



CORNERSTONE

MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board of Directors Election
Voting Guide
2025

I. Purpose of the Voting Guide

The purpose of this Voting Guide is to provide detailed information on election procedures and introduce you to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board of Directors candidates. This guide will include a profile of each candidate as submitted by the candidate.

II. Eligibility to Vote

Eligible voters are faculty and staff members employed at the school, school board members and all parents or legal guardians of children enrolled in the school.

Parents or Legal Guardians

- Parent is defined as the legal guardian of a student whose address has been given to CMES as the address of record to send school communications.
- Two-parent families with both parents living at the same address will each receive an e-ballot. This assumes that each parent's email address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Single-parent families will receive one e-ballot. This assumes that the parent's email address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Parents living at separate addresses will each receive an e-ballot. This assumes that each parent's email address is on file at CMES as receiving school communications.
- Parents who have not registered their email address with CMES as an address to send school communications will not receive an e-ballot. In order to vote, these parents should email chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org and identify themselves as parent/guardian of a CMES child and request an e-ballot be sent to their designated email address. If you do not have an email address and wish to vote, please call the school at 651-774-5000 for further instructions.

Faculty and Staff

- Each CMES faculty and staff member will receive an e-ballot. Faculty and staff of the school who are also parents may only vote once.

Current Board Member

- Board members who are also staff, faculty, or parents may only vote once.
- Board members who are not a parent or an employee are also eligible to vote.

III. Election Procedures

The election will be held from May 12, 2025 beginning at 8:00 am until May 19, 2025 at 8:00 pm. Each eligible voter will receive notification when the election launches and be provided with eBallot information via email.

Results of the election will be presented at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 20 at 5:30 pm. All parents, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting.

Please contact Chris Bewell at chrisbewell@cornerstone-elementary.org for more information.

IV. Notes for this election

Elected board members generally serve 3-year terms. Following is the slate of candidates standing for this election:

<u>Board Seat Category</u>	<u>Eligible Candidate(s)</u>
Teacher Member (3-year term):	Megan Riemer
Teacher Member (2-year term):	Tom Fendt

Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School

Board Candidate Profile

Megan Riemer – Teacher Member

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

I love Cornerstone and I want to learn more about how the school operates. I would like the chance to give my time and input towards furthering Cornerstone's mission.

What role might you play in advancing the mission of the school?

This is my tenth year as the reading specialist at Cornerstone. I have experience working in all of the classrooms and at recess. I work with staff from Children's House, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary to meet the diverse needs of our students. I see the day to day work of our children and our staff and I would be able to share those observations with the board.

What areas of expertise would you bring to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board?

I have experience as a teacher, as a parent, as a coach and as a K-12 reading specialist. I have a curious mind and enjoy working with groups of people to see the big picture, set goals and problem solve from different perspectives.

What aspects of Cornerstone do you value the most? What role does Cornerstone's foundation as a Montessori school play?

I value Cornerstone's focus on whole child development, diversity and equity. We believe that every child is good and wants to do well. I believe that this core belief comes from our foundation as a Montessori school. We respect and follow the child.

What is your vision for Cornerstone's future?

I see Cornerstone as a school where children feel safe, loved, respected and challenged academically. I see Cornerstone as a school where staff are given opportunities to grow and can feel appreciated, respected and supported. I want everyone at Cornerstone to feel seen and heard. I want each child to reach their full potential as learners and members of communities.

Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board Candidate Profile

Tom Fendt – Teacher Member

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

Cornerstone has an incredible power for fostering growth in children and adults alike. Beyond even what it does for children in class every day, Cornerstone has done so much to make me the person I am today. I would be honored to have another way I can support the people around me that make Cornerstone such a special place.

What role might you play in advancing the mission of the school?

As a Montessori trained guide working at Cornerstone I can offer insight into what's working and what needs to be tweaked, and give a sense of how possible actions could play out in the day to day of school life. My knowledge and practice of Montessori principles can help evaluate to make decisions that support this key aspect of our school.

What areas of expertise would you bring to the Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Board?

I spent 4 wonderful years as a para and classroom assistant at Cornerstone, and after 4 years away have returned as a licensed teacher. I'm Montessori trained, and went to Montessori school from pre-K to 8th grade. I have lived on the East Side of Saint Paul for about 8 years. I have done work similar to serving on a board for several local gaming organizations, ranging from 50-1,000 members, helping create the mission, setting policies, and reviewing financial information.

What aspects of Cornerstone do you value the most? What role does Cornerstone's foundation as a Montessori school play?

There are too many to name! The way Cornerstone supports ALL children, not just with academics, but with their social and emotional development too. The way that Cornerstone is willing to make changes to support children and adults alike. The way that Cornerstone leans in to addressing the difficulties of our times, inviting the community to be part of the solution. I think many of these beautiful aspects, while possible in another system, are best supported through the Montessori education.

What is your vision for Cornerstone's future?

My vision for Cornerstone's future looks much like it's present, that we provide high quality Montessori education to racially and economically diverse children on the East Side of Saint Paul, that we deepen and extend our connection within our community, and that we continue to support children and adults alike to become responsible, caring, and creative members of our society.