

Mountain West Montessori Academy Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday, August 17, 2026

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



In Attendance: Steve Barnes, Corbin White, Robin Strup Koski, Tabitha Hemperly,

Excused: Gimenia Palmer, Nelson Altamirano,

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Collen Dolan, Cathie Hurst, Dawn Kawaguchi,

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

2026-2027 BOARD PRIORITIES

Strengthen Mathematics Instruction
Advance Artificial Intelligence Integration

6:09 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Corbin White
- Montessori Mastery – Angie Johnson led a Montessori grammar lesson focusing on parts of speech, specifically covering nouns, adjectives, adverbs, articles, and conjunctions. She provided examples and had participants practice creating sentences using these elements, emphasizing the importance of including a verb to form a complete sentence rather than just a phrase. The session concluded with participants sharing their sentence examples.

REPORTS

- **Administration**
 - State of the School – Angie Johnson presented the board's priorities for the year, which include strengthening mathematics instruction, curriculum alignment, data-driven interventions, and AI integration. She then discussed the importance of accreditation, explaining that it is a voluntary quality assurance process conducted by Cognia, a nonprofit organization. Angie outlined the extensive accreditation process, which includes writing an executive summary, completing standards self-assessment, conducting stakeholder feedback analysis, analyzing student performance data, and compiling numerous supporting documents. She shared that Coleen and she spent significant time last year working on the accreditation process, which occurs every five years and involves extensive data compilation and documentation. Angie presented the process for evaluating a few of the standards, how they rated themselves, and the detailed evidence collected. The team's self-

rated performance exceeded both their institution's and network's averages for each standard. A large portion of the evidence shared by Angie was student assessment data showing the school outperformed 19 of 20 comparable charter schools in English language arts, math, and science, with particular improvement in reading scores following implementation of the science of reading approach. Angie also presented longitudinal data tracking student progress from kindergarten through sixth grade, showing increasing percentages of students meeting benchmark reading scores and overall positive trends in math performance. Angie presented the school's recent accreditation results, highlighting high scores in math and literacy goals, stakeholder feedback analysis, and learning environment observations. The school received accreditation with merit, earning the right to display a silver seal. Angie also mentioned the possibility of pursuing board governance certification as a next step, noting that with two new board members, this could be appropriate to consider next year. Angie presented end-of-year parent survey results showing overall positive feedback about school safety, communication, and staff care, though some parents suggested improvements including better discipline and bullying prevention. She highlighted a successful preparation week that replaced traditional PowerPoint training with hands-on work cycles and mastery assessments, allowing veteran teachers to complete training more efficiently. Angie also discussed challenges with managing challenging student behaviors in general education classrooms and announced plans to move forward with purchasing two-way radios with wearable panic buttons, as previously approved by the Board.

➤ **Board of Director**

- *Financial Update* – Cathie Hurst explained that board reports are currently missing from the packet due to the School starting the audit process and preparing trial balances. She noted that financial statements are being reconciled monthly from the 1st to 7th, with accountants reviewing from the 7th to 10th, and that some prior year entries appeared incorrectly on the recent statements. Cathie confirmed that by November 30th, audits will be completed and submitted to USBE and the State Auditor's Office, after which accurate financial statements will be available.

BOARD TRAINING

- *Annual Open & Public Meetings Act Training* – Steve explained that this training is going to moved to the next meeting

CONSENT ITEMS

- *June 29, 2026 Annual Board Meeting Minutes* – There was no further discussion. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the consent items. Robin Strup Koski seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Robin Strup Koski – Aye
Tabitha Hemperly – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

- Strategica Marketing Agreement – Angie Johnson presented Strategica’s Marketing Agreement. She reported that the School is having significant success including a thousand percent increase in Instagram engagement and successful targeted ads at \$30 per campaign. Angie noted that the company has provided valuable services including free work for almost a year and hands-on implementation support. **Tabitha Hemperly made a motion to approve the Strategica Marketing Agreement and allow the Principal to execute the agreement on behalf of the School. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Robin Strup Koski – Aye
Tabitha Hemperly – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

