



# Creekstone Montessori School (CMS) Board of Directors

## Board Meeting Notes/Minutes

Monday, November 17th 2025, 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. (CDT)

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Item No.	Item, Conveyor(s), Description	Specifics
I.	<b>Call to Order</b> <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Welcome Establish Quorum: Perry Sekus, Michelle Sturm, Elissa Behnke, Tina Duerkop, Ted LaFrance, Cait Larsen, Mandy Williams, Erika Westfield Pledge of Allegiance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discussion of whether to include the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of board meetings or not</li></ul> Mission Statement Approval of Meeting Agenda Motion: Perry Sekus Second: Ted LaFrance Motion Carries 6/6
II.	<b>Public Comments</b>	Open No Public Comments No Public Attendees
III.	<b>Conflict of Interest</b> <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	Conflict of Interest Review None Presented
IV.	<b>Consent Agenda</b> <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i>	<b>Consent Agenda:</b> October 20, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes <i>Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented and two monetary donations from Red Wing Shoe.</i> Motion: Tina Duerkop Second: Ted LaFrance Motion Carries 6/6
V.	<b>Board Policy Review and Adoption</b> <i>Perry Sekus, Chair</i> <i>Michelle Sturm, Executive Director</i>	<b>First Reading</b> 616 <a href="#">School District System Accountability</a> 619 <a href="#">Staff Development for Standards</a>

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- 621 [Animals in the Classroom](#)
  - 700 [Purchasing, Procurement, and Contracting](#)
  - 701 [Establishment and Adoption of School Budget](#)
  - 701.1 [Modification of School Budget](#)

**Final Reading of Above Policies**

December 15, 2025 Board Meeting

**Other Policies For Future Approval (Date TBD)**

[Creekstone Curriculum Review Cycle](#)

[Creekstone Parent Handbook](#)

[Creekstone Campus-10 Year Strategic Plan](#)

**Final Reading at Current Meeting**

601 [School District Curriculum](#)

602 [Organization of School Calendar and School Day](#)

609 [Religious Accommodation Policy](#)

610 [Field Trip Policy](#)

612 [Development of Parental Involvement Policies for Title I Programs](#)

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**VI. Business of the Board**

**Finance**

*Ted LaFrance, Treasurer*

*Joseph Sovine, EdFinMN*

**Finance Update**

ADM vs. Adopted Budget: Enrollment approximately 19 students below the projection on which the budget was based

*Motion to approve Financial Statement.*

Motion: Ted LaFrance

Second: Perry Sekus

Motion Carries 6/6

**Governance**

*Perry Sekus, Chair*

*Dr. Michelle Sturm,*

Executive Director/Head of School

**Governance Update**

**Administration Report & Updates**

*Dr. Michelle Sturm,*

Executive Director/Head of School

**Report and Updates**

*Motion to adopt Teacher Appraisal Instrument for Elementary Teacher Performance Assessment.*

Motion: Cait Larsen

Second: Ted LaFrance

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*Danielle Mandelkow,*  
Director of Special Education

**Report and Updates**

(via Michelle)

- 123 RESET Curriculum
- Math and Reading Interventions have begun

*Elissa Behnke,*  
Director of Montessori

**Report and Updates**

- Grant Applications Continue
- Parent Partnership Night December 4th
- Creekstone Apparel
- Ongoing Staff Training at MCM
- Admin meeting with MCM Mentors this week

*Katelyn Reynolds,*  
Director of Operations

**Report and Updates**

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**VII. Other Business**  
*Board*

Exposed windows on building: ideas for covering

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**VIII. Authorizer**  
*Ellie Holte, MOChA*

**Comments**

- Importance of financial discussions for the board
- Not selling an open seat - looking for families who will be invested in the Montessori philosophy

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**IX. Adjournment**  
*Tina Duerkop, Secretary*

**Recap Action Items:**

Review Policies and submit edits to Michelle and Katelyn

Next Meeting Date(s): Regular Board Meeting December 15, 2025

Motion to Adjourn: Perry Sekus

Second: Tina Duerkop

Motion Carries 6/6

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