



CREEKSTONE

Montessori School

Creekstone Montessori School
Regular Board Meeting Agenda Packet
November 18, 2024



Mission and Purpose

Creekstone Montessori School's mission is to provide a learning environment that embraces a child's natural desire to learn and to empower all children to grow to their full social, academic, and emotional potential through Montessori principles and methods of education.

Our purpose is simple: to inspire a lifelong passion for learning and build the foundations for profound respect towards humanity and the natural world



November 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Consent Agenda

Contact(s):

Presenter(s): Perry Sekus, Chair

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action X

Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

1. Minutes for October 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Recommendation

I move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.



Creekstone Montessori School (CMS) Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. (CDT)

In-Person Joining Info

Creekstone Montessori School
5225 US Hwy 61, Suite 3
Red Wing, MN 55066

Virtual Google Meet Joining Info:

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iah-jtdd-yxd>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-336-0353 PIN: 978 803 626#

Item No.	Item, Conveyor(s), Description	Specifics
I.	Call to Order <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Welcome Establish Quorum Pledge of Allegiance Mission Statement Approval of Meeting Agenda
II.	Public Comments	Open
III.	Conflict of Interest <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Conflict of Interest Review
IV.	Consent Agenda <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Consent Agenda: October 21, 24 Regular Meeting Minutes <i>Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented.</i>
V.	Board Policy Review and Adoption <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i> <i>Danielle Mandelkow, Assistant Director of Special Education/Student Services & Assessment Coordinator</i>	Policy Development:
VI.	Business of the Board	
	Finance	Finance Update

Ted LaFrance, Treasurer
Joseph Sovine, EdFinMN

Updates
Discussion

Motion to accept October Check Register Statement
Check Register statement dated as provided.

Governance

Perry Sekus, Chair
Dr. Michelle Sturm,
Executive Director/Head of School

Report and Updates

Updates
Discussion

Administration Report & Updates

Danielle Mandelkow,
Assistant Director of Special
Education/Student Services & Assessment
Coordinator

Report and Updates

Enrollment Report

Updates
Discussion

Dr. Michelle Sturm,
Executive Director/Head of School
Elissa Behnke,

VII.	Other Business <i>Board</i>	Updates Discussion
VIII.	Authorizer <i>Dr. David Peterson, MOChA Managing</i> <i>Director</i>	Updates Comments
IX.	Adjournment <i>Sheena Tisland, Secretary</i>	Recap Action Items Next Meeting Date(s): Regular Board Meeting - December 16, 24



November 18, 2024

Report & Updates for Regular Board Meeting
Executive Director/Head of School, Dr. Michelle Sturm

Governance

- Friday I attended a Legislative Forum with Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator Kunesh. This policy forum events gave information around opportunities for me to help to reframe the story about charter schools around the positive stories and important work taking place in our school and community. By participating I hoped to find ways to make a difference and to gain tools to help me to build relationships with key legislators.

Finance

- The first round of ACH went well and moving forward most parents pay through ACH.
- VPK has been found to be unavailable for/incompatible with this school year. It was found by our MARSS coordinator that we are not allowed to charge for the gap between VPK funding and our tuition pricing. In order to take on VPK we would have to change the 4 year old day to be a shortened day, followed by "after care." We would, as a board, have to vote on this and change the shape of our Children's House day for all students. While this is possible, this would give ALL of our families the option of choosing to only attend for the shortened day and not the "after care." This would shift our budget significantly. Also there has been new legislation (available below) that will affect our ability to implement VPK in future years as well.

Education

- I have begun my First Plane (0-6) Orientation. This is a five week course, with three classes per week from 5:30-9:00. The course is on-line and asynchronous. I am learning so much and furthering my Montessori understanding.
- MCM Update: This month we begin our Lead Guide observation opportunities. Korrie, one of our Children's House Guide, will be observing at St. Croix Montessori, Friday November 22nd.

