

# Mountain West Montessori Academy

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### Monday, October 13, 2025

Location: MWMA Library, 4125 W. Foxview Drive, South Jordan, UT 84009



**In Attendance:** Steve Barnes, Corbin White, Nelson Altamirano, Sheri Ebert, Andrew Marx (6:12 p.m.),

**Excused:** Gimenia Palmer,

**Others in Attendance:** Coleen Dolan, Angie Johnson, Cathie Hurst, Dawn Kawaguchi, Brandon Fairbanks,

*Founded upon Montessori philosophy, the mission of Mountain West Montessori Academy is to facilitate student-centered learning and intellectual curiosity through an individualized and interdisciplinary curriculum, hands-on experience, and community involvement.*

## **MINUTES**

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### **2025-2026 BOARD PRIORITIES**

Expand Mathematics, Pedagogy & Fidelity

Educate Stakeholders and Community about Montessori education

Develop Artificial Intelligence Policies & Procedures

### **6:05 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Corbin White
- Montessori Mastery – Rebecca Akester delivered a presentation on student-led clubs, marking her second year as a mentor for these initiatives. She outlined the process by which clubs are proposed, reviewed, and approved. Of the 13 applications submitted this year, eight clubs received approval.

**There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.**

## **REPORTS**

### ➤ **Administration**

- State of the School – Angie Johnson provided an overview of this year's goals and priorities. She began by highlighting the Let Them Grow program, featuring a student named Elijah who successfully prepared a meal independently. Angie announced that she will spotlight one student at each board meeting throughout the remainder of the year. She then addressed the Jog-A-Thon fundraiser, with Coleen reporting that the school is on track to surpass last year's fundraising total. Angie also presented the school's five-minute "All-Access" segment with Andy Garcia, which offered a compelling national showcase of the school's programs and culture. Following that, Angie reviewed the beginning-of-year composite math scores for grades K–6. She shared key updates from the first Land Trust Council meeting, including the approval of the sex education instructional curriculum.

Additional topics included a review of the newly implemented Toilet Training Administrative Procedures and an outline of staff social events planned for the year. Angie concluded by addressing a concerning trend: an increase in suspension data, including in-school suspensions.

➤ **Board of Directors**

- Financial Update – Andrew Marx turned the time over to Cathie Hurst, who provided a financial overview as of September 30, 2025—marking approximately 25% completion of the fiscal year. She identified line items that may appear elevated and explained upcoming adjustments, including the relocation of the technology section and the reclassification of electronic curriculum expenses to the e-tech category. Cathie informed the board of a transfer of \$500,000 from the operating account to the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund (PTIF) to generate interest income for the school. She affirmed that the school remains in strong financial health. Additionally, Cathie reviewed the Liabilities & Fund Equity section of the balance sheet, detailing components such as current and long-term liabilities, fund balance, and net income. The board engaged in a discussion regarding attendance at the National Charter Schools Conference (NCSC) and which academic year the associated expenses would apply to. Other topics included interest earnings from the PTIF and sweep accounts, the impact of recent rate cuts, and the importance of remaining fiscally responsive to those changes.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

➤ August 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the consent items. Corbin White seconded the motion.** The votes were as follows:

Steve Barnes – Aye  
Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye  
Sheri Ebert – Aye

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**VOTING ITEMS**

➤ Amend SLT Membership & Election Procedures – Angie Johnson presented updates to the School Land Trust Council Membership and Election Procedures, outlining changes mandated by the School Land Trust (SLT) program. **Corbin White made a motion to approve the Amended School LAND Trust Council Membership & Election Procedures. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion.** The votes were as follows:

Steve Barnes – Aye  
Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye  
Sheri Ebert – Aye

**Motion passed unanimously.**

➤ Hotline Complaint Policy – Brandon Fairbanks presented the newly implemented Hotline Complaint Policy, developed in accordance with Administrative Rule R277-123, which

mandates that each school prominently display the hotline on its website. The policy outlines the procedures the school will follow in response to complaints received through the hotline. Additionally, it includes a required training component for both board members and school administrators. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the Hotline Complaint Policy. Sheri Ebert seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye  
Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye  
Sheri Ebert – Aye

**Motion passed unanimously.**

➤ *Amend Bullying & Hazing Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks presented the revised Bullying and Hazing Policy, updated to reflect legislative changes introduced through Senate Bill 223. The primary amendment includes the formal definition of both student bullying and staff bullying, ensuring greater clarity and alignment with current legal standards. **Corbin White made a motion to approve the Amended Bullying & Hazing Policy. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye  
Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye  
Sheri Ebert – Aye

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ *Calendaring* – ALL

- Next Pre-Board Meeting – November 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.
- Electronic Board Meeting – November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.
- Holiday Social on December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6 p.m. @ Wild Rose

**6:56 PM – Steve Barnes made a motion to enter into a CLOSED SESSION to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a) in the library. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye  
Corbin White – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Sheri Ebert – Aye

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**7:08 PM – Steve Barnes made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Corbin White seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye  
Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye

**Nelson Altamirano – Aye**  
**Sheri Ebert – Aye**  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mountain West Montessori Academy**

**Board of Directors**

**Closed Session Statement**

**Monday, October 13, 2025**

**Location:** 4125 W. Foxview Drive, South Jordan, UT 84009



**CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:**

*At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for **MOUNTAIN WEST MONTESSORI ACADEMY** entered into a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and/or to discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-205(1)(a) & (f).*

I declare under criminal penalty under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

Steve Barnes  
Steve Barnes  
Board Chair