

Attendance –

Rosa Kauffman
Kenneth Boehr
Paul Vincent
Lorie Federman
Jim Bexfield
Shannon Pipes
Kathryn Kean
Danielle Golubski
Meeting notes –

Meeting began at 6:06pm

Consent agenda – Rosa moved to approve the consent agenda

No minutes were approved due to no minutes being taken during December 2025 board meeting.

Community Comment –

No comments

Head of School Report –

Students work well in classrooms – key component of what FCMS is doing

Open-Enrollment window is now open – beginning work on 2026-2027 school, thought was a typo – planning the numbers

Reenrollment is fantastic – upper El – 114% enrolled from last year (9 kids plus current enrollment), lower El – 101% of current year enrollment, Kindergarten 100% returners

Increase in retention over the normal break points that are typical for Montessori program, normally see about 20% drop between K-1st and 3rd-4th grade – no longer a pyramid typical of Montessori

Reduced student count for the district – over 500 kids this year, projected 5-6 years

Full upper El classrooms within a year of opening 3rd upper El classroom – concern is having more children than space

Need to be cognizant about this moving forward

Open-enrollment – 0 spaces open for K – 6th and limited spaces for 4 year olds, most spaces for 3 year olds because starting point

Open-house and tours – had to tell parents that weren't guaranteed a spot even with enrollment currently

Projected school closures may take effect next year – several schools potentially closing which potentially increases enrollment for FCMS

Used to have paid K for full-day, not half-day

Is there a Montessori objective assessment? – building was built based off the assessments done and it is not materializing due to increased enrollment

Will not be able to offer seats outside of the 3- and 4-year-olds

Previous Montessori kids trying to get back in – 6 year olds, and kinders

Students moving on – Weber Middle School offered a shadow day for students in January, met with Leshar to set up a shadow day sometime in the spring to help with transition to the middle schools

6th graders miss out on the 6th grade transition when they do a shadow day in 5th grade, FCMS worked it out that kids in 7th grade will work with FCMS 6th graders to transition to middle school

Opening of third upper El classroom – guides working together – team are working to scour the building to find materials and piecing together

Megan will be doing training in Lawrence this summer (Rock Chalk)

14 6th graders will be split between two classrooms (current classrooms) because they've had the longest experience with the guides

3rd and 4th graders will be split amongst the three teachers

3-year employment required for training of Montessori teachers

Paul was invited to join PSD leaders on the 8th to the podcast – The District – demystifying school of choice – explained about Montessori – very positive

1st episode is on the website – video and podcast, will be on the website soon

20 kids at the most for summer camps but typically between 9-14 for most weeks and will be losing significant amounts of money each week due to low enrollment

Will create significant debt for the school – double the current enrollment is likely not going to happen considering enrollment has been open for 2 months

Trends – decreasing enrollment

Summer camps – too expensive, no field trips, no lunches, etc.

Anything that sells the summer camp from the Montessori perspective? – no, would need to go up to the full tuition

Debt coverage ratio is the revenue in fund balance as it compares to the paid debt – need to have a ratio that covers it

In practice, it requires moving more than 10% of the budget into reserves

Discussion of the Board training amongst the Board

Money budgeted to the Board for training – consultant can come do the training and leading us in a strategic plan

Should have a strategic plan moving forward, review the bylaws

Jim has moved to cancel the 2026 summer camp session – Steve and Shannon seconded the motion

Discussion – Paul stated that most fair to cancel sooner rather than later, the enrollment is low, summer camp has not gotten off the ground, and it has never been profitable

Revised budget is going to include expenditures and some projected income from the summer camp and bottom line will be \$12k to the bottom line, likely more

Discussion regarding the account opening at Columbia Bank – Board voted unanimously to open the account

Rosa – 30 minutes for Big Give at next board meeting.

James Hamilton to potentially join the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.