APPROVED

Hill View Montessori

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday March 26, 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, K. Laureano, S. Brush, V. Guzman

Trustees Absent
P. Carelis

Ex Officio Members Present
G. Whitson

Guests Present
Andy Fergus, H. Herklotz, Kevin Bridges, Mike Jackle, N. Dolan, Patsy Murphy, Scott Steche

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

J. Landry called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hill View Montessori to order on Thursday Mar 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

C. Public Comment

D. Approve Minutes

J. Landry made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 01-22-26.
G. Kumar seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Updates

A. Board Performance

Today is Ganesh's last board meeting, moving to the country of Panama.

Reminder, capture meeting minutes for all subcommittee meetings.

We want to continue to recruiting for the board, and appreciate tonight's public attendees and potential future board members.

B. Staffing Consideration/Discussion re. K-8 Spanish Teacher

Ginger outlined the topic in general, details associated with the goals for the younger kids. Oral foundation. Upper L to reading and writing. Enter high school enter at Spainish II.

Jeff H. concern with dilution of focus, taking away of primarily focusing on academic excellence. Also, budget concerns.

Jeff L, Kristin, Ganesh, thought it sounds great.

C. 2026/27 Calendar

Tabled, due to Haverhill not having published their calendar. Will be publishing on the first. Written into contracts that they start the Tuesday before labor day. Expecting only change will be September half day. Everything else stays the same likely.

D. Faculty Liaison

No updates according to Patsy Murphy.

E. Policy Review -

Ginger, talked about procedures for recognizing, reporting, intervening for suicide of our kids. Every school should have this policy. We have good procedures in place. Wanted to make sure a policy tied all those together. No questions

The student technology policy. Already have an acceptable use policy.... cell phones, smart watches, etc. Lacked a policy re how kids take care of their devices ... kids travel with their chrome books during the day.. Don't take them home. Kids don't take them out of the classroom. Establish regular wear and tear vs misuse. Different steps we will take ... understanding things happen to technology ... that's the overall policy. Adding a device waiver, for middle school students, insurance to the start of the year. Don't need for the younger kids. $20 device waiver fee. If people opted out, if there is mis use of the device, parents obligated to pay for the repair. Includes student agreement component. Standard for middle school kids. Most kids are really responsible.

Jeff L, sounds great.

We will vote next session on these.

F. Board on Track Renewal

Jeff L. price went up a few hundred dollars. Voted to approve by Veronica, 2nd by Jeff L.

G. Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting last Friday. That included Ginger, Marc, Hannah, Niamh, Jeff L and Jeff H.

Creating/brainstorming four to six strategic goals, with whatever appropriate subgoals feathered under those goals accordingly. Academic Excellence, what do we measure, how much growth is both realistic and still challenging? Development & Fundraising, Board & Governance, Community Engagement, Capital improvements.

It was a thoughtful discussions, appreciate the thought leadership and support of the effort from Ginger especially. Thank you Ginger.

Meeting again next 8th @ 12:15. During the next discussion we talked about that we would keep sort of workshopping the goals and getting the benchmarks right, and then we can move on to the sort of lower level details.

H. PTO Update

- The Dance: This Sunday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.
- Teacher Brunch: This was a great success.

- Scholastic Fair: This was also a success.

Looking ahead to April, we are planning a Saturday Earth Day outdoor school-wide cleanup. I am currently finalizing the details for this event with Rob and the PTO team.

I. New Business

Marc is taking a leave of absence. Backfill with a business officer.

J. Directors Report

Ginger, referenced her slides. Specifically talking to the lottery applications, showing three years of data. We are up over all. K up YOY ... where the majority of kids are coming in. Lot of focus work this year talking about the lottery to people that are representative of the Haverhill community.

Two students withdrew ... one was a student that was thought it was best. First year. Other first year student was going to home schooled. Enrollment wise we are solid.

Faculty updates, upper L teacher retiring ... looking to fill a lead position.

Two upper L teacher assistant roles to fill. One moving to NC at the end of the year. Another staff that was on medical leave and can't return.

Looking to hire a language teacher.

Special Ed teacher, moving out of the area, look to hire for that position.

Moving back to a two counselor model.

Hiring an office manager as was discussed.

Talked about shifting Hannah and Niamh. Office manager will take on special ed paperwork. Keep middle school teaching with Hannah. Hannah will keep doing data, accountability, and a development role.

Veronica; question, any support from the Foundation?

Hannah; Talked about combining Foundation and development meetings. On many meetings, helpful to combine them. All pulling the same rope at the same time.

Jeff L. PTO has some good access to resources that can help. Bringing three different groups together that are all similar.

Veronica, Development meeting was that a combined meeting? The Foundation has access to free resources. I.E. Monday is a free CRM, for a non profit.

Hannah; can now act on the Foundation's behalf.

Great effort by Ginger with our no water situation. Even though we called the City of Haverhill and were told we would not be effected. Oops. Business company was responsible. Staff volunteered to stay.

K. Accountability

Kristin spoke to the meeting from February, referenced Hannah's disaggregated data.

Also trying to put data into Board on Track for Accountability.

Kristin shared she emailed this afternoon, the section of the survey to highlight, and the entire survey. Some people could / could not open the staff survey. Referenced the nuanced changes under consideration. Talked about tweaking the titles, adding one for Mark. We will take a few days to look at what was sent.

Hannah talked about Diebels is the normed literacy assessment that we take three times per year. Star is the same for math. From fall 25 to winter 26, Diebels, overall student score average was 39.2 winter was 39.1. Star was a downward trend. Disaggregated data, Diebels first, Race, income, grade. 3rd slide. Diebels we can see almost every student group made progress. LatinX and mix raced students stayed static. Also highest scoring group. Cautionary tale, consuming any data ... small student body. Still see lower scores of latin x students, continuing to address. Star same slide .. see opposite story, every group went down. Found that they were seeing startling growth last fall to winter. Spring last year, big decrease. Scores remain study ...

Veronica, did you break it down by classrooms again?

Hannah, yes. realize there was one classroom that it did not happen... explored what they are doing. Replicating the success across the lowel L. After six weeks, will look at progress monitoring.

Veronica, both English and math?

Hannah, just math. All classes made gains in English.

The 3rd slide is by grade. Also interested to see progress in both diebels and star by grade. Continue to have the biggest opportunity gap in low income population and hispanic and latin x population.

Jeff H. Do you expect to see performance improvement by the next measurements? Hannah yes for language. Encouraging the school staff to continue to focus on urgently improving the schools scores.

Hannah, looking at practices in lower and upper l, putting things in places for next year. Then, putting those things in place for three years.

Kristin; Considering replacing star? Yes, but impacts the Accountability plans.

L. Development

Jeff L encouraged all to purchase tickets to Rock and Roll bingo.

Jeff L provided an update on Mello potentially sponsoring this event. As soon as bingo is done, we will do some merchandise through a company called Bonfire. Tee shirts, sweat shirts. etc. Jeff L and Ginger worked on the design for the items.

Trying to get PTO, Foundation and development all better lined up.

M. Finance

Ganesh, as of Feb 28th, HVM finances were strong. 112 days of cash. The next two months, expect or operating income is better than what was budgeted.

Budget for next year, first crack at it with the most recent finance committee.

Veronica, cash on hand includes ERTC.

Jeff L. last year we carved out money for building stuff. Expect to do similar this year .. putting together a maintenance plan for the air conditioners.

III. Closing Items

A. Next Meeting

next meeting will be April 30th at 6:30 due to the school vacation

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Hood