APPROVED

MCCPS Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday May 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Location
Hybrid Format:

- in person at MCCPS
- via Zoom at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98355446062?pwd=bVg2VzE4bEZUVXJqY0R4UlJnVmZ1dz09

Trustees Present
Carly McIver (remote), Carol McEnaney, Chris Re, Emily Promise (remote), Eric Neagle (remote), Ian Hunt, Karen Kagan, Katie Holt (remote), Kimberly Nothnagel, Lindsay Smith, Rachel March (remote), Stephanie Brant

Trustees Absent
Ellen Lodgen, Polly Titcomb

Guests Present
Alyssa Crimmins (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

Lindsay Smith called a meeting of the board of trustees of MCCPS Board of Trustees to order on Tuesday May 26, 2026 at 7:04 PM.

C. Public Comment

Alyssa Crimmins introduced herself to the board as a prospective member.

II. MCCPS Annual Budget Report

A. Eighth Grade CSL Presentation to the Board

8th Grade student Larkin Smith presented a Community Service Learning project around the opportunities that a potential solar energy program could provide MCCPS. The presentation was well received by the board.

B. MCCPS FY 26/27 proposed budget presentation

The Business Manager presented a well-developed proposed FY 2026 - 27 budget, reflecting careful financial stewardship and strong alignment with the school's strategic priorities. The Board was asked to approve the budget as a key step to enable the administration to begin contract negotiations with staff for the upcoming academic year.

The proposed budget maintains a balanced and responsible approach, ensuring continued investment in academic programs, student experience, and staff support while preserving the school's financial stability. Trustees commended the Business Manager for his thoughtful planning and disciplined management of the school's finances.

Several important updates and enhancements were highlighted. Notably, the budget includes a new scholarship line item to support student access to signature experiences such as school trips (e.g., Washington, DC and Nature's Classroom), reinforcing the school's commitment to equity and inclusion. Additionally, the school is planning a transition to a new insurance carrier, expected to improve coverage and/or cost efficiency.

Overall, the Board expressed strong support for the proposed budget and appreciation for the clarity and rigor of the presentation.

C. Vote to approve MCCPS FY26/27 budget

Lindsay Smith made a motion to Approve the budget.
Katie Holt seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Polly Titcomb	Absent

Roll Call

Karen Kagan	Aye
Carol McEnaney	Abstain
Lindsay Smith	Aye
Ian Hunt	Absent
Rachel March	Aye
Ellen Lodgen	Absent
Eric Neagle	Abstain
Katie Holt	Aye
Emily Promise	Aye
Carly McIver	Aye
Chris Re	Aye
Stephanie Brant	Abstain
Kimberly Nothnagel	Aye

III. Head of School Report

A. May 2026 HOS report

The Head of School provided a positive monthly update, highlighting continued progress toward key strategic goals and strong momentum across the school community. Planning is well underway for end-of-year milestone events, including the exhibition and graduation, which are expected to be important celebrations of student achievement.

Enrollment trends remain strong. End-of-year enrollment is projected at **227 students**, with **224 having accepted offers of admission**, and projections indicate growth to approximately **230 students for the 2026/27 academic year**. Retention stands at approximately **84%**, which is considered very strong, with most attrition attributed to expected transitions after 6th grade.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive report and was pleased with the progress being made. Overall, the update reflects a school that is performing well operationally, academically, and strategically, with a strong foundation for continued growth.

IV. Board Action Items:

A. Approve Special Meeting in May 2026 Minutes

Meeting minutes not presented. Vote not taken.

B. The Board's Fundraising Role

The Board engaged in a productive discussion on several key focus areas to support the school's continued growth and long-term sustainability. A central priority identified was the development of a comprehensive database of potential donors to strengthen the school's capacity for major fundraising efforts. This initiative is intended to provide a more structured and strategic approach to engaging prospective supporters.

In addition, the Board explored a range of broader fundraising strategies, including more effective use of the school's alumni network and the importance of targeted, audience-specific messaging to improve engagement and outcomes in fundraising campaigns. There was a shared view that strengthening storytelling and outreach could unlock new opportunities for support.

