



**Sussex Montessori School
Board of Directors
June 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

Board of Directors Present: Linda Zankowsky, Sean Steward, Trish Hermance, Mason Falligant, Jessica Bradley, Penny Short, Christine Gorowara, Lauren Connelly

Absent: Mike Nally and Irving Taylor

Others Present: Lisa Coldiron (Head of School), Debra Smullin (Administrative Assistant)

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion to approve the agenda with the correction of adding to “Executive Committee” Board Resignation and removing May Minutes (vote) was made by Christine Gorowara and seconded by Jessica Bradley. The Motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Public Comment – Aaron Jackson- Parent

Aaron Jackson spoke about his concerns for Sussex Montessori School.

Consent Agenda-

Minutes

A Motion to approval the April 2023 minutes was made by Jessica Bradley and seconded by Penny Short. The motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Strategic Planning- Linda Zankowsky

- Linda stated that the committee was ready to move forward with creating committees for each of the goals
 - Goal 1- Sussex Montessori School will be a model Delaware school and a model of future public Montessori Schools.
 - Goal 2- Sussex Montessori School will develop a Diversity, Equity, and inclusion mindset across the school community
 - Goal 3- Sussex Montessori School will achieve procedural, governance and financial goals to ensure the long-term sustainability of the school.
 - Goal 4- Complete facilities vision of campus to include k-6 classrooms, shared space, outdoor education opportunities and community involvement
- Linda then asked each board member which goal they were interested in working with.

Committee Reports-

Finance Committee – Sean Steward & Michelle Hastie

- Sean presented the financials to date through May 31, 2023
 - May 31, 2023, represents (11/12) months actual or 90% of the current fiscal year.
 - We have received 97.2 % of our State and Local budgeted revenues.
 - We have spent 87.2% of our State and Local Expenses.

A Motion to accept the May 31, 2023, will be voted on in the July 18, 2023 Board Meeting.

Enrollment-

As of June 20, 2023, total enrollment is 470.

- K-1 classrooms= 5
- 2-3 classrooms= 6
- 3, 4, 5 classrooms= 1

- Upper L classrooms= 6

Facility Committee- Jessica Bradley

Jessica gave an update on the modulars. All permits and approvals have been received. The modulars should start being delivered in late June.

Arpa project- Government requirements that need to be met. Currently advertising for a General Contractor. All bids are due by July 8th. Work to begin sometime in August.

Development Committee- Linda Zankowsky

- 2nd floor of Barn- 1 million needed
- Last modular- 280K needed
- Purchase property- 283K needed

Grants Submitted-

- Summer reading program
- Healthy Foods
- Chick Fil A

Executive Committee- Linda Zankowsky

Legislative House Bill 163 (Relating to Educator Licensure and Certification) has passed the committee and moved to the floor. More updates to come.

July retreat scheduled for July 15, 2023. This date may change.

Board resignation- Christine Gorowara submitted her letter to resign from the Board as of June 2023.

Head of School Report- Lisa Coldiron

- Lisa Coldiron reviewed the Head of School report.
 - Montessori Fidelity and Efficacy
 - Literacy & knowledge of the curriculum
 - Staff/Classroom observations
 - Lesson practice meetings

- Parent Education
 - Parent classes
 - Montessori Visiting days
 - Watch me work days
- Codifying Montessori Procedures & Policies
 - Jonathan Wolff- working as a team in the Montessori classroom
 - Gina Castelli- Long book study
 - DOE presentation on making Data Based decisions and the responsibilities of the teacher

Executive Session-

A Motion was made by Jessica Bradley and seconded by Trish Hermance to move to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

- Personnel issues were discussed
- Student issues were discussed

All Board members came out of Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jessica and seconded by Christine Gorowara and passed unanimously at 8:36 p.m.