



Casa Esperanza Montessori
Minutes of the Board of Directors
May 6, 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 was 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. Chilton motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Lee seconded and all approved 8-0.

Mrs. Perry motioned to approve the Board minutes from the March 4th, 29th and April 15th meeting,

Mr. Slipsky seconded and all approved 8-0.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** *Bethany Thuku* – 5th -6th grade Casa teacher and parent shared her story about her love for Casa. *Alison Denison* – co teacher in the 5/6 enrichment program, has been at Casa for a very long time. *Diego Aisenberg* – parent of 3 students and spoke of the importance having good teachers. *Amy Shoop* – thanked the board for all the work they have done but is concerned about the retirement plan going away. *Miranda Draper*-spoke about transparency and concern about the longevity of the school going forward without the retirement plan. *Valeria Mendez* – wants to work with the board, is excited about the new building but at what cost. *Ghenet Mogos* – former PFA member and parent spoke about retirement information presented to teachers. *Adrienne Scigliano* – 3 children at Casa and stayed at Casa during tough times because of teachers. *Angel Moujeahid* – co-president of the PFA, apologized for misinformation and is asking for information and transparency. *Kristen King* – has been a Casa parent for 7 years and has been on the PFA and is concerned about attrition. *Joy Hopkins* – Casa parent and CFO, talked about teachers’ retirement options. *Elizabeth Press* – spoke of the amazing teachers and sending her children to a diverse school. *Sindy Salcedo* – teacher at Casa expressed her concern about the retirement plan and the importance of it. *Sandra Rodriguez* – a parent spoke to the board. *Noel Harlow* – spoke in support of teacher retirement plans. *Marci Garnes* – first year Casa parent and has been very impressed with the teachers and how well her children have been doing. *Natalie Hanchett* – thanked the Board for all the work but wanted to voice concern regarding changes for teachers and her feelings as a parent. *Julie Stevenson* – 9th year Casa parent would like more information of what goes on at other schools and what can be done to help in terms of fundraising or otherwise.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Sublease Agreement – Agreement from Trademark to move forward with finding a sublease tenant when the school is ready to move into a new facility.

Mrs. Ward moves to approve the agreement with Trademark for subleasing the current space, Mr. Slipsky seconded and all approved 8-0.

Lease: Gas Expenses – the landlord presented prior expenses that they had not been previously calculating. The administration is awaiting further response from the landlord.

Annual Survey – would the Board like to release the same survey, this is the time of year that was sent to parents and faculty. Tabled till the May 20th meeting in order to incorporate Covid response.

Parent Organization Policy – needs to be reviewed. Mr. Slipsky and Mrs. Davis volunteered to review the policy.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Construction Contract – final version is with BCCG awaiting further review.

Mrs. Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m., Mr. Lee seconded and all approved 8-0.



6/3/2021

Monique Taylor, Board Chair



6/4/2021

Mike Slipsky, Board Secretary