



**Casa Esperanza Montessori
Minutes of the Board of Directors
April 15, 2021 - 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, Mrs. Perry seconded and all approved 6-0.

Mr. Chilton motioned to approve the Board minutes from the March 18th meeting, Mrs. Perry seconded and all approved 6-0.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Sarah McConnell, the math interventionist spoke about the level of investment required by Mrs. Connor and the teachers during this year, and how managing both Plan A and Plan C students simultaneously adds a strain on scheduling and planning. Ghenet Mogos commented in support of the hard work the teachers have been putting in this year.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

HOS Report – there are 538 charter students currently enrolled, 3 students have withdrawn since the last update. Faculty has completed NC Check In and today administered NC Check In III. Academic Blitz planning is underway and should start in a couple of weeks. Administration is working on numbers for curriculum consumables to ensure delivery is ahead of the school start date. The school does not anticipate needing any new lead teacher positions at this time. The 2021-2022 school calendar has been updated due to elimination of the 5 remote days that were implemented last year. Staff needs – it has been challenging for teachers since returning to the school to manage both students on campus and at home with office hours, lunch and all other planning needs. There is a strain on staff to support all the students. It has been helpful for teachers to have Fridays as a virtual learning day because it allows slightly more time to plan and to collaborate. Highlights and celebrations – awarded GEER grant funding of \$21,940 which allows us to have a nurse through September 2021 and afterschool support for students.

Monthly financial report – we have received all county and state revenue, 29% has been used from the annual fund and private program funds received and an additional \$10,000 in revenue for the month of March. CRF represents additional funds received due to COVID and these funds have been used. Expenses reflect what's been spent on the new facility. The projected year-end surplus is just over \$442K. The budget column matches the most recently approved budget. Money has been moved from the private program to the annual fund per previous Board approval.

Construction contract – a draft version will be forwarded to the Board members which contains notes that have been reviewed by Mrs. Rusher and Mr. Kaney. Truist has asked for their legal counsel to review before sending the version to BCCG. The Board is expected to execute this contract at the end of the month.

Mrs. Davis motioned to approve a revised agenda with the addition of the reopening schedule, Mrs. Ward seconded 6-0.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

2021-2022 SY Calendar revision – 5 mandatory virtual days have been removed, as a result the calendar needed to be revised. Those days have been shifted to teacher workdays.

Mr. Chilton moves to approve the revised 2021-2022 SY Calendar as presented, Mrs. Perry seconded and all approved 6-0.

Lottery enrollment status – highlights for current placement is as follows: 49 immersion kindergarten seats filled, 60 are on the waitlist. 1st grade immersion, there were 6 seats filled and there are 25 students on the waitlist. 6th grade immersion - 2 seats have been filled. 28 enrichment kindergarten seats filled and 39 students on the waitlist. 1st grade enrichment filled 4 seats and there are 26 students on the waitlist. 6th grade

enrichment filled 2 seats and 18 students are on the waitlist. Pre-K private program received 17 applications; 8 seats have been filled and there are 8 remaining on the waitlist.

Reopening schedule update- The Board and Head of School discussed the benefits that asynchronous learning on Fridays could offer to faculty.

Mrs. Perry moves to allow Mrs. Connor to set asynchronous Fridays through the rest of the school year as she deems appropriate. Mr. Wood seconded and all approved 6-0.

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Board Affairs:
 - Reviewing board membership, 3 ending June 30th, two pursuing another term and one will be ending their volunteer time.
 - Board recruitment is open throughout the year and the variety of needs on the Board is continually evaluated.
- b. Communications:
 - Based on demographic the committee suggests advertising in Neighbors of Wakefield.
 - Ad would represent pretty significant effort and expense.
 - The Board decided to wait so that more information could be obtained on the neighborhoods most closely related to the footprint of the new school facility. Tabled.
- c. Construction & Facility Management:
 - Met with BCCG and will be receiving color and carpet selections samples
 - Discussed budgeting and financing, continually under review
- d. Development:
 - Nothing to report at this time. The meeting was cancelled this month.
- e. Finance:
 - Updated costs from BCCG have been submitted to Mr. Bearman for a revised 5 year forecast
 - Raising awareness that we are working with both CSP and Auditors to complete the audit as early as possible this year.

Mrs. Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m., Mrs. Davis seconded and all approved 6-0.

Monique Taylor

/ 5/6/21

Monique Taylor, Board Chair

Michael Slipsky

/ 5/6/21

Mike Slipsky, Board Secretary