

# Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes (minutes in red)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m. (Online)

Members: Chris Bewell, Jean Melancon, Maisah Outlaw, Julaine Roffers-Agarwal (Chair)

## AGENDA

- 1) Call Meeting to Order 5:42 pm
- 2) Public Comment Period – Comments limited to 3 minutes per person
- 3) Goals for today's meeting:
  - a) Review policy progress
    - i) Policies to review:
      - (1) Need to review 524 annually (last reviewed 3/17/2020, aiming for end of school year)
      - (2) Scholarship policy- initiate discussion, see resources from Liz and Melissa- **Staff Scholarship**: Discussion of priorities of CMES- does it fit our current goals (i.e., the Strategic Plan sections) to fund a staff member's Montessori training? Overall consensus was that it was a significant investment in a very small portion of the strategic plan. Additionally, concerns were raised about using public money to fund teacher training- is this an appropriate use of public funds? Committee members were supportive of creating a process to grant smaller amounts of scholarship money to non-licensed staff (since licensed staff currently have Professional Development funds available to them on an annual basis). Maisah is going to explore what other schools and institutions in the area/that CMES is associated with to see what they have in place. Jean will bring this back to the Finance Committee to start looking at how much we could allocate to a staff scholarship fund. **Future things**: Need to establish a process (application guidelines, deadline?, etc., who is on the committee to review applications, what does the accountability/reporting of scholarship recipients look like and who is responsible for receiving reporting after scholarships are granted)  
**Parent Scholarship**: The idea of granting scholarships to parents/families of students to expand their knowledge about Montessori, learning, child development, etc., was brought up. This idea also had preliminary support, but the committee felt that more research was needed before we could really support it and set it up. Julaine will contact MACS and Joe (accountant) to inquire if using public funds in this manner would be inappropriate.
      - (3) Need to start looking at what policies we would need to implement for expanded age range/Jr High.
    - ii) Will review Bylaws this school year as well Maisah has gotten through about half and expects to finish the rest by our February meeting for all to review.
- 4) Education (orientation, ongoing education, etc.)
  - a) Education for next board meeting- Ben Moudry; see if we can book another Jr High resource for March?
  - b) Any additions to list of future board level education topics
    - i) Nancy Dana- governance training
    - ii) Understanding the budget
    - iii) Understand the academic goals and how to support them
    - iv) Paris Dunning (ESABA Executive Director)
    - v) Sarah Plumb (Jr High teacher from Oak Hill) Maisah is contacting again, also contacting other Jr high teachers around country to whom she has connections for possible presentation
    - vi) Visit to St Croix Montessori to visit Jr High site or operating Jr High site (Oak Hill, Lake Country, Sunny Hollow, maybe Parkway)

- vii) Ben Moudry (Lake Country HOS, experiences and lessons from starting an adolescent program) **February is booked!**
  - viii) Presentation by auditor with financial topics
  - ix) Presentation about elected officials for the area- who represents us in the area at different levels, who we contact for what
  - x) Financial understanding of an adolescent Montessori community (Oak Hill treasurer) **Jean is inquiring about for March**
- 5) Next Meeting
- a) Tuesday February 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm, online? **yes, online.**
    - i) **Will add discussing board candidates at this meeting, vetting new members. Qualities we may value in future members: knowledge of Montessori background (ex., prior adolescent teacher, retired HOS, someone who attended a Jr. high, etc.); members who can assist with other strategic initiatives.**
- 6) Any other business
- 7) Adjourn **6:48 pm**