

LEELANAU MONTESSORI PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY

Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Leelanau County Government Center

Lower Level Community Room

8527 Government Center Drive Suttons Bay, MI 49682

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda items 4 and 10.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm.

2. ROLL CALL

The following board members were present: Anita Abbott (President), Sarah Bordeaux (Vice President), April Fiorelli (Treasurer), Deb Kuhn (Director), Hallie Kutschke (Director), Tom McConnell (Director)

Non-Board Members Attending:

Arden Wilson, LMPSA

Nora Goodell, LMPSA

Dani Geraci, Parent and LMFF President

Evan Clinton, Parent

Laura Piskor, Staff and Parent

Jessica Vitale, Staff and Parent

Katy Dion, Parent

Tanya Hill, Staff

Eli Rutila, Parent

Jessica Wagner, Parent

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion Made by Bordeaux and seconded by McConnell to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a. Minutes from January 21, 2026 Retreat

Motion made by Fiorelli and seconded by Kutschke to approve the January 21, 2026 Retreat Minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Minutes from January 21, 2026 Meeting

Motion made by Fiorelli and seconded by Kutschke to approve the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Minutes from February 10, 2026 Meeting

Motion made by Fiorelli and seconded by Kutschke to approve the February 10, 2026 Minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Our Mission Statement

Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy nurtures the whole child in a Montessori prepared environment based on respect, individuality, a love of learning, and freedom with responsibility.

6. HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Written report provided to board for their review.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS, LIAISON

- a. Finance Committee/Financial Reports
Fiorelli reviewed meeting notes.
- b. Governance Committee
Abbott reviewed meeting notes.
- c. LMFF Liaison Update
Kutschke gave update on LMFF campaigns.

Motion made by Kutschke and seconded by Fiorelli to approve Beth Bassett and Rebecca Clinton to join the head of school committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made by Kuhn and seconded by Bordeaux to approve the financials and committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Emergency Operations Plan
- b. Approval of Amendment 1, Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Resolution #2-2026

Motion made by Kutschke and seconded by McConnell to approve Resolution #2-2026 as presented. Roll Call: Abbott (aye), Bordeaux (aye), Fiorelli (aye), Kuhn (aye), Kutschke (aye), McConnell (aye); The motion was approved unanimously.

- c. Resolution #3-2026, Increasing Number of Board Members

Motion made by Kuhn and seconded by McConnell to approve Resolution #3-2026 as presented. Roll Call: Abbott (aye), Bordeaux (aye), Fiorelli (aye), Kuhn (aye), Kutschke (aye), McConnell (aye); The motion was approved unanimously.

- d. Recommendation of Board Director Nicole Zarafonetis

Motion made by McConnell and seconded by Fiorelli to recommend Nicole Zarafonetis to the Board of Directors. The motion was approved unanimously.

- e. Recommendation of Board Director Erik Bahle

Fiorelli/Kutschke - Motion made by Fiorelli and seconded by Kutschke to recommend Erik Bahle to the Board of Directors. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments made regarding continued frequent and clear communication as well as the community's desire for a middle school.

11. BOARD COMMENT

Various board members thanked the community and LMFF for their engagement and work.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Bordeaux and seconded by McConnell to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm.

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The School has provided public notice of this meeting by posting it at the entrance of Leelanau Montessori. Minutes of all board meetings are available after approval by the Board on the school website, or in the school office during normal business hours.

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