HR & Personnel

- We have added two new staff to Creekston: Carissa will be joining as a Special Education Paraprofessional and Abigail will be joining as our Children's House Assistant
- Kathy has agreed to be our Upper Elementary Assistant, allowing Anna to transition to fill our Math Intervention Specialist
- I have posted our open positions on Indeed, MN School Jobs, and Association Montessori International.

VPK

- NEW 2025-26 VPK Student Enrollment Criteria and Application Processes: During the 2024 legislative session, changes were made to voluntary prekindergarten [Minnesota Statute 2024 \(142D. 08\)](#). These changes will go into effect with **the 2025-2026 school year, Fiscal Year (FY) 26**. The three major changes are:
 - The SRP program will end as of June 30, 2025. VPK and SRP program requirements have been aligned under a single VPK program.
 - The VPK application is moving to a four-year application cycle with an application period for FY26 opening on January 3 and closing on January 30, 2025. More information detailing the FY26 application process that will be sent in mid-December.
 - All students enrolled in VPK must meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Is four years of age as of September 1 in the calendar year in which the school year commences and meet one of the following criteria:
 - Qualifies for free or reduced-priced meals
 - Qualifies using state general financial eligibility requirements listed in [Minnesota Statute 2024 142E.10](#)
 - Is an American Indian
 - Is an English language learner
 - Is an American Indian
 - Has experienced [homelessness](#) in the last 24 months
 - Is identified through health and developmental screening with a potential risk factor that may influence learning
 - Is in foster care, kinship care, or is in need of child protection services
 - Has a parent who is a migrant or seasonal agricultural laborer.
 - Has a parent who is incarcerated.
 - Is defined as at risk by the school district.
- A school district or charter school must adopt a sliding-fee schedule based upon family income and must waive a fee for a participant unable to pay.
- A child with an individualized education program may not be excluded from participation in a program under this section if all other eligibility requirements are satisfied and the individualized education program team determines that with reasonable accommodations the child can fully participate and make progress toward their goals and objectives.
- Attached is a template that can be used to communicate the new VPK enrollment eligibility criteria to families as you launch your 2025-26 school year enrollment practices.

Food & Nutrition

- We are working with RWPS Food Service to reduce the sugar content in our breakfast options
- We are working to reduce the packaging used

Facilities

- We had our Fire Inspection and there are few changes that we had to make. We had to remove any curtains covering our classroom entrances, as well as one divider he had covering a door. Viking Sprinkler will be coming out to adjust some of our sprinkler heads (they are too short), as well as add metal casing to any sprinkler heads that are missing them.
- We will need to place all of the curtains in the Children's House. These need to be replaced for several reasons:
 - They need to be fire rated to a certain criteria
 - They need to be hung from curtain rods so they can be pulled back when it is not nap time to let in the natural light and allow the children a view of the beauty outside
 - They are needed to maintain safety during lock down drills
 - They are needed to maintain the classroom for the developmentally appropriate rest time in this classroom

Enrollment

- We have two spaced open in Children's House
 - I have two pending enrollments that will fill these spots
- We have two spaces in Upper Elementary

CSP

- Shipments are slowing down considerably.
- We have a parent volunteer coming in during the next few weeks to begin to assemble furniture
- We still need someone to hang shelves and cubbies. This will need to be two or three people during a time when we do not have children in the building. I have tried to do a volunteer sign up but have not had luck. I will try again during winter break.

Community Outreach

- Friday November 15 we did Hero and Heroine night. It was VERY well attended. Parents and children loved the opportunity to experience this.

2024/25 Enrollment by Grade Level : Updated 9.20.24				
Grade Level	Board Approved	Enrolled	Waitlist	Program TOTALS
PreK	18	17	0	17 full day, 1 half day
K	22	21	6	CH 40/ENROLLED 39
1	17	17	3	
2	18	18	4	
3	15	15	3	LE 50/ENROLLED 50
4	21	19	0	
5	11	11	0	
6	8	8	0	UE 40/ENROLLED 36
K-6 Totals	112	109	16	
PreK-6 Totals	130	126	16	