



The Montessori Network Executive Committee

September 23, 2026

4:30 pm

120 N. La Salle Street

Chicago, IL 60602

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Approve September Minutes
2. Review and approval of Key Governance and Accountability Components for Charter Renewal, Including but not limited to:
 - a. Review and approve the board strategic plan
 - b. Finalize and approve the Executive Director Evaluation and STACK
 - c. Review and accept partner/provider evaluations
 - d. Review and approve academic improvement goals and the MTSS accountability plan
 - e. Review and approve the policy review and communication process
 - f. Review and approve outstanding meeting minutes and any necessary connections

I. Moved and Call to Order: 4:45 p.m.

Anderson called the meeting to order.

II. Attendance

Board Members: Karen Anderson; Rita Nolan, Felicia Lang, Gabrielle Sansonetti, Jamie Knight, Lauren Furlan

At 5:00 we were joined by Jamie Knight, VP, and member.

Gabrielle Sansonetti left at 5:31 pm.



The Montessori Network

III. **Note** that the Bylaws authorize the Executive Committee to take any actions on behalf of the full Board for matters such as these that arise between full board meetings- Article VI, Section 1

IV. **Approval of the September Minutes**

- a. Gabrielle moved to approve the September minutes from September 14th with two corrections. Lauren has seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Review and approval of Key Governance and Accountability Components for Charter Renewal, Including but not limited to**

- a. To the extent possible all the documents are up to date for the charter renewal application due on October 2nd.
- b. I&I requires the board to have a 5 year strategic plan.

VI. **Strategic Plan Approval**

- a. The executive committee discussed the 5 year strategic plan goal by goal.
 - i. Goal 1: Our outside data consultant Seth Kaufman recommended changing from 55 to 50. The board approved this change.
 - ii. The school will review intervention data every 6 weeks. The results will be reported to the board every other board meeting.
 - iii. Goal 2: Discussed calculated metrics for school K–8 returning-student retention
 - 1. Net change in enrollment: 4.6% from SY 25 to SY 26
 - 2. There was no proposed change



iv. Goal 3:

1. The numbers on this table have been added by Chris Shue, CFO
2. Change MRC director to Executive Director
3. Lauren said we need to determine a baseline for the financials
 - a. Rita Nolan, Executive Director, will check with Chris about the FY 26
4. Please note the ED, CFO, and COO have a meeting with I & I to discuss the financial performance metrics and this may result in a change to the board's 5 year strategic plan financial section based on feedback and the new financial rubric that CPS will present at this meeting.
5. Under the ongoing section please make this change: The executive members of TMSOE meet with the CFOs monthly to review financial information. The board president is kept apprised of any adjustments regularly.
6. Under financial operational safeguards change weekly to monthly

v. Goal 4:

1. Karen Board President questioned whether having a succession plan can be in place by December.
2. Change 2027-2028 benchmark to 90 days and 180 days only



3. Change 2028–29 to Verify that quarterly leadership reviews occur.

a. Note: STACK is the rubric used for leadership evaluation

b. Goal 5: Discussed ways the board engage the community

i. Change 2026-2027 to Gather input from families, students, staff, and partners through accessible multilingual surveys

c. Section: How will we review progress?

i. If the academic and attendance goals are below those stated in the plan, the Principal will provide the board with a formal report.

ii. If the financial goals are below those stated in the plan, the ED will provide a report of any course correction that is necessary.

d. Board President Karen gave a summary of our actions and requested a motion for approval.

e. VP Jamie Knight moved to approve the 2026–2031 Five-Year Strategic Plan for charter-renewal purposes, subject to replacement of provisional figures with verified figures and reconciliation with the final five-year forecast. The Executive Director and CFO may make non-substantive factual corrections, and any material change must return to the Committee. Lauren seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

VII. Executive Director Evaluation & Leadership Evaluation

a. Rita Nolan, ED, had an initial meeting with Jamie Knight, VP, the designated evaluator. The ED provided the self assessment via email to the VP. The evaluator will meet with the ED on Wednesday, October



14th. The evaluation period covers July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026. The final ED evaluation report will be presented at the November 4th board meeting.

- b. The members of the Executive committee reviewed the leadership team stacks which included a summary of strengths, areas for continued growth, and recommended priorities for the next evaluation.
- c. The executive committee confirms that ED completed the leadership evaluations.
- d. Lauren moves that the Executive Committee approve the Executive Director Performance Evaluation plan. Jamie Knight seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Board Self Evaluation & Improvement Actions

- a. We have complete board participation in the board self evaluation survey. We reviewed the response to each question with particular focus on the priorities for school success.
- b. Rita will report to the Board on the self evaluation results and there will be discussion about the improvement action plan at the next board meeting on November 4th.
- c. Jamie Knight moved that the executive committee accepts the 2025-2026 board self evaluation. Lauren seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

IX. Partner and Provider Performance reviews

- a. Rita presented on all of the performance reviews to the Executive Committee. The five providers are Tereo, Lawyers Lend a Hand to



The Montessori Network

Youth, Global Psychological, Stepping Stones, and Joffrey Ballet. We have heard of the status of these 5 providers.

- i. Instead of using outside consultants, we are hiring directly for as many services as possible.
- ii. Tereo was rated excellent
- iii. Lawyers Lend a Hand was rated as excellent
- iv. Lauren moved for each provider that the Executive Committee accept the performance review for each provider as presented. Jamie Knight seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

X. Academic Goals and Accountability

a. ED reviewed the academic goals listed below:

- i. Strengthen Tier I instruction through consistent implementation of the Montessori and standards-aligned curriculum.
- ii. Establish a disciplined data and MTSS cycle that produces documented instructional responses.
- iii. Improve ELA and mathematics growth, with specific attention to English learners, diverse learners, sixth-grade students, and students performing significantly below grade level.
- iv. Strengthen teacher practice through coaching, observation, feedback, PLCs, and targeted professional development.
- v. Improve leadership-team accountability, communication, school culture, student retention, and preparation for charter renewal.



The Montessori Network

1. Performance will be monitored by the Executive Director with the principal each quarter. Assess the results and implementation evidence together. Update each goal status at each review. Compare results with agreed targets with corrective actions, accountable roles, and due dates.

vi. The board will review milestone progress of the academic goals

- b. Jamie Knight moves that the Executive Committee approve the academic goals and monitoring framework as presented, including responsible leaders, required progress reports, and next Board review date. Lauren seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XI. Succession Governance & Bylaws

- a. We confirm that the plan is to reconvene the succession committee in December 2026. The implementation of those steps are projected to occur between December 2026 to March 2027.
- b. Change succession planning and community input to reflect the updated evaluation metric of 90 days and 180 days only.

XII. Policy Review Process

- a. Jamie Knight proposes that our board policy review and communication report includes direct reports from COO and Principal related to the topics below:
 - i. Academic Programming
 - ii. Student Outcomes
 - iii. Campus Climate



The Montessori Network

iv. Student Supports

v. Student Safety

- b. The board will receive a summary of CPS feedback and the Board will be advised who is responsible for specific policies as evidenced through board reports.
 - c. Jamie Knight moves that the Executive Committee approve the proposed board policy and communication process effective immediately. The EC and ED will maintain the annual policy register and review calendar, document policy approvals and communication, report implementation to the board bi annually. Lauren seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- XIII. Jamie Knight moves to approve the minutes of the September 23 executive committee meeting. Lauren seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- XIV. The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.