook is primarily being driven by additional anticipated federal/CSP funding and lower projected personnel costs, partially offset by higher professional services and facilities expenses.
- Enrollment remains an important watch item: As of August 18, enrollment stood at 141 students compared with our budget assumption of 165. Current 24-student gap remains an area to monitor closely (tied to QBE funding)
- Overall financial health: Our projected state financial scorecard remains strong at 96 points, with the primary area currently falling below standard being enrollment variance.Generated approximately

Fundraising

- Want to create a fundraising strategy
- Met with Sarah to discuss
- Will come back to the board once a plan is more fleshed out
- Open invitation for Board members who might want to participate in discussion

IV. Governance

A. Facilities Task Force

Renovations

- Additional walls added to some classrooms
- Daycare moved out
- Renovations underway in daycare space-will house speech therapy, occupational therapy, bookstore, and eventually a library (will be able occupy next week)
- Outdoor PE space still under construction

Wright Community School (presented by Tiana Stephenson)

- Looking for approval to proceed to consult with the attorneys draft a lease or sublease
- Target deadline October re: facilities
- 22 Beacon holds lease for Sankofa; proposal would have WCS make payments on lease directly to 22 Beacon with adjustment on payments made by Sankofa to offset
- WCS would occupy sanctuary building for 2-3 years; max of 250 students, 27 staff members
- Asking for 27 parking spaces and their own carpool lane (separate from Sankofa's drop-off/pick-up pattern)
- No bridge access (connected to daycare)
- WCS would be responsible for their landscaping and utilities
- Open questions: breakdown of costs, what happens if WCS fails to pay

Questions

- Discussed WCS growth plan
- Does not having that space impact Sankofa's growth?
- Who covers legal fees for Sankofa?
- Subleasing, what does that mean in terms of responsibility for payment if WCS does not meet obligation?
- How will interruptions to instruction be handled while renovations occur?
- What will be the plan to ensure that high school students do not interact with Sankofa students?

Tabled vote on approval to proceed with drafting lease/sublease to determine how legal fees will be covered first

B. Policy Approvals/Upcoming Reviews/Discussions/

A. Allen-Thames made a motion to approve the Bylaws with the following addendums: add Head of Schools to the hiring section and change minimum number of Board members to 7 with a maximum of 11.
F. Sheffield seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
A. Nash made a motion to approve the Sankofa Montessori Employee Screening, Eligibility, and Professional Standards Policy.
M. Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Public Comment

A. Community Talk

No public comment

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 7:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis