



**PULLMAN PUBLIC
COMMUNITY FREE
MONTESSORI K-9**

Pullman Community Montessori

Board Meeting - Special

Executive Session

Date and Time

Monday June 3, 2024 at 5:15 PM PDT

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86035566631?pwd=M0xTY3ZIUGRjYmhQU2VIQXNhYXZPUT09>

Meeting ID: 860-3556-6631

Password: 098590

Dial by your location

- (929) 205 6099 (New York)
 - (301) 715 8592 (Washington DC)
 - (305) 224 1968
 - (309) 205 3325
 - (312) 626 6799 (Chicago)
 - (646) 931 3860
 - (669) 900 6833 (San Jose)
 - (689) 278 1000
 - (719) 359 4580
 - (253) 205 0468
 - (253) 215 8782 (Tacoma)
 - (346) 248 7799 (Houston)
 - (360) 209 5623
 - (386) 347 5053
 - (507) 473 4847
 - (564) 217 2000
 - (669) 444 9171
-

Location

PCM Board of Trustees regular and working board meetings are held in the Gladish Community and Cultural Center room 115. To increase accessibility we offer a virtual option for attendance. If you have difficulty accessing the remote meeting link please call 509-336-5909.

Regularly scheduled board meetings are recorded. The recording can be found at this link within 5 business days following the regular board meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvDWzfFwzxEutv7ZnwexPXpZZO71ALWEZ>

All board meetings are open to the public.

Public comment is reserved for regular board meetings. Public comment is a standing agenda item at each regular monthly meeting. Items will be addressed by the board according to the Meeting Agenda posted 48 hours prior to each meeting. If you would like to make public comment please attend one of the regularly scheduled board meetings.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:15 PM
A. Record Attendance		Beverley Wolff	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Robin McDonald	1 m
II. Special Meeting			5:17 PM
<p>We are scheduling this Special Meeting following the Washington Charter School Commission's vote to revoke our charter on Friday. We will be taking public comments prior to entering into our executive discussion to ensure that we are able to consider all perspectives available to us.</p>			
A. Public Comment	FYI	Robin McDonald	45 m
<p>Public comment is typically reserved for regular board meetings. As we are meeting to consider items related to Vote to Revoke our charter that took place on Friday May 31, 2024, we will be opening up public comment prior to entering into executive session today. If you would like to make public comment you will be called on in the order you arrived. We will allow 45 minutes for public comments. We will allow 5 minutes for</p>			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>presentation of personal comments/questions/concerns/grievances. You may view our PCM Grievance and Conflict Resolution Policy and Procedures here.</p>			

If you are unable to attend in person or remotely, please email you comments to board@mypcm.org or submit in paper form to the PCM office in Gladish Community and Cultural Center STE 212. You should receive confirmation of receipt of your written statement within 48 hours of submission. If you do not receive confirmation, please email DesireeP@myPCM.org

III. Executive Session

6:02 PM

8 statutory reasons for a school board to move into executive session:

1. Matters affecting national security;
 2. The selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate if public knowledge of the matter might increase the price;
 3. The minimum selling price of real estate if public knowledge of the matter might depress the price, but final action selling or leasing real estate must be taken in a public meeting;
 4. Negotiations on the performance of a publicly bid contract if public knowledge might increase costs;
 5. Complaints or charges against an employee or board member, however the person complained against may open the meeting to the public;
 6. Qualifications of an applicant for public employment or review the performance of a public employee, but final actions must be taken in public and discussions affecting employees generally must be held in public;
 7. Qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office, but interviews and the final appointment must be held in public; and
 8. Discussion with legal counsel, of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation, if public discussion might result in an adverse legal or financial consequence.
- Amendments in 2001 provided a specific definition of potential litigation

A. Executive Session 1	Discuss	Robin McDonald	50 m
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To convene an executive session, the governing body’s presiding officer must announce:

- (1) the purpose of the executive session, and
- (2) the time when the executive session will end.

The announcement is to be given to those in attendance at the meeting.

Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>The announced purpose of the executive session must be one of the statutorily identified purposes for which an executive session may be held.</p> <hr/>		

The PCM Board of Trustees will move into executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 for **40 minutes**.

We will move into executive session for the following reason: *to discuss with legal counsel, of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation, if public discussion might result in an adverse legal or financial consequence.*

IV.	Closing Items		6:52 PM
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Beverley Wolff
			1 m

Grounding Docs: [Board Norms-We are LEADERS too-Structure and Responsibilities Overview](#), [PCM Logic Model](#), [EEMPS Rubric](#), [School-Wide Reflective Practice Inventory](#), [Bylaws](#)

Resources: Key Resources BOX Folder, [OPMA Resources](#), [App Board Commitments & Background](#), [Committee Descriptions](#), [Org Charts](#), [Board Member Application Full Packet](#), [Prospective Board Member Questionnaire](#)

Coversheet

Public Comment

Section: II. Special Meeting
Item: A. Public Comment
Purpose: FYI

Submitted by:

Related Material:

Pullman Community Montessori Mail - Fwd_ PCM Next Steps.pdf
Pullman Community Montessori Mail - Fwd_ Next steps.pdf
Pullman Community Montessori Mail - Fwd_ Notice of Revocation.pdf
Pullman Community Montessori Mail - Fwd_ A vote in favor for Montessori.pdf
Hello Board Members.pdf
Feedback from a community member.pdf
Question for the board.pdf
Pullman Community Montessori Mail - Appeal.pdf
Dear Board Members.pdf
Dear Board .pdf



Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Fwd: PCM Next Steps

PCM Board <board@mypcm.org>
To: Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 11:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sun, Jun 2, 2024, 8:46 AM
Subject: PCM Next Steps
To: board@mypcm.org <board@mypcm.org>

Just wanted to send a quick note saying that I think we owe it to PCM and to the future of educational opportunities in Pullman to appeal the Commission's decision to move forward with revoking.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dawna



Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Fwd: Next steps

PCM Board <board@mypcm.org>

Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 11:59 AM

To: Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2024 at 10:56 PM

Subject: Next steps

To: board@mypcm.org <board@mypcm.org>

Thank you all for answering the call and stepping up when our school and community was in need. I am inspired by your passion, engagement, and grit. My heart wants to fight this all the way. We have the willpower no doubt. But I worry about the costs. The uncertainty that it prolongs for our staff and our kids.

We have an opportunity now to end it with dignity at the end of the school year. To come together as a community to provide closure and support for everyone to transition over the summer. It is a safe and dignified option.

Part of me wants to fight on. I was inspired by the support I saw at the commission meeting and I believe I heard some remorse from the commissioners prior to the vote. It seems to me that the major obstacle is being able to modify the charter and adopt the new budget. The commission wants a months long inquiry to study the support and potential impacts the charter modification would bring. We simply do not have that kind of time or resources for that, and the commission must know that. I believe they set the bar so high knowing it was out of reach in our situation. Doing so gives them an easy way to deny us a needed change to survive and allows them to save face as being good stewards for charter school success.

Is it possible that the charter changes we are proposing could be approved as part of a probation stipulation for our school's survival? I have read of sanctions and probation being applied to a charter school as part of a Corrective action plan, but it seems like the Commission skipped that option and went straight to revocation. Unless I'm missing something.

Perhaps that can be an avenue for an appeal. Given the progress we have shown in the past few months, would the commission be willing to grant us probation status rather than revocation. I would be in favor of proposing our school be placed on a probation that allows the charter changes and stipulates strict oversight by the commission. Where our school would be subject to frequent review over the next academic year. Criteria such as student safety, fiscal solvency, and academic achievement could be used for a summary judgment at the end of the 24/25 year.

However, I keep coming back to the time this process takes and the unfair uncertainty it prolongs. Particularly for our staff. I believe the choice to fight should be theirs. They fulfilled their obligation by sticking it out til the end of the school year. If we continue to fight, it must be with their unanimous consent.

Thank you,

Shane McDowell



Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Fwd: Notice of Revocation

PCM Board <board@mypcm.org>

Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 12:00 PM

To: Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2024 at 6:16 PM

Subject: Notice of Revocation

To: PCM Board <board@mypcm.org>, Dave Schneider <davids@mypcm.org>, Jeneille Branen <jeneilleb@mypcm.org>

PCM Board Members, Dave, & Jeneille

At this point, most of you know most of my story from the last year and a half with PCM. You know that when DJ White and Demond Roberts planned together to destroy this school in retribution for imagined slights, they planned to do so by sexually harassing the staff and parents. You know that as they discussed their options for doing so, they didn't bother rating the sexual appeal of Katie Kendrick and I, because we were the "fat feminists."

I guess that makes me the resident fat lady. And we all know it isn't over until the fat lady sings.

In all seriousness - I'm truly asking you to strongly consider appealing the notice of revocation.

It took a few hours yesterday, and a whole lot of talking to staff members, some board members, and parents to realize that either we are all collectively delusional and just avoiding our grief, or something bigger is at play. I'm not religious anymore, but the level of collective assurance that PCM still isn't over almost seems divine.

I believe we have a case. Christopher Albano and Kimberly Casper are currently going over timelines and the complaints/prr's we have access to for inconsistencies with the Commission Staff's reports to their Commissioners. We also have a solid budget (that may need a tiny bit of tweaking), a great plan, and excellent staff. We know we have what it takes - even if the commissioners didn't get that message quite clearly enough. It was clear they did not want to make the choice they felt forced to make as it was. If we can get a better shot at communicating to them the injustice of this process, I think we might still have our charter.

But I also want us to really get the chance to sit down with the Pullman School District and explore the option of an Alternative Learning Experience with them. We know our model doesn't blend well with a hybrid system, but we haven't had a chance to explain why that simply won't work for us—or why they might want to support us exactly as we are.

There is more than one path still open to us, and the larger community of Whitman County deserves an alternative where kids who might otherwise slip through the cracks become the productive members of society that this county deserves.

I'm not singing yet, my friends. This opera still hasn't reached its final opus.

All my hope,
Elise Albano

PS: Just for reference, if you ever want to know the incredible, convoluted, and intense tale of the real "fat lady," check out "The Dark Queens: The Bloody Rivalry That Forged The Medieval World" by Shelley Puhak.



Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Fwd: A vote in favor for Montessori

PCM Board <board@mypcm.org>
To: Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 1:21 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sun, Jun 2, 2024, 12:15 PM
Subject: A vote in favor for Montessori
To: <board@mypcm.org>

To whom it may concern,
Hearing that the commission has moved forward with plans to shut down the Pullman Community Montessori school was very sad and unwelcomed news. While I do not yet have school aged children, I have friends who have sent their kids to the school and loved it. The school is a free alternative to a traditional public school setting, and something the community should embrace. I understand the school has faced criticism over the past couple of years, but the solution should be to resolve these problems and make the school better, not to just take the easy way out and shut it down. I hope the board will appeal this decision so that Pullman parents can continue to have as many options as possible for their children's education.
- Rachel Woods

Hello Board Members,

Since there are some new faces on the board, I would like to take a moment to formally introduce myself. My name is Katie, and I am the Instructional Assistant in room 211.

The story of my time at PCM is a bit more complicated than you might imagine. I started in year 1 as a Kindergarten Instructional Assistant, and was laid off two months into the school year. After two more months, I was asked to come back as a sub, and then was re-hired full time as a floating IA, which meant I spent time in every classroom. Last year, I worked in room 207, initially with Laura McCormick, and then with Demond Roberts. This year, I landed in 211, initially with Jill Stansbury, and now finally with Natalie Hall. Needless to say, the journey has been a lot. I have gone through such high highs, and such devastating lows with our school. I have experienced such joy at our heights, and such devastation at our lows. Through it all, I have stuck by our school. I'd like to give you numbers, and data, and specifics about why I've stayed, but I've always been more of a story teller than a numbers person anyway.

