CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, TUESDAY – 6:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Alyssa Schwartz, Jenna Oakley, Rachel Droogsma, Gina Ripple, Tom Fendt, Megan Riemer

Board Members Absent: Jessica Heitala,

Other Attendees: Chris Bewell

Megan Riemer participating online due to family commitments.

Meeting called to order by Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Board Chair, at 6:08pm.

AGENDA

Public Comment Period: Comments limited to 3 minutes per person. No guests this evening

Approval of Agenda & Declaration of Conflict of Interest - Julaine

Rachel MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA. Gina SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Droogsma	X	
Fendt	X	
Oakley	X	
Riemer	X	
Rippl	X	
Roffers-Agarwal	X	

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

Approval of August Minutes - Julaine

Jenna MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST MINUTES. Rachel SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Droogsma	X	
Fendt	X	
Oakley	X	
Riemer	X	

Rippl	X	
Roffers-Agarwal	X	

<u>Treasurer's Report - Joe</u>

- June financials
    - Transportation clawback caused a deficit, other than that financials were balanced for the year.
    - 135.7 ADM compared to a revised budget of 135 ADM.
    - Statute of limitations has passed for possible clawback of pandemic era Employee Retention Credit, so we no longer need to mark separately.

Tom MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JUNE FINANCIALS. Gina SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Droogsma	X	
Fendt	X	
Oakley	X	
Riemer	X	
Rippl	X	
Roffers-Agarwal	X	

No donations in June.

- August Financials
    - Starting enrollment with 144 students enrolled, above the budgeted ADM of 137.
    - General discussion about how to read the school financial statements and understand what is being presented, helping orient the new board members and refresh returning board members.

Gina MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST FINANCIALS. Jenna SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Droogsma	X	
Fendt	X	
Oakley	X	
Riemer	X	
Rippl	X	
Roffers-Agarwal	X	

No donations in August.

Head of School Report - Alyssa

- School has started!
- Attending MACS annual meeting to accept a commemoration for 15 years of CMES.
- Looking to add another sped teacher and para to meet revealed needs of students.

  Upcoming events Board members are welcome to attend
  - Fall Festival – (NEW DATE) 4:00-5:30, September 25
  - Peace Day Celebration – 11:00, September 25
  - Parent Partnership – 5:30-6:30, September 28
  - Cornerstone Café – 8:45-9:30, October 2
  - Contact Alyssa to schedule a time to observe in an environment

Director of Budget Operations - Chris

- Current Enrollment - 144
- Next goal is to retain these students, but we budgeted for significantly lower than this number, which means we won't be in a bad spot if students do move partway during the year.
- Continuing to work on the lease agreement with CMS.

Advancement Committee - Rachel, Gina, and Jessica

- Fall Fest Update
  - Date was moved to avoid the forecasted rain.
  - People with connections to the school will be doing some performances.
  - Popcorn and international food sampler.
- Book fair
  - Online and in-person at the end of the month.
  - Communication with Red Balloon going better than last year.
  - Meg Haley, who's been doing lots of help with advancement is stepping back, so we are hoping to find more people to help out, especially to help coordinate volunteers.
- Other topics
  - Discussion of possible digital payment for the future.
  - Partnership with Velasquez family for coffee subscription, who will give 20% of proceeds to Cornerstone.

Governance Committee - Julaine

- 2026-27 Board Community Agreement finalization
  - Affirmed that we want to use the agreement as written.

- Board retreat date finalization
    - Sunday October 25th 1-4 PM at CMES we will have our board retreat.
- Board Education: MN Permanent School Fund ballot initiative (Alyssa)
    - Description of the MN permanent school fund.
    - Description of how the board is allowed to provide information about this ballot initiative.

Board Chair Report - Julaine

- Reviewing proposed lease changes for next 3 year lease period with CMS.
- CMS asked CMES to pay for a portion of dish and laundry detergent costs.
- CMES is asking for some more clarity in the document to show what spaces and their sizes are in use for CMS and CMES.
- Thanks to folks who helped table at back to school night!

Tom MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:19 PM. Rachel SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Droogsma	X	
Fendt	X	
Oakley	X	
Riemer	X	
Rippl	X	
Roffers-Agarwal	X	

The next CMES Board Meeting is October 20th 2026 at 6 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by Tom Fendt, CMES Secretary.