



**Sussex Montessori School  
Board of Directors  
January 20, 2026, 6:30 p.m.**

**Board of Directors Present:** Trish Hermance, Taquil Foster-Lewis, Sean Steward, Mason Falligant, Bob Wheatley, Kyle Morgan, Linda Zankowsky & Jessica Bradley

**Others Present:** Dr. Siza Mtimbiri

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda-**

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jessica Bradley and seconded by Taquil Foster-Lewis. The Motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

**Public Comment** – No public comment

**Minutes-**

A Motion to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes was made by Bob Wheatley and seconded by Sean Seward. The Motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

## **Committee Reports-**

### ***Community Engagement/Enrollment- Jessica Bradley***

- Discussed upcoming Bunny Hop 5K on April 5th
- Materials are being distributed to possible sponsors; board members are encouraged to distribute
- Contact Jessica Bradley with questions and offers of support
- The Bunny Hop is scheduled for April 4th

### ***Finance Committee- Michelle Hastie***

Michelle presented the financials to date through December 31, 2025

- December 31, 2025, represents (6/12) months actual or 50% of the current fiscal year.
- We have received 106.9% of our State and Local revenues.
- We have received 5.4% of our federal revenues.
- We have spent 56.7% of our Total operating budget.

A Motion to move the December 31, 2025, financial report approval was made by     and seconded by     . The Motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

### ***Student Success Committee- Taquil Foster-Lewis***

- Standard meeting established for first Monday of each month
- Committee members: Taquil, Mason, Courtney and Peter with Siza as consult

***Development- Linda Zankowsky***

- Thank you to board members for their donations
- SMS was awarded the DDOE Bridge to Practice Grant to assist teacher training and other initiatives focused on enhanced reading instruction

***Facility Committee- Bob Wheatley***

- Elevator construction is moving forward
- 20K will be needed to finish out this phase
- GGA is working to outline all remaining tasks for the final 460K

***Executive Committee- Trish Hermance*** (Moved to retreat)

***Head of School Report- Dr. Siza Mtimbiri***

- Special Education team is working on refining processes
- Enrollment and staffing updates were provided in full report
- DDOE due to visit the Friday after the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> visit in a series focused on supporting SMS and all DE elementary schools with reading instruction

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jessica Bradley and seconded by Taquil Foster Lewis. The Motion passed unanimously at 7:34 p.m.