



Creekstone Montessori School (CMS) Board of Directors

Board Meeting Notes/Minutes

Monday, October 20, 2025, 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. (CDT)

Item No.	Item, Conveyor(s), Description	Specifics
I.	Call to Order <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Welcome Establish Quorum: Perry Sekus, Michelle Sturm, Katelyn Reynolds, Elissa Behnke, Tina Duerkop, Danielle Mandelkow, Ted LaFrance, Cait Larsen, Erica Westfield, Mandy Williams, Mandy Eckhoff, Joseph Sevine, Andrew Forliti, David Peterson Pledge of Allegiance Mission Statement Approval of Meeting Agenda Motion: Mandy Williams Second: Ted LaFrance Motion Carries 6/6
II.	Public Comments	Open No Public Comments Public Attendees: 0
III.	Conflict of Interest <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Conflict of Interest Review None Presented
IV.	Consent Agenda <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Consent Agenda: September 20, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes <i>Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented.</i> Motion: Ted LaFrance Second: Cait Larsen Motion Carries 6/6
V.	Board Policy Review and Adoption <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i> <i>Michelle Sturm, Executive Director</i>	First Reading 601 School District Curriculum 602 Organization of School Calendar and School Day 609 Religious Accommodation Policy 610 Field Trip Policy

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- 612 [Development of Parental Involvement Policies for Title I Programs](#)
612.2 Title I Compact
532 [Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds](#)

Final Reading for Above Policies

November 17th, 2025 Board Meeting

Final Reading

- 526 [Hazing Prohibition](#)
531 [The Pledge of Allegiance](#)
533 [Wellness](#)
535.1 [Restrictive Use Procedures](#)

Note: Policy 532 moved to the “First Reading” phase

Motion to approve 4 policies listed above [526, 531, 533, 535.1].

Motion: Ted LaFrance

Second: Tina Duerkop

Motion Carries 6/6

VI. Business of the Board

Finance

Ted LaFrance, Treasurer

Joseph Sovine, EdFinMN

Andrew Forliti, Smith & Schafer

Finance Update

Andrew Forliti of Smith & Schafer presents Audit Summary:

- Overview: Unmodified “clean” opinion of District’s June 30, 2025 Financial Statements
- Highlights:
 - General Fund revenues exceeded General Fund expenditures
 - General Fund Cost per ADM decreasing each year since 2023
 - Special Ed. Cost per ADM decreasing each year since 2023

Motion to approve Financial Audit as presented.

Motion: Ted LaFrance

Second: Erica Westfield

Motion Carries 6/6

Joseph Sovine presents Financial Statements packet as of September 30, 2025.

- Overview: Enrollment dollars from MDE higher than actual enrollment; budget at a deficit
- Recommendation: Conservative spending

Motion to approve Financial Statement as presented.

Motion: Ted LaFrance
Second: Tina Duerkop
Motion Carries 6/6

Governance

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

Governance Update

Governance update included in Michelle's report (below)

Administration Report & Updates

Dr. Michelle Sturm,
Executive Director/Head of School

Report and Updates

Highlights:

- Upcoming Community Events:
 - Trunk or Treat: Thursday, October 30th
 - Gala: May 1st, 2026
- Lockdown Recap:
 - No law enforcement sent to Creekstone during recent lockdown event/threat at RWPS site.
 - Requests have been made for law enforcement to include Creekstone in coverage during future lockdown events.
 - Window coverings have been ordered for Creekstone windows; coverings will block sight into the building from the exterior.
 - Implications for future communication to parents regarding whether to pick up children or not

Danielle Mandelkow,
Director of Special Education

Report and Updates

General Education Updates:

- 123 RESET - new social emotional and behavioral learning program implementation
- Reading and Math Interventions starting this week
- FastBridge Report

SPED Updates:

- Addie (Children's House SPED Teacher resigning)
- Open Position: Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

Elissa Behnke,
Director of Montessori

Report and Updates

- Ongoing pursuit of grants
- Many community events/participation

Katelyn Reynolds,
Director of Operations

Report and Updates

VII. Other Business
Board

VIII. Authorizer

Dr. David Peterson, MOChA Managing Director

Comments

- From authorizer perspective, he appreciates the ‘autopsy’ of the recent lockdown event and aftermath
- Congratulations on outcome of Financial Audit
- Policies: appreciates the follow through in not only creating policies, but communicating them to community
- Will meet with Michelle regarding new MDE requirements for school websites

IX. Adjournment

Tina Duerkop, Secretary

Recap Action Items:

Next Meeting Date(s): Regular Board Meeting November 17th, 2025

Motion to Adjourn: Ted LaFrance

Second: Tina Duerkop

Motion Carries 6/6