When I worked in Kindergarten I met a little girl who's parents had just been through a nasty divorce. She cried every day as soon as she was dropped off. Due to our model's philosophy of following the child, she was never forced to do work in this state. Instead, she was given the opportunity to feel her feelings. I'd often spend mornings holding her while she cried, and slowly, but surely, that child began to blossom. Today she is a second grader, and a leader in our classroom. Just yesterday she was able to contribute to designing the cover of the book we are writing as a class. In Kindergarten, even raising her hand to answer a question was nearly impossible.

Last year, in room 207, I met a child who shared with me that she had recently been homeless, before her mother had surrendered custody to her grandfather. Through a lot of hard work, dedication, and care, that child is now thriving in the Older Elementary class.

This year, one of my students had a sibling pass away in December. I was devastated by the news, and by the pain in their sweet little face as they continued coming to school. We did what we do at PCM. We made space for her. We got her the counseling that she needed. We showed her the love that we have for her. She is not the same as she was, but she is moving through the grief with such grace.

I have countless stories like these. Of children who have survived sexual and physical abuse, who have experienced homelessness, who have complex needs, and the thread that ties each of them together is the support that they were given by our staff and by our school. PCM may be small, but we have moxie coming out of our ears. No one will fight for these children the way we have. No one will love them as much as we do. No one will stand beside them as they grow and change the way that we have. The thought of sending them to traditional institutions that will force them to conform, rather than letting them be, keeps me up at night. Now I have to ask you to fight for us in the same way that we fight for our children. Don't give up on us. Appeal the Charter Comissions decision.

Thank you,
Katie

I am writing because I understand community feedback is encouraged concerning the Montessori school closure. Frankly, I'm in favor of closing it. Based on the nature and the number of the complaints, it sounds as though the problems are systemic and far-reaching within the school. Also, as a product of the Pullman public school system myself with a daughter who is currently enrolled in Jefferson Elementary, I believe that the public schools are more than capable of educating all children in the community. Further, I believe that receiving a standardized education is important for all students so they can move on with the same education and socialization as their peers. I was not in favor of the school before it was opened, my opinion of it has only gone down given the widely publicized problems, and I think that this is the perfect time to declare it a failed experiment and move forward. Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Sincerely,

Darrin Drader

Dear Pullman Montessori Board,

One of our neighbors on our Neighborhood Next Network brought to our attention that possible closure of our Pullman Montessori School.

Do you mind if I ask why this is happening? A dear friend of mine taught for several years at Montessori schools in Canada, England and Australia. This was 25 years ago at this point and I realize the situation here and how the US schools are structured may be different so I am trying to understand the situation.

I think the Montessori approach is a very positive one for children, learning while doing various activities reflective of day-to-day life. Also, the 100 students possibly impacted along with their families are very important to our Pullman community certainly.

I wish you all the best in whatever course of action you decide to take.

Kind regards,

Pamela



Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Appeal

Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>
To: Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Mon, Jun 3, 2024 at 1:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Natalie Hall** <natalieh@mypcm.org>
Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2024 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Appeal
To: Jeneille Branen <jeneilleb@mypcm.org>, Robin McDonald <Robinm@mypcm.org>, <board@mypcm.org>

Dear Board,

My name is Natalie Hall. I have taken over in room 211 as the lead guide through [redacted] leave. I have been a teacher for 5 years, in 3 separate elementary schools in various grades and for a bit in Special Education. That being said, I've seen a lot of unfortunate decisions, tough administration, and bending of rules out of necessity or political pressures. What I had never seen, and have seen here, is the consistent dedication of a staff and volunteer pool to come through for kids. This is why I would like to put in my vote to PLEASE do right by these dedicated adults and children to appeal the current Commission ruling to revoke our charter. I am more than ready to stand by the school and fight.

In the time I have been here, I have seen a lot of unbelievable things in this school. My first day was the day one of the staff members passed away, and the day after [redacted] sharing the details of her unfortunate medical leave. I saw the turmoil of previous error and holes left behind by irresponsible previous staff. I had every reason to believe everyone would jump ship and bail—which I had seen in every other district when things got hard. That was not the response. We banded together, made changes, flexed, showed up, and fought alongside our community and students. I intend to keep that rolling.

[Quoted text hidden]

Dear Board Members,

First of all, thank you so much, holy moly, for stepping in for our community, but especially for the biggest deal of all and that is our kidders.

, my son, my only child in PCM, is in the adolescent community with Dave and Jordan. As such, we have been seemingly safe and ignorant of the majority of what has been going on. Dave and Jordan are masters at the trade of mentoring and teaching kids and thus, continued to thrive throughout the last couple of years. But that means so much of what has hurt others in the last year has not been a burden we carried and I'm new to the impact or rather, new to the realization of the impact on our community.

I don't know what all the options are, but I don't believe that there are only 2 options—pcm or school district. I wanted to say that so you know, that this actually is not out of desperation. WILL be okay and we will find options for him—we will even perhaps MAKE options for him. I want PCM to continue because it has evolved to what I want most for my child—a place to show what he is, a place to show what he can do for himself AND for the community, not despite the problems, but because of the awareness of them. Board members, I would hope you consider moving forward with the appeal to keep PCM as a charter.

I do not know what I have that is helpful or useful, I don't know how this all works, nor do I know my capabilities, but I am absolutely up for whatever I CAN do to help.

One last thought, the last woman to speak for the commission who was sitting in front of us directly, said something that bothered me. She basically said that for her we had no hope, that this was beyond repair and that bothered me. I immediately felt the desperation, but caught myself and thought, "This woman absolutely gets to tell me the risks, the chances, the numbers, and her willingness to move forward, but she actually does not determine hope." Her hope was little. Mine remains gigantesaurus sized. And I'm ready and anxious to see how I can aid in whatever this community chooses to move forward with.

Sincerely,

Kandice Held, Held's mom

Dear Board,

My name is Natalie Hall. I have taken over in room 211 as the lead guide through Jill's leave. I have been a teacher for 5 years, in 3 separate elementary schools in various grades and for a bit in Special Education. That being said, I've seen a lot of unfortunate decisions, tough administration, and bending of rules out of necessity or political pressures. What I had never seen, and have seen here, is the consistent dedication of a staff and volunteer pool to come through for kids. This is why I would like to put in my vote to PLEASE do right by these dedicated adults and children to appeal the current Commission ruling to revoke our charter. I am more than ready to stand by the school and fight.

In the time I have been here, I have seen a lot of unbelievable things in this school. My first day was the day one of the staff members passed away, and the day after Jill sharing the details of her unfortunate medical leave. I saw the turmoil of previous error and holes left behind by irresponsible previous staff. I had every reason to believe everyone would jump ship and bail—which I had seen in every other district when things got hard. That was not the response. We banded together, made changes, flexed, showed up, and fought alongside our community and students. I intend to keep that rolling.

The special thing about this school is the model of flexing to support all students in academic, social, emotional, and practical skill building. Every single one of my first and second graders this year are able to read books, many above their level. We do not teach to the test as many public schools do. We are transparent with families, in a way public schools tend to restrict and sweep under the rug. And we fight through to show up for our kids—in ways other union-bound schools do not. For this reason, I will be leaving education if this school closes—if our community is one that won't stand by these principles, I do not wish to contribute my service any longer to other less genuine agendas.

Our staff, community, and students deserve this school. Those of us who came later and took no part in the unfortunate decisions deserve to continue our careers in the place we've impacted in the best ways and grown to love. We should not abandon them. Please vote to appeal for my students.

Thank you,

Natalie Hall