



*The mission of Fort Collins Montessori School is