APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday August 12, 2026 at 5:30 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.

Committee Members Present
A. Allen-Thames (remote), M. Davis (remote)

Committee Members Absent
None

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

Guests Present
Enrollment Support person (1) (remote), Krista Harrell (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. **Record Attendance**

B. **Call the Meeting to Order**

A. Allen-Thames called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee of Sankofa Montessori to order on Wednesday Aug 12, 2026 at 5:35 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Committee Meeting on 06-10-26.
A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Leadership Team Updates

D. Leadership Team Updates
1. Enrollment status- Current enrollment status and efforts for enrollment fundraising &
School Attendance
Target enrollment 165- 1st week of school daily enrollment ranging from 127-134
Kindergarten 31 Lower Elementary (1st-3rd) 58 Upper Elementary (4th-5th) 45

2. Personnel Updates- Updates on staffing and updates regarding professional development of staff. Staff Attendance.
11 Flight Captains (Leads) 4 Co-Captains (Assts) 1 Custodian 1 PT Nurse 4 Flight Control Members (Leadership) 2 Flight Tower (Secondary Leadership)
4 Contractors (Gifted Sp, Speech Th, Occ Th, and SPED Consultant)
Hiring for 5 positions- 1 SPED Teacher, 1 SPED Para, 1 Instructional Co-Guide, 1 OG Contractor, 1 Montessori Contractor

Regarding professional development- 40 observations so far this SY for 14 staff members

3. Updates on school suspensions/expulsions by grade- *No suspensions to report (August data at next meeting)*

4. Standardized Testing and Screening Data Updates- Any outstanding outcome data
per grade from fall assessments if applicable. Updates/Preliminary Results if applicable (I.e. IXL and Lexia data; data on low performing 2nd-4th graders.
NWEA MAP testing begins next week. New this school year is the Language portion and 5th graders will also take the Science portion along with Reading Fluency, Reading, and Math for all grade levels.
DIBELS K-5
IXL Diagnostic in Reading and Math K-5
GKIDS Kindergarten
Noted that SY 25-26 GA Milestones Score data is only back for Math, ELA will not be released until Nov/Dec

ANET (Screening prep for GA Milestones will take place twice a year, Fall and Early Spring)
See SY 26-27 goals section below for academic goals this school year!

5. Discuss School-Parent (PTO)-any updates for upcoming SY26-27
Cabin Coordinators (Room Parents) new this SY

6. SCSC Follow Ups- CCRPI data review-Schedule next Academic Task Force meeting after Spring MAP and GA milestones data
SCSC requested testing assessment calendar- to be shared w/ Academic committee board members as well. High risk Academic monitoring
SCSC monitoring from July-December, results will be shared in March, Next round due August 31st, Academic compliance related items pending.
We discussed meeting possibly in September for an Academic Task Force meeting to go over existing Dashboard data for classrooms and individual students

7. Other Important Updates- ***Leadership Team shared slides on "Approach at Sankofa"- presentation to explain the Montessori approach at Sankofa to teachers/staff, parents, board, and SCSC***
Leadership Team shared the new school Newsletter, "The Sankofa Skyway Newsletter"
Pending School News-Donuts w/ Dads on Thursday, Sept. 4

E. Special Education

B. Discussion of Special Education
• Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified special needs
Total 27 students- 20.14% of total population
10 students w/ 504 plans, 5 students on MTSS, 5 ESOL students
• Any updates on staffing for Special Needs and progress of Special Ed classroom
Pending hiring for 1 SPED lead and 1 SPED Para for this SY
• Any updates on classroom integration of special needs and updates on external supports for special needs (ie Speech, ABA, OT/PT)
Contractors in place this SY for Speech and OT
• Any updates on psycho-educational testing for students- plans/progress- ***N/A***

F. Gifted Student Services

C. Discussion of Gifted Services
Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified
for gifted services
Total 8 students- 5.9% of total student population

Discuss plans for data tracking/allocating #/% of students for appropriate funding per
student for special services or gifted services- ***Dashboard analysis***

G. SY 26-27 Goals

G. SY 26-27 Goals
Any updates or changes to the short term and long term goals for next school year
Academic Goals for SY 26-27 regarding Standardized Testing: Plan to vote on goals at next Full Board Meeting this month

- ***MAP Growth- 85% goal (students meet or exceed at/above 41st percentile)***
- ***DIBELS - 85% goal (students meet EOY composite benchmark and show grade-level foundational literacy proficiency)***
- ***IXL DIAGNOSTIC- 75% goal (studentes grow one full grade and and reach grade-level diagnostic benchmarks in Reading and Math)***
- ***GA MILESTONES- 60% goal (60% grades 3-5 will meet or exceed proficienty in ELA and Math and outperform zoned district averages)***

Policy Discussion- Grade Placement & Academic Acceleration Review Policy

Any outstanding items or updates on grants/funding/external partnerships for next school year- ***Review of Orton-Gillingham grant term from 7/29/26-7/29/27***

II. Public Comments/Questions

A. Public Comment

A. Public Comment 5 m
Speakers please limit questions/comments to 2 minute

Mr.H: Just wanted to introduce himself and his organization helps schools with increasing enrollment. Just wanted to leave my contact information to reach out if necessary.

III. 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 6:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Allen-Thames