



**Casa Esperanza Montessori**  
a dual-language charter school and preschool community

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting**  
**Date: 6:00PM, 1 August 2011**

The following are the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Casa Esperanza Montessori Incorporated, a North Carolina non-profit corporation (the “School”), held at the offices of the School at the time and date noted above.

| <b>Member</b>               | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Zachary Donahue             | X              |               |
| <i>Chair</i>                |                |               |
| Dianne Goode                | X              |               |
| <i>Vice Chair</i>           |                |               |
| Wade Hudson                 | X              |               |
| <i>Secretary</i>            |                |               |
| Holly Atkins                | X              |               |
| <i>Member at Large</i>      |                |               |
| Camden Betz                 | X              |               |
| <i>Member at Large</i>      |                |               |
| Michel Miller               | X              |               |
| <i>Member at Large</i>      |                |               |
| Kate Griffith               | X              |               |
| <i>Member at Large</i>      |                |               |
| Sonya Judd                  | X              |               |
| <i>Member at Large</i>      |                |               |
| Diana Bush                  | X              |               |
| <i>Head of School (HOS)</i> |                |               |

Also present at the meeting were: Christina Riordan, Finance Director, Dan Middleman, Casa Staff member, and 7 parents.

Proper notice of the meeting having been given and a quorum of directors being present, **Mr. Donahue called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m..**

**I. Welcome**

Mr. Donahue welcomed everyone, made introductions, then Mr. Hudson read the ethics statement and reminded people to recuse themselves if necessary.

**II. Budget/Staffing Update**

Ms. Riordan shared an update on the school's budget. Last year's budget is complete and showed a \$117K deficit. This year's budget is on target through its first month.

Ms. Bush gave us an update on current staffing status. Casa needs one teacher for CH2. The Media Specialist has hired a part time Network Technician. Ms. Bush will start working on finding an AHOS once the teaching position is filled. All other positions are filled.

**III. Public Comment**

Pat Heid asked for more communication from the Board to the community, especially regarding Board, staffing and facilities updates. Robyn Bennai commented that the teachers and staff seemed energized this year. Beth Boldt shared a concern about issues with new students integrating into our school and suggested we hold a new parent orientation meeting. Sheri Thomas, a new parent, supported this idea.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Board meeting schedule**

Mr. Donahue explained how the Board determined its meeting schedule with first priority being the members ability to be present, then consideration for visitors to be able to attend. The Board discussed alternating monthly meeting times from morning to evening

in order to make it so Board members could be present AND offer times where visitors can attend. After discussion, Mr. Donahue made a motion to schedule the first regular board meeting on Friday, 26 August, at 6:00AM and the next meeting for Thursday, 22 September, at 6:00PM with the remainder of the schedule to be determined at the August 26 meeting. Ms. Atkins seconded and all approved.

B. Curriculum discussion

Mr. Donahue noted Ms. Griffith's concern about Casa's curriculum at the Board retreat on 17 July and noted that this topic will be on the 26 August agenda to address the need for more teacher involvement.

C. Committees

Mr. Donahue reported the status of the various committees at Casa, including Chairs and folks who signed up to participate (attachment). Mr. Donahue asked all committee chairs to 1. establish a meeting schedule, 2. set committee goals, and 3. start taking action on tasks.

V. Closed Session

The Board discussed the Pilot Mill facilities and the major factors to address as we continue to work toward finding a new facility for Casa.

VI. Open Session

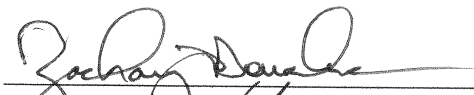

Mr. Donahue motioned to end negotiations for the Pilot Mill facility. Ms. Judd seconded and all approved.

Mr. Donahue motioned to determine financial viability to pursue alternative properties. Ms. Atkins seconded and all approved.

Mr. Donahue shared with those attending that the structure of the Pilot Mill facility with its small rooms would require major construction upfits which we determined were beyond our budget and that changing to a model of smaller classrooms would compromise Casa's Montessori instruction as outlined in our school mission.

VII. Time and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold its next meeting on 26 August 2011. This special meeting of the Board was adjourned at 8:36PM.

 | 8/26/11 | Zachary Donahue, Board Chair  
 | 26 Aug 2011 | Wade Hudson, Board Secretary