

**CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2026, TUESDAY – 6:00 P.M.**

**Board Members Present:** Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Alyssa Schwartz, Carolyn Ganz, Rohan Chougule, Tom Fendt, Megan Riemer

**Board Members Absent:** Rachel Droogsma, Sarah Stocco

**Other Attendees:** Chris Bewell, Joe Aliperto (Dieci Finance- 6:15pm)

<b>Members attending via Zoom</b>	<b>Reason for attending virtually</b>
Carolyn	Road Conditions
Megan	Family commitments

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

**AGENDA**

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

2 Guests:

- Rajan, Cornerstone graduate here for some scout stuff
- Sara Wade, upper elementary guide here at Cornerstone, and in the training of trainers, here to present about Montessori to the board.

**Consent Agenda**

- Draft Previous Month’s Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Board Education: Introduction to Montessori**

Sara presents about Montessori. Recorded on Zoom for board members not present, and as a resource for future board members.

**Head of School Report - Alyssa**

- Upcoming events Board members are welcome to attend
  - It’s the time of year to hire for next year. Posted for lead guide role since Sara won’t be staying. Have had several applicants who are qualified. Have posted for a special education teacher which we have to do based on what qualifications current teachers have.
    - Rohan: Where traffic for teachers.
    - Chris: MACS website and Minnesota jobs board. We are required by law to post here.
    - Alyssa: AMI, AMI-EAA, and others as well.
  - Coming up we have parent teacher conferences.
  - Workshop with Brightworks today got Alyssa and Megan thinking about family engagement and literacy for next year.
  - Contact Alyssa to schedule a time to observe in an environment

**Director of Budget Operations - Chris**

- Current Enrollment - Lost one to New York, gained a student from MN.
- Current applications for next year are at 28 kindergarteners, 8 first graders, 3 second graders, 1 third graders, 3 fourth, 2 fifth graders for a total of 45 applications. People are saying word of mouth AND website. Some people are

applying from far away and moving here, which is exciting because we've historically been heavily word of mouth.

- Trying to figure out ways to communicate what the government wants to know about our operations.
- MCA assessments are coming up! Testing is complicated by Marsh classroom being relocated to our usual testing location. We will use several other interesting spaces for testing, material making room and the museum space.

**Treasurer's Report - Carolyn, Chris, Joe**

- Current enrollment is 135 and ADM is 135
- We are budgeted for 138, paid for 140 right now
- Cash balance \$377, 813 and CD balance \$310,318.
- 57% of the way through the year, 60% received, 60% spent
- Grants still using the \$30,000 general operations grant.
- Holdback is still 10%
- More details in reports -

**CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY FINANCIALS. ROHAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:**

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

**Donations**

- We received some donations this month.

**TOM MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY DONATIONS OF \$983.72. ROHAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:**

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

**Special Education Transportation Clawback**

A long discussion was had about the surprising approximately \$50,000 clawback from the State regarding Special Education transportation reimbursements. Discussion centered on the board’s desire for clarity about how much money MDE expects us to spend on SpEd transportation going forward. MDE has not been able to provide us with this information so far.

**Governance Committee - Julaine**

We have 3 positions ending this year, and all three are ending their service: Parent Sarah Stocco, Community Member Carolyn Ganz, and Community Member Rohan Chougule. 6 total open positions possible for this year.

**ROHAN MADE A MOTION TO approve 2026 Board election letter and nomination form. Carolyn SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:**

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

**Strategic planning/Board Education - Julaine**

Meetings with MCM have happened twice, more meetings scheduled. Agreed to timeline, done by end of the calendar year, plan to do listening sessions with staff over the summer and families in the fall.

Meeting with Liza Davis, and the board chair and hoping to loop in board vice chair.

Built some guidelines about how we want to interact and gather information. We don’t have a pre-conceived outcome of where this could go, and are open to all possibilities.

**Board Chair Report – Julaine**

We’re going to do self evaluations about our board membership, with an email about it being sent later tonight. Spend some time reflecting and then each person will connect with Julaine to talk things through. We’ll also do a whole group reflection about this.

**CAROLYN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:34 PM. ROHAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:**

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

***The next CMES Board Meeting is April 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted by Tom Fendt, stand-in secretary***