APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Governance Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday August 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM

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.

Committee Members Present
A. Nash (remote), K. Karacalidis (remote)

Committee Members Absent
None

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

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Karacalidis called a meeting of the Governance Committee of Sankofa Montessori to order on Thursday Aug 13, 2026 at 10:03 AM.

C.

Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Nash made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 06-11-26.
K. Karacalidis seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Governance Task

A. Oversight

New lead positions for Sankofa

- Barnes and Sarah shared an update on their new roles and how they are progressing so far
- Families and staff adjusting to the change
- Ongoing effort to make sure they are clear about their roles and communicating with each other

Policies and Goals

- On Monica's list to present to the full Board, employment policy

Board Retreat

- September or October dates for retreat
- Want to ensure that we meet

Board Transitions

- Need to determine if we will need to find a new board member based on Al's new position

Facilities

- Wright Community School-meeting with 22 Beacon, WCS, and Sankofa to get update
- 22 Beacon drafting amendment to lease, but Sankofa has to agree for co-habitation to happen
- WCS deadline for facilities is November to the SCSC
- More work needs to be done before kids come on campus but making progress
- Will have a bookstore (selling uniforms on site), library, and sensory room
- Hands on Atlanta contracted Home Depot to do some flooring

B. Charter Task

Board compliance with Open Meeting requirement

LKES Evaluation

- Kim and Monica will be the assigned Board members
- Need to determine if they both have to be re-trained or if their prior training is sufficient
- Also need to ensure Kim and Monica have access to the platform so they can complete the evaluation process

III. School Share Out

A. The Details

Enrollment

- Goal 165
- Top number was 134
- Some registrations in the pipeline, but there is a large gap
- Working on recruitment to close the gap (priority is K and lower EL)
- Also need additional upper EL to make sure population sufficient for testing

Policies and Goals

- Employment eligibility policy: made changes based on feedback from Board
- name change to Sankofa Montessori Employee Screening, Eligibility, and Professional Standards Policy

Compliance

- Identified for the Governing Board Monitoring Program for this school year
- Addressing academic and financial standards failed to meet on SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework in FY24 and FY25
- Program intended to promote compliance and effective governance practices
- SCSC or contracted monitor will attend governing board meetings and review meeting minutes and provide feedback to the chair

Compliance-Board Action Needed

- Board meeting calendar-need at least 10 meetings on the calendar
- Annual Governance Training Certification (due 9/10)
- Signed conflict of interest forms (due 9/30, would like by 9/20)
- Board bylaws-need to decide if re-vote on bylaws, if so needs to be done by 9/30

Staff Updates

- 11 flight captains, 4 co-captains
- 4 flight control members

- 2 flight tower members
- 1 part-time nurse
- 4 contractors (gifted, speech therapist, occupational therapist, sped consultant)
- Hiring (1 sped teacher, 1 sped para, 1 co-guide, 1 OG contractor, 1 Montessori contractor)

Culture Updates

- Staff spend summer PD in July becoming acquainted with the Culture Playbook and Sankofa's vision for school culture
- Sessions included practice clinics and staff scripted directions and delivery

Student Support Updates

- 27 special education students
- 10 students with 504 plans
- 5 MTSS
- 8 gifted
- 5 ESOL

IV. Public Comments/Questions

A. Community Talk

No public comment

V. 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 10:51 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Karacalidis