



**CORNERSTONE**  
MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board of Directors Election  
Voting Guide  
2021

## **I. Purpose of the Voting Guide**

The purpose of this Voting Guide is to provide detailed information on election procedures and introduce you to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board of Directors candidates. This guide will include a profile of each candidate as submitted by the candidate.

## **II. Eligibility to Vote**

Eligible voters are faculty and staff members employed at the school and all parents or legal guardians of children enrolled in the school.

### Parents or Legal Guardians

- Parent is defined as the legal guardian of a student whose address has been given to CMES as the address of record to send school communications.
- Two-parent families with both parents living at the same address will receive two ballots, one per parent.
- Single-parent families will receive one ballot, one per parent.
- Parents living at separate addresses will each receive one ballot, one per parent. This assumes that each parent's address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Parents who have not registered their address with CMES as an address to send school communications will not receive a ballot. In order to vote, these parents should come to the school and identify themselves to the school director, who will give them a ballot; the director will also add the names and addresses of these parents to the master list of eligible voters as of the date they are identified.

### Faculty and Staff

- Each CMES faculty and staff member receives one vote. Faculty and staff of the school who are also parents may only vote once.

### Current Board Member

- Board members who are also staff, faculty, or parents may only vote once.
- Board members who are not a parent or an employee are also eligible to vote.

## **III. Election Procedures**

The election will be held on May 18, 2021 at Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School. Voting will take place from 4:30 to 5:15 pm via Zoom. Voters will login to Zoom during the designated time to place their vote.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6620935784>

Results of the election will be presented at the Annual Meeting, which will be held via Zoom on May 18 at 5:30 pm. All parents, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting.

If you are unable to vote on May 18, please contact Chris Bewell at [chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org](mailto:chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org) for information on absentee voting.

## **IV. Notes for this election**

Elected board members generally serve 3-year terms. Following is the slate of candidates standing for this election:

<u>Board Seat Category</u>	<u>Eligible Candidate(s)</u>
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Parent Member (3-year term):	<b>Julaine Roffers-Agarwal</b>
Community Member (3-year term):	<b>Maisah Outlaw</b>

# **Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School**

## **Board Candidate Profiles**

### **Julaine Roffers-Agarwal – Parent Member**

#### **1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?**

I have served on the CMES Board of Directors for the past three years and would like to continue my work on the Board. My son, Rajan, is a current third year student in Pond and I really value the growth and development he has had while attending CMES. I was a Montessori child and would like to help CMES implement and expand its Montessori program to help empower children the way I was supported and nurtured.

#### **2. What role might you play in advancing the mission of the school?**

During my time on the board, I have continued to keep the mission of CMES as the underlying motivation for the decisions we make as a board. This includes ensuring that the budget, policies, and board decisions are grounded in the CMES mission. In particular, I have served as the Governance Committee chair and made sure to craft and update policies with the mission as our guiding principle.

#### **3. What areas of expertise would you bring to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board?**

I have lived on St Paul's East Side for almost 19 years and so I am invested in the success and growth of children and families from the East Side and surrounding areas. In addition, I am a professional scientist and will continue using my critical thinking, observation, and evaluation skills to consider board approaches, projects, and the budget.

#### **4. What aspects of Cornerstone do you value the most? What role does Cornerstone's foundation as a Montessori school play?**

As a parent, I most value the emphasis that a Montessori program places on meeting each child where they are developmentally and developing the whole child. In addition, the staff works hard to incorporate new approaches into the Montessori pedagogy in order to best support our children and families.

#### **5. What is your vision for Cornerstone's future?**

I would like Cornerstone to continue to offer a high-quality Montessori program to children from the East Side of St Paul and beyond while incorporating new techniques and approaches. I also want to help CMES grow and expand its programs in a responsible manner while making sure that we are reaching and supporting as many children as possible.

# **Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School**

## **Board Candidate Profiles**

### **Maisah Outlaw – Community Member**

**1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?**

My role on the board for the last 3 years has been mutually beneficial! I have grown in my understanding of what is involved in governing a school while being able to contribute my expertise.

**2. What role might you play in advancing the mission of the school?**

I will play a role in continuing to assist CMES in the areas of expansion, and equity.

**3. What areas of expertise would you bring to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board?**

I am a trained Montessorian, with experience working in the school. I am passionate about providing access to quality Montessori education to all children. I am also technologically savvy, which could contribute to the growing digital landscape!

**4. What aspects of Cornerstone do you value the most? What role does Cornerstone's foundation as a Montessori school play?**

I value the supportive community that the teaching staff works to build. Additionally, all CMES staff go above and beyond for children and families, and it is so lovely to be part of that. The foundation of being a Montessori school helps the school stay grounded in the effort to meet each child and family where they are.

**5. What is your vision for Cornerstone's future?**

I envision CMES growing to include an Adolescent program. I also could see CMES restructuring to include Early Childhood programs once universal preschool is a reality.