- LEA-Specific Educator License(s) – Angie Johnson reviewed the MWMA-specific educator licenses for four teachers. Ms. Saskia requires a license renewal, which will be completed this year. Ms. Nicole may not need the license because the course code may have been entered incorrectly. Mr. Dave may not need the Financial Literacy endorsement but will require the CTE/General endorsement. Ms. Hilary did not complete an educator program; therefore, she requires a secondary license with a Visual Arts endorsement while she completes the program. These licenses are granted by the Board for on-site instruction only and only for the approved class. **Robin Sstrup Koski made a motion to approve of an MWMA-specific educator license for *Saskia Opperman* for an elementary license; *Nicole Napoliski* for an English Language Arts endorsement and Social Studies Composite endorsement; *David Powell* for a General Financial Literacy endorsement and a Marketing (CTE/General) endorsement; and *Hilary Williams* for a Secondary license with a Visual Arts endorsement; all for a period of three years. Tabitha Hemperly seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Robin Strup Koski – Aye
Tabitha Hemperly – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

- Amend Bullying & Hazing Policy – Angie Johnson reviewed the amended Bullying and Hazing Policy which was already largely aligned with the model. The revisions strengthen and clarify the policy by adding definitions for key practices, enhancing parent notification requirements, ensuring disciplinary decisions consider student-specific factors such as age and maturity, and expanding provisions related to annual reporting, employee training, and bullying incident reporting. **Robin Strup Koski 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
Robin Strup Koski – Aye
Tabitha Hemperly – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Amend Electronic Resources Policy & Procedures* – Angie Johnson reviewed the amended Electronic Resources Policy and Procedures to comply with recent legal changes, including SB 88 (2026). Key revisions include updated review requirements, expanded electronic device definitions, parent-requested student device access during non-instructional time, clarified content standards, and enhanced transparency regarding the school’s technology monitoring and protection measures. Angie confirmed that devices are prohibited from bell to bell for middle school students, though initial concerns about student reactions proved unfounded. **Tabitha Hemperly made a motion to approve the Amended Electronic Resources Policy. Corbin White seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Robin Strup Koski – Aye
Tabitha Hemperly – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Amend Paid Parental & Postpartum Leave Policy* – Angie Johnson reviewed the amended Paid Parental and Postpartum Leave Policy which was updated to comply with HB 329 (2026), expanding paid leave benefits by adding additional adoption leave, creating a separate foster leave benefit, and clarifying that summer non-contract days count toward leave periods. The policy title was also updated to reflect the expanded leave categories. The Board raised questions about why foster leave provides 20 days of paid leave while adoption leave provides only 15 days. To allow time for clarification, the Board chose to table the policy. Dawn subsequently contacted Platte, who explained that the leave amounts are established by statute and reflect the Legislature’s decision. Platte also clarified that an employee who adopts a child under six years of age is entitled to a total of six weeks of paid leave, consisting of three weeks of parental leave and an additional three weeks of adoption leave. Employees who adopt a child age six or older receive three weeks of paid leave. Platte’s clarification addressed the Board’s concerns, and the Board subsequently approved the policy. **Robin Strup Koski made a motion to approve the Amended Paid Parental & Postpartum Leave Policy and changing its title to Paid Parental, Postpartum Recovery, Adoption, & Foster Leave Policy. Corbin White seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Robin Strup Koski – Aye
Tabitha Hemperly – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Amend Sex Education Instruction Policy & Procedures* – Angie Johnson reviewed the amended Sex Education Instruction Policy and Procedures that were updated to comply with HB 281, including revised definitions, new curriculum requirements, and expanded restrictions on sex education topics. The updates also clarify that concerns about instructional materials should be addressed through the school’s grievance process. **Corbin White made a motion to approve the Amended Sex Education Instruction Policy. Tabitha Hemperly seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Robin Strup Koski – Aye

Tabitha Hemperly – Aye
Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ *Calendaring* – ALL

- Reschedule June 21st Board Meeting to June 7th and schedule an Electronic Board Meeting on June 30th to approve the budgets. Dawn will send out updated calendar invite to everyone.
- Next Pre-Board Meeting on September 30th @ 5 p.m.
- Next Board Meeting on October 12th

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

7:52 PM – Corbin White made a motion to ADJOURN.