

**CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 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- 6:15pm)

<b>Members attending via Zoom</b>	<b>Reason for attending virtually</b>
Rohan Chougule	Family schedule conflict
Rachel Droogsma	Childcare needs
Carolyn Ganz	Weather worries
Megan Riemer	Family commitments

**Meeting called to order by Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Board Chair, at 6:07 pm.**

**AGENDA**

**Public Comment Period:** Comments limited to 3 minutes per person.

**Consent Agenda**

- November 2025 meeting minutes
- 25-26 Q1 feedback from UST
- 25-26 Q2 report for UST
- 25-26 Website compliance form from UST

**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	
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**Approval of Agenda & Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**SARAH 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 135 and ADM is approximately the same
- We are budgeted for 138, paid for 140 right now
- Cash balance: \$130,384 and CD balance: \$310,318
- 50% of the way through the year, 40% received, 43% spent
- Grants: \$30,000 from the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation for General Operations
- Holdback is still 10%
- It is estimated that \$148,447 is currently being held back
- One CD matured on December 27, 2025 and Finance Committee agreed to reinvest the funds for 6 months at 3.25%
- More details in reports -

**ROHAN MADE A MOTION TO CONFIRM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE’S REINVESTMENT OF \$212,454.74 FROM THE CD HELD AT NORTHEAST BANK WHICH MATURED DECEMBER 27, 2025, FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 3.25% . 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	

**SARAH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER FINANCIALS. TOM 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	

**CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER FINANCIALS. 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	

## **DONATIONS**

November

- \$1500 through Give to the Max
- \$60 from Give MN

December

- \$1,433.31 from Mighty Cause
- \$500 from a community member

**TOM MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER DONATIONS OF \$1560. 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	

**TOM MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER DONATIONS OF \$1933.31. 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**

- Working with families that have children staying home due to safety concerns to arrange virtual learning options and food deliveries
- Rohan asked whether students being virtual will impact our ADM, but Alyssa clarified that we can still count children who attend virtually for the time being. Chris reminded us that we have a flexible learning policy in place.
- Julaine asked about feeding children who are virtual. Currently the state will not reimburse for virtual children, but Chris & Alyssa are making sure that we find a way to still support the children
- Communicated with an immigration attorney who will be available to us if there is an emergency and we are double checking I-9's to make sure we're in compliance
- Upcoming events Board members are welcome to attend
  - En lieu of an in-person Stone Soup, we will be sending packets of hot chocolate & popcorn home with students
  - Thursday, the students have arranged a walkout
  - Friday is the statewide Day of Truth & Freedom. CMES will be an attendance optional day, with adults available to support children who need it
  - Parent Partnership event 2/2 5:30-6:30pm
  - Cornerstone Cafe Thursday, 2/12 8:30-9:30am
  - Contact Alyssa to schedule a time to observe in an environment

**Director of Budget Operations - Chris**

- Current Enrollment - 135
- Current applications - 3
- February 1- March 31: open enrollment will open

**Governance Committee**

- Planning an Introduction to Montessori education module, be prepared to learn and ask questions. Please be prepared to ask questions!
- Board Member Recruitment
  - Posted listings at organizations that make sense (MACS, Ramsey County volunteer/unpaid job listings, CMES website)
  - Contacted sources at organizations to ask for their assistance in connecting with potential community members (Propel, ESABA, CharterSource, UST Charter Authorizer office, Northeast Bank)

**Board Chair Report – Julaine**

- Alyssa and Julaine are still talking with MCM to chat about our relationship, as well as start to look at the lease.

**RACHEL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:00 PM. 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	

***The next CMES Board Meeting is February 17, 2026 at 6 p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Stocco, CMES Secretary.***