



**Casa Esperanza Montessori  
Minutes of the Board of Directors  
February 18, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.**

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

Member	Present	Absent
Monique Taylor Chair	X	
Seraka Davis Vice Chair	X	
Alice Ward Treasurer	X	
Mike Slipsky Secretary	X	
Dan Chilton	X	
Jon Lee	X	
Monica Perry		X
Seth Wood	X	
GeRita Connor Head of School	X	

Also present at the meeting were Anna Foley and Barbara Cooke.

Proper notice having been given and a quorum of directors being present, the meeting was called to order by Mrs. Taylor at 6:01 p.m.

**I. WELCOME**

Mrs. Taylor welcomed everyone.

Conflict of interest statement read and presented along with mission statement.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Wood motioned to approve consent agenda, Mr. Chilton seconded and all approved 7-0.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one presented during public comment.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

HOS Report – there are 548 charter students currently enrolled, there have been 6 withdrawals since last meeting, either due to relocations or a preference for in person learning. Academic health – NCCI II math does not show the same growth as that in language arts, but appropriate supports, including new curriculum and guidance from the math interventionist will help improve math growth. The school is onboarding a new teacher - she has experience in the immersion program and so far all is going very well. Students are utilizing iStation and it is tailored to what students need help with most. As a reopening update, the school is on track to open the building on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Plexiglass dividers have been purchased for teachers. Five families attended the virtual tour on February 10<sup>th</sup> and two more tours are left. As of today there are a total of 332 applications for the lottery. Open faculty positions are for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> language arts and social studies teacher along with same grade level math and science teacher. Highlights and celebrations – reopening form participation was much better. Additional grant funding was applied for digital learning curricular tools. A local doctor's office will offer vaccines to school staff. Casa will be hosting a teacher intern from Meredith and she will be working with 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades in enrichment and immersion. Also, the possibility exists for an administrative intern from Liberty University.

Lottery Enrollment Status – applications to-date do not match the historical trend, which may be due to a number of external factors, but the numbers support filling the current available space well and leaving a waitlist.

Speech Services Contract – contract with Gemstone Speech LLC

Mr. Chilton moved to approve the contract from Gemstone Speech, LLC for speech services, Mrs. Davis seconded and all approved 7-0.

Vision Services Contract – Equal Eyes

Mrs. Ward moved to approve the Equal Eyes contract for vision services, Mr. Slipsky seconded and all approved 7-0.

January Financials – had a very good month, 58.3% of what should be used so far. State revenue is being spent as a priority. Covid funds have been used as of December 31, 2020. The projected end of year surplus is \$469,609.

Funds Transfer from Annual Fund – moving \$500,000 from Private programs to the Annual Fund for expenses. The private programs account does not require carrying such a large balance, and the transfer will help the school to track pre construction expenses.

Mrs. Ward moved to approve to transfer \$500,000 from private programs to the annual fund, Mr. Chilton seconded and all approved 7-0.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Reopening – covered earlier in HOS report. There will be 350 students returning on Plan B and just under 200 staying remote on Plan C.

**VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. Board Affairs:
  - Reviewing the recruitment process
  - Determining the skillset needed to fill any Board vacancies
  - Reached out to member whose terms are ending
- b. Communications:
  - Implementing Trello to keep objectives organized
  - Discussed maintaining what’s on website versus creating new projects at this time
- c. Construction & Facility Management:
  - Reviewed the concept site plan with comments from the Owner’s Representative
  - Lease termination template that Trademark obtained from BPG
  - Documents received from partners are available to the Board in the shared drive
- d. Development:
  - Trying to come up with ideas for the current (pandemic) environment
  - GoPlaySave coming up
- e. Executive:
  - Exit interviews resumed by the Board to calibrate where we are and how to improve.
- f. Finance:
  - Covered earlier

Mr. Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., Mr. Slipsky seconded and all approved 7-0.

 / 5/1/21 \_\_\_\_\_ Monique Taylor, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Slipsky, Board Secretary