



May 11, 2026
Quarterly Board Meeting
PwC
1 N. Upper Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Location: 300 N. LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60654

Present:

Board Members: Karen Anderson; Jim Sulzer; Gabrielle Sansonetti, Peter Cunningham, Peter Talmers (zoom), Jamie Knight (zoom), Ebonie Townsend, Lari Dierks, Kathy Bailey, Lauren Furland, Jade Williams, Rebecca Creighton

Executive Director & School Staff: Chris Shue (zoom), Rita Nolan, Stephanie Toon

Public: Billy Hubbert

Meeting minutes and recording taken by: Gabrielle R. Sansonetti

I. Call to Order: 6:06 a.m. Karen Anderson

II. Welcome & Introductions: Karen Anderson

III. Approval of Minutes from 3/16/2026: Karen Anderson

Karen pointed out that there was an attachment to the minutes regarding the motion related to litigation.

Cunningham moved to approve. Townsend seconded. Passed unanimously.

IV. Pending Litigation Karen Anderson

The Montessori Network
6936 South Hermitage Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60636



We were offered *pro bono* services for an appeal regarding the litigation with INCS. The attorneys decided that they were going to file a second amended complaint, rather than do an interlocutory appeal. The second amended complaint has been filed. The defendants did not oppose it. The defendants have until the end of the month to answer the complaint, or otherwise respond. It is anticipated that they will file a Motion to Dismiss. Once the motion to dismiss is resolved, in our favor, then the Plaintiff can move forward to prepare a case for trial or file other motions.

Karen and Jim are thrilled with the representation we are receiving.

The original Plaintiffs on the complaint, INCS, Prospectus, TMN. Other plaintiffs joined after CPS took a position that indicated they would not permit amendments to the Charter contract with the union formation language – Intrinsic, Namaste, Chicago Charter School, Noble, Great Lakes, and others.

V. Finance Committee Chris Shue

Overview. The end of Q3 represents our lowest point of the year on cash, which is important for the CPS ratios. It also shows the longest time we have been unpaid from the City on the Head Start contract.

We are currently operating at a \$105,000 deficit primarily based upon the denial of the SPED of appeal, to the amount of \$286,500. This was a deficit that we had to make up. When we got word of it, the organization went quickly into cost containment measures. However, some deficit remains.

CPS Scorecard. We are currently hitting 2/4. It is important that we hit 3 of 4 and avoid remediation. We anticipate hitting 3 of 4, because our cash on hand ratio will increase once we get paid from the City. Then, we will meet cash on hand, net asset ratio, and current ratio. The cash on hand deficit that we need to fill in order to meet this metric is \$375,000 cash on hand.

Budget Process. The CPS budget gets released tomorrow. We have done a first and second pass through our budget. We will fine tune it once we get CPS numbers. The board will see that at the next meeting. The goal is to have a balanced budget in 2027, before fundraising.



VI. Head Start Rita Nolan

We want to have the Bivens Act policy passed, which has to do with the Diversity and Equity and the TMSOE team's approach to it; and the protocol for when ICE is present at the school.

Rita read the Bivens Act policy proposal which was sent electronically to all board members.

Sansonetti makes a motion to adopt the policy outlined by the Bivens Act, for the entire Montessori School of Englewood. Sulzer seconded. Passed unanimously.

VII. Academic Contracts for Staff 2026-2027 Rita Nolan

We have made offers to people from the outside for open positions. We are almost fully staffed. We have not made offers to internal Head Start staff because CPS has delayed their budget. The plan was to offer contracts tomorrow; however, we have a meeting with CPS at 3:00 tomorrow. So, we may not send out offers until Wednesday morning.

VIII. Fundraising Rita Nolan

An email was sent to the board regarding participation, but it has not changed much.

We have received donations from a Board Member Emeritus.

The board members need to step up and give.

Our fundraising is over budgeted, but that is because of a few high level donors.

This year's fundraiser is Thursday, June 4, at 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Electric Shuffle.

We will have a raffle.

The next Board meeting, scheduled for June 15, will serve as both our annual budget meeting and the final meeting of the fiscal year. Board approval of the FY27 budget will be required; therefore, attendance is strongly encouraged.

IX. Executive Director's Report Stephani Toon



A graduate, Demya, has been with us for a long time and got into Linbloom, a selective enrollment school.

Rita Nolan. See attached report.

Priorities are academic growth and charter renewal readiness, financial stabilization, leadership transition, whole child and whole family support.

X. Public Participation

No participation.

XI. Succession Committee

Sansonetti moved to conduct the meeting in closed session to discuss employment issues pursuant to §2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. Dierks seconded.

Sansonetti moved to open the meeting. Townsend seconded. Passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment