APPROVED

Hill View Montessori

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday January 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location
Hill View Montessori Charter Public School
75 Foundation Ave.
Haverhill, MA 01835

Trustees Present
G. Kumar, J. Hood, J. Landry, P. Carelis, S. Brush

Trustees Absent
K. Laureano, V. Guzman

Ex Officio Members Present
G. Whitson, M. Wright

Guests Present
Carla Vaughn, H. Herklotz, N. Dolan

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

J. Hood called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hill View Montessori to order on Thursday Jan 22, 2026 at 6:33 PM.

C. Public Comment

D. Approve Minutes

J. Landry made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 11-20-25.
S. Brush seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Updates

A. Board Candidates

Board members have been speaking with Michael Jackle. He is out of town on vacation today but will likely join next month's board meeting. Uncertain if he will formally apply to be on the board at this time.

B. DESE Site Visit

C. MCPSA - Fair Funding Week

The first week of February, there will be a push for charter school funding legislation. There is currently a significant gap between charter and public school funding per pupil (approx $700). Closing this gap could add to the school significantly

Email went out to all board members from mpcsa regarding an organizing event, 100% registration would be appreciated.

D. Faculty Liaison

Carla sent along a thank you to Ginger, Hannah, Niam and Marc on behalf of an unnamed faculty member who missed some time from HVM

E. Strategic Planning Committee

The committee is reviewing faculty & family survey data and will be meeting on February 9th

F. PTO Update

PTO will be providing jerseys for the basketball team

They will also be having a valentine making event prior to the holiday

Next meeting is February 4th

G. New Business

H. Directors Report

We are adding MCAS prep sessions for grades 3-6. Focus will be on how to take the test and test taking skills rather than focusing on content that they have already been taught

Working on curriculum consistency across classrooms. Currently focusing in on upper elementary cultural lessons.

We are at tail end of STARS and DIBELS testing period, things are looking very promising; formal update at next board meeting.

Next parents' education session on topic of attention will be 1/27

Lots of enthusiasm at school surrounding the new basketball team

Ski club has been successful, have been able to make it accessible to anyone interested

2 enrollment lottery sessions last week. About 50 attendees total. Information was sent to over 50 diverse areas throughout the city.

MLK day of service was a joyful event and was also productive despite the weather. Somebody Cares next Monday. Also had a successful event singing to seniors on MLK Day

Midyear meetings have been completed with all staff and SMART goals have been reviewed with those who have them

Marc and Ginger still getting estimates for security cameras. This will be proposed for next year's budget. Prioritizing locations

I. Accountability

Met on Jan 7. Reviewed and discussed faculty and family surveys as well as future changes.

J. Development

Halfway towards our fundraising goal for the year

Community skate on 1/31. Jeff Landry will be running the event

Incorporating Hannah and discussing enrollment efforts as part of Development

Started talking about next year's event planning. Would like to plan one more biggish event for the fall to add to Bingo and skating. Need more help to make this happen. Jeff L would like to combine resources with PTO to be able to accomplish more together.

Bingo tickets on sale.

K. Finance

Revenue figures favorable against budget

Fed and state grants lower than budgeted but private grants more than offsetting

Expenses 4% lower than budgeted currently

current financial position is considered strong/green

Current ratio is 9.3 much stronger vs other Montessori schools in the state (Asset vs debt)

Debt to equity ratio is also favorable when compared to other like schools

Favorable bond market should only improve these number. Overall financial picture is very healthy.

First year in recent memory that school is below budgeted spending ytd. The school has been disciplined with this and it is paying off

Still working on transition to new accounting company. There have been some "bumps" but working through it.

III. Closing Items

A. Next Meeting

Next meeting is Feb 26

B.

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Hood