

Maria Montessori Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: March 12, 2026

Location: Electronic Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Nancy Lindeman, April Bench, John Horn, Logan Kashanipour, Stephanie Loud

Excused Board Members: Terri Johnson

Others Present: Kacee Weaver, Hannah Dorius, Jon McQueary, Priscilla Stringfellow



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Lindeman called the board meeting to order at 4:06PM.

CONSENT ITEMS

- 01.28.2026 Board Meeting Minutes

April Bench made a motion to approve 01.28.2026 Board Meeting Minutes, John Horn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Nancy Lindeman, Aye; John Horn, Aye; Logan Kashanipour, Aye; April Bench, Aye; Stephanie Loud, Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 2026/2027 Fee Schedule

This was the second opportunity for the public to comment on the 2026/2027 Fee Schedule. There was no public comment.

REPORTS

- Director's Report

Director Kacee Weaver presented the Director's Report. Kacee highlighted Cosmic Education, a foundational element of Montessori philosophy in which students explore various subjects through the lens of interconnectedness, understanding how all things relate to one another. Kacee also shared the results of the school climate survey with the board. The school's current priorities include deepening the collective understanding of Montessori philosophy, enhancing academic excellence, strengthening family engagement, fostering staff satisfaction and retention, and promoting positive student behavior. Kacee also announced that Maria Montessori Academy will be hosting the 2027 Utah Montessori Conference in January 2027.

- Finance Report

Jon McQueary presented the Finance Report to the board. The board reviewed financials from the past several months. As of February 28th, the fiscal year is 67% of the way through. Total expenditures are at 59.4% of the budget. This is a healthy

position for the school to be in.

VOTING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2026/2027 Fee Schedule
Kacee Weaver presented the proposed 2026/2027 Fee Schedule. It was noted that the only fees charged to families are for after-school club programs offered to middle school students.

- 2026/2027 School Land Trust Plan
The board discussed the 2026/2027 School Land Trust Plan. The board decided to maintain a focus on mathematics, continuing the same goal from the current year given the significant progress that has been made. The Action Steps portion of the plan includes increasing academic intervention and expanding instructional coaching.

Stephanie Loud made a motion to approve the 2026/2027 Fee Schedule and 2026/2027 School Land Trust Plan. April Bench seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Nancy Lindeman, Aye; John Horn, Aye; Logan Kashanipour, Aye; April Bench, Aye; Stephanie Loud, Aye.

- Ratify Bargreen Ellingson Purchase
Kacee Weaver presented the Bargreen Ellingson Purchase for ratification. The invoice covers the purchase and installation of a walk-in freezer in the school's kitchen facility.

- Helpside Professional Employer Agreement
Priscilla Stringfellow and Hannah Dorius presented the Helpside Professional Employer Agreement for board review and discussion. MMA has been using Helpside in the past as an Employee Benefits platform and would like to continue.

- Carpet Purchase
The board discussed the purchase and installation of new carpet for the school. The board considered approving an "up to" dollar amount to allow administration to proceed with obtaining and evaluating quotes to ensure budgetary awareness.

- Alison's Montessori Quote
The board reviewed a quote from Alison's Montessori for a new classroom set of materials. This quote will provide materials for an additional 20 students.

- Speech Therapy Contract
The board discussed the renewal of the school's Speech Therapy Contract with its current provider Something to Talk About. It was noted that the provider delivers excellent services, and the school wishes to continue the partnership.

- Policies
 - AI Policy

Priscilla Stringfellow presented the proposed AI Policy to the board. The policy is designed to provide safeguards for the use of artificial intelligence within the school community.
 - Fee Waiver Policy

Priscilla Stringfellow presented the proposed Fee Waiver Policy to the board. HB 344 (2025) separates “fee” and “non-fee” courses and limits allowable fees. Beginning in 2026–27, secondary schools must offer at least one no-fee option for each graduation requirement (with limited charter exceptions). The bill also moves the fee schedule approval deadline to June 1. Updates from HB 344 and R277-407 have been incorporated into the Fee Waiver Policy.

April Bench made a motion to ratify Bargreen Ellingson Purchase, approve Helpside Professional Employer Agreement, Carpet Purchase up to \$160,000, Alison’s Montessori Quote, Speech Therapy Contract with Something to Talk About, AI Policy, and Fee Waiver Policy. John Horn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Nancy Lindeman, Aye; John Horn, Aye; Logan Kashanipour, Aye; April Bench, Aye; Stephanie Loud, Aye.

CALENDARING

- Next Board Meeting will be held on May 14, 2026 @ 4:00PM.

ADJOURN

At 5:15PM, John Horn made a motion to adjourn. April Bench seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Nancy Lindeman, Aye; John Horn, Aye; Logan Kashanipour, Aye; April Bench, Aye; Stephanie Loud, Aye.