

**CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 21, 2026, TUESDAY – 6:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Alyssa Schwartz, Carolyn Ganz, Rachel Droogsma, Rohan Chougule, Sarah Stocco, Tom Fendt, Megan Riemer

Board Members Absent:

Other Attendees: Chris Bewell, Joe Aliperto (Dieci Finance- 6:10pm)

Guests: Gina Rippl (parent), Daniella (parent), Jessica Heitala(parent)

Members attending via Zoom	Reason for attending virtually
Rohan	Cannot get to meeting in time after work
Rachel	Scheduling conflict

Meeting called to order by Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Board Chair, at 6:04pm.

AGENDA

Public Comment Period: Comments limited to 3 minutes per person. All three guests were parents here to observe, and introduced themselves and their connections to the school. They are considering running for school board positions!

Consent Agenda

- Draft Previous Month’s Meeting Minutes
- 2026-27 Draft CMES school calendar
- 2025-26 updated CMES school calendar
- Q3 report for UST
- Q3 report feedback form from UST
- EDIAM board resolution
- Policy 402 Disability Nondiscrimination
- Procedure 402.1 Section 504-ADA Grievance
- Policy 492 Nepotism
- Policy 510 Flexible Learning Days
- Policy 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination
- Policy 534 Service Learning

CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. ROHAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

Approval of Agenda & Declaration of Conflict of Interest

ROHAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EVENING’S AGENDA. TOM SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

Julaine asked whether, given the approved agenda, there were any conflicts of interest. None were disclosed.

Treasurer’s Report - Carolyn, Chris, Joe

- Current enrollment is 136 and ADM is 135
- Cash balance \$320, 984 and CD balance \$310,318
- 75% of the way through the year, 68% received, 69% spent
- Grants \$30,000 from St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation for general operations
- Holdback is still 10%
- PayPal giving fund \$167.52 donation in March
- More details in reports -

CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH FINANCIALS. MEGAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

- Donations

- PayPal Giving Fund of \$167.52

SARAH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH DONATIONS OF \$167.52. RACHEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

CD Rollovers:

Our \$100,000+ CD matured on April 9. After reviewing cash flow projections, the Finance Committee recommended reinvesting the matured CD for six months at a rate of 3.25%. Our second CD of approximately \$216,000 will mature on 6/27/26.

CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REINVEST \$101,754.79 FOR 6 MONTHS AT A RATE OF 3.25%. ROHAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

Head of School Report - Alyssa

- Marsh is opened back up (finally!).
- Possibility of a general strike on May 1st. School is not planning to close, but they are talking about doing an all school education on the significance of May Day with children's input and leadership.
- Alyssa and Tom attended a conference in Milwaukee to meet with and visit other public Montessori schools
- Upcoming events Board members are welcome to attend:
 - Parent Partnership (Children Teach Adults) April 27 5:30
 - Rescheduled Stone Soup (with fruit salad!) April 27 6:15
 - Cornerstone Café May 15 8:30
 - Contact Alyssa to schedule a time to observe in an environment

Director of Budget Operations - Chris

- Current Enrollment - 136
- MCA assessments are going well!
- Lottery Results for Enrollment for 2026-27:
 - Kindergarten – 20 acceptance letters sent / 16 waitlist letters sent
 - 1st Grade – 3 acceptance letters sent / 5 waitlist letters sent
 - 2nd Grade – 3 acceptance letters sent / 0 waitlist
 - 3rd Grade – 1 acceptance letter sent / 0 waitlist
 - 4th Grade – 3 acceptance letters sent / 0 waitlist
 - 5th Grade – 2 acceptance letters sent / 0 waitlist
 - 6th Grade – 0 applications

2026-27 Staff Benefits Recommendations

Health Benefits

Current provider, HealthPartners, proposed an 14.5% increase over current year

Finance Committee recommends selecting this option for 2026-27 to maintain continuity for staff

Premium contribution will remain the same for single coverage: 75% Employer (CMES)/25% Employee

Other companies (% inc over current): BCBS of MN- 12.3%, Medica 6.7%, alternate HealthPartners plan 10.7%

Dental Benefits

Dental coverage will continue through MetLife with a 14.7% increase

Maintain benefit at \$1500

Vision Benefits

Vision coverage will continue through MetLife at the current rate

Premium 100% Employee

AD&D, Short and Long Term Disability

AD&D and Long Term Coverage will continue through MetLife at the current rate

Finance recommends discontinuing offering Short Term Disability as MN PFFML coverage is redundant for almost all CMES staff, this will offset some of the medical premium increase

Premium 100% Employer (CMES)

SARAH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAFF BENEFITS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2026-27. CAROLYN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

Governance Committee

- Jessica Heitala- Parent member, 2 year term
- Jenna Oakley- Community member, 3 year term
- Maddie Olson- Community member, 3 year term
- Gina Rippl- Parent member, 3 year term

JULAINIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES. ROHAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

Board Chair Report – Julaine

- Alyssa is a finalist for the 2026 MACS School Leader Award! Final results announced at luncheon on May 6th.
- New method for scheduling one on one meetings for self evaluations: 30 minute Google Calendar slot sign up capability. Julaine will update her calendar availability as her schedule adjusts and contact individuals if there are last minute changes.
- Whole Board evaluation survey will be sent out today. Please complete by May 8th.
- Agenda for next meeting May 19th, 2026 (including Annual Meeting).
 - Will begin at the typical 6pm state time, condensing Annual Meeting into the first 15 minutes of the normal Board meeting.
 - Committee chairs: please prepare a summary of what your committee has worked on this year

CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:50 PM. MEGAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Chougule	x	
Droogsma	x	
Fendt	x	
Ganz	x	
Riemer	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

***The next CMES Board Meeting is May 19th at 6 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Stocco, CMES Secretary.***