

CMES Advancement Committee Monthly Update

Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School's mission is to support children from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds living in or near St. Paul's East Side through a rigorous and high-impact Montessori program that empowers them to make positive decisions, develop self-discipline, and create a true sense of responsibility for themselves and others in their community.

December 2023 and January 2024 Updates:

- *Still awaiting* decision on Casey's Cash for Classrooms (\$50k) to support staff training
- Continued coordination with contracted grant writers with monthly meetings. Next meeting is 1/25/24
- Committee to work collaboratively with the marketing task force.
- Reviewed Fundraising policy in coordination with Governance Committee
- Preparing a grant application for the St. Paul Foundation
- Recruiting parents, community members, etc. for committee membership

Narrative:

The Advancement Committee continues to focus efforts on grant funding to support going-outs, direct teacher and classroom enhancements, school-based mental health services, and more. We will submit a grant proposal to the St. Paul Foundation in early February and are exploring other smaller grants for classroom support. We have a community member/parent that is interested in committee membership and has offered to help specifically with grant writing. We still need other minds and voices to help a robust and representative group to engage the community. Additionally, the committee is considering other potential grant writers/grant writing firms to contract with. We will look for experience working with other Montessori schools, other charter schools, other urban schools, and a higher degree of "activeness" in the process to reduce necessary time investment by CMES staff and board trustees. Please continue to reach out to me with any ideas, suggestions, or to connect. This report is respectfully submitted by trustee, Tyler Bouwens on 1/12/2024.