APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday September 9, 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, M. Davis

Committee Members Absent
None

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

Guests Present
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 Sep 9, 2026 at 5:41 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Committee Meeting on 08-12-26.
A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Leadership Team Updates

D. Leadership Team Updates Discuss (Presenter Rhushanda Barnes)

1. Enrollment status- Current enrollment status and efforts for enrollment fundraising & School Attendance
Currently, 142 enrolled students. Target goal of 165 enrolled students.
32 in Kindergarten, 58 in Lower Elementary, 51 in Upper Elementary

2. Personnel Updates- Updates on staffing and updates regarding professional development of staff. Staff Attendance.
12 Flight Captains, 5 Co-Guides, 3 Flight Tower, 1 Custodian, 4 Flight Control (3FT, 1PT), 1 PT Nurse. 5 Contractors.
Hiring currently for 3 Vacancies:
Absences: 17 Flight Captains, 5 Co-guides, 1 Flight Tower, 2 Flight Control (mostly due to illnesses)
Staff Tardiness: Noted tardiness as a problem in August for staff (76 total late sign ins after 7:15 AM with 15 employees at one late sign in. Leadership noted as high priority to rectify for this school year)
Professional Coaching (Bullseye Engagement): 59/73 sessions completed since start of school year, 81% staff w/ feedback sessions, 83% staff feedback view rate. Noted that the most mastered domain for staff was "Positive Learning Environment"

3. Updates on school suspensions/expulsions by grade
August Data: Total Out of school suspensions=7 Total In school suspensions=5
Most common behavior was physical aggression/unsafe physical contact. OSS-6 for physical, 1 for repeated

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. NWEA Fall MAP, IXL and DIBELS data
All students have yet to complete Fall data (DIBELS (30 left), IXL (Math-8 left, ELA -12 left), K-2 MAP Reading-1 left, K-2 MAP Lang-7 left, K-2 MAP Math-0 left, 3-5 MAP Reading-4 left, 3-5 MAP Reading -4 left, 3-5 MAP Math- 8 left, 3-5 MAP Lang-17 left.

5th MAP Science completing 9/11, all GKids completed. At this time, no fall data to share.

5. Discuss School-Parent (PTO)-any updates for upcoming SY26-27
Donuts with a Father Figure was a big success with over 100+ father figures in attendance! All students with participation and/or representation.
On the Runway with Rhushanda on 8/28/26 with over 25 families in attendance (school/parent meeting)
September Family Newsletter sent with imporant updates, resources, and announcements.

6. SCSC Follow Ups- CCRPI data review-Schedule next Academic Task Force meeting with latest Dashboard data, all standardized testing data, attendance/tardy data, and data on low performing 2nd-4th graders.
Academic Committee will have a closed meeting to discuss individual student data and dashboard findings from Fall DIBELS, IXL, NWEA MAP, and GKids data on Thursday, October 6th.

7. Other Important Update- *See below for discussion on SY26-27 goals review, pending votes at September full board meeting.*

E. Special Education

E. Special Education (Presenter Rhushanda Barnes)

- **Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified special needs -** *Currently, 17.6% student population. 25 Students w/ IEPs, 9 Students w/ section 504, 3 Students for MTSS, 5 ESOL*
- **Any updates on staffing for Special Needs and progress of Special Ed classroom-** *3 Sped Teachers, 1 Sped Para*
- **Any updates on classroom integration of special needs and updates on external supports for special needs (ie Speech, ABA, OT/PT) -** *1 SLP, 1 OT, 10 RBTs (Registered Behavior Techs via private insurance).*
- **Any updates on psycho-educational testing for students- plans/progress F. Gifted Student Services-** *N/A*

F. Gifted Student Services

F. Gifted Student Services (Presenter Rhushanda Barnes)

- **Discussion of Gifted Services student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified for gifted services -** *Currently, 4.9% of students, 7 students identified as gifted.*

- **Discuss plans for data tracking/allocating #/% of students for appropriate funding per student for special services or gifted services -** *TBD at next Academic Task Force meeting*

G. SY 26-27 Goals

G. SY26-27 Goals Discuss Presenter (Sarah Harvey)

Any updates or changes to the short term and long term goals for school year- *All board members sent a copy of policy goals. Academic board members reviewed with leadership and discussed revising document format and to resend to all board members for review prior to a vote.*

**Academic Committee members asked what the current % goals met from last SY for MAP testing? How many students % scored at or above the 61st percentile for NWEA MAP Math and Reading?* Pending from leadership
**Academic Committee members asked about school leadership plans to inform families and engage families on student data?* Noted 1. Dashboard w/ family reports 2. Next Wed- Curriculum night. 3. Setting goals w/students 4. Collaborative team meetings (instructional gaps)
At next full board meeting in September, the Academic Committee will present the SY26-27 goals and Grade Placement & Academic Acceleration Review policy for votes.

Any outstanding items or updates on grants/funding/external partnerships for school year- *N/A*

II. Public Comments/Questions

A. Public Comment

II. Public Comments/Questions

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

There were no guest speakers present for public comment at this meeting.

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 6:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Allen-Thames