The conversation also included a discussion on Community Service Learning, with recognition of its importance in enriching the student experience and reinforcing the school's mission and values. Board members expressed interest in continuing to build and integrate these opportunities as part of the school's broader educational approach.

Overall, the discussion reflected a proactive and forward-looking approach to strengthening both the school's financial sustainability and its commitment to student development and community impact.

C. Vote to approve the HOS' annual evaluation summary

Lindsay Smith made a motion to Approve the HOS annual evaluation summary.
Kimberly Nothnagel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Carol McEnaney	Abstain
Lindsay Smith	Aye
Rachel March	Aye
Stephanie Brant	Abstain
Ellen Lodgen	Absent
Chris Re	Aye
Karen Kagan	Aye
Emily Promise	Aye
Katie Holt	Aye
Carly McIver	Aye
Ian Hunt	Absent
Eric Neagle	Abstain
Polly Titcomb	Absent
Kimberly Nothnagel	Aye

D. Gala Feedback

The school's 30th Anniversary Gala was a highly successful and well-attended event, bringing together members of the community to celebrate three decades of achievement and impact. The evening provided a meaningful opportunity for guests to reflect on the school's evolution, growth, and continued success over time.

The event was particularly strengthened by the presence of former teachers and alumni, whose participation added depth and a strong sense of community and legacy. A silent auction was also launched as part of the evening, contributing to fundraising efforts and further engaging attendees.

Overall, the gala was a memorable celebration that highlighted the school's history while reinforcing its vibrant and connected community.

V. Board Annual Items

A. Upcoming Agenda Items

MCCPS Board Chair Lindsay Smith will step down in June, along with several other key board members. The board discussed potential candidates for these roles and agreed to explore options further before voting on the positions at the June 2026 MCCPS board meeting.

B. Board Retreat Update

- Saturday 6/6 from 9:00-1:00
- Agenda was started
- Eric will make google form for potluck breakfast
- Chris will order lunch

C. Board recruitment and future planning

See comments above.

D. MCPSA plug for board development

The Massachusetts Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) provides valuable support to schools like MCCPS through advocacy, professional development, and shared best practices that strengthen both governance and instructional quality. As a statewide voice for charter schools, MCPSA helps create the conditions needed for the sector to thrive while advancing access to high-quality public education for all students.

Board members noted that MCPSA's resources - including training for educators, leaders, and trustees, as well as tools for community engagement - represent an important opportunity to further enhance the school's strategic planning efforts. The Board encouraged continued and proactive use of these resources to support MCCPS in achieving its long-term goals.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Finance Committee

See notes above - budget for 26/27 in place (requires approval). Contract renewal discussions for staff is currently underway.

B. Governance Committee

Next meeting will be Thursday 5/28

C. Academic Excellence

D. Development & Communications

E. DEI Committee

No meeting. The chairperson updated plans to host a special end-of-year meeting to connect / engage the school community members and staff about reflections on the past year.

F. Personnel Committee

met before board special meeting, mostly discussed HOS evaluation.

VII. Closing Items

A. Recap Action Items

B. Adjourn Meeting

Lindsay Smith made a motion to Adjourn meetin.
Carol McEnaney seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Stephanie Brant	Aye
Carly McIver	Aye
Polly Titcomb	Absent
Carol McEnaney	Aye
Kimberly Nothnagel	Aye
Katie Holt	Aye
Rachel March	Aye
Ellen Lodgen	Absent
Lindsay Smith	Aye
Ian Hunt	Absent
Emily Promise	Aye
Chris Re	Aye
Eric Neagle	Aye
Karen Kagan	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Kagan

Documents used during the meeting

- Solar MCCPS.pdf
- 20260410 MCCPS - Prelim Proposal - 59 kWdc - Solect Energy and PowerOptions.pdf
- May 2026 Head of School Report (1).pdf
- Final Head of School Evaluation Year End Form-Stephanie Brant 2025-26.docx.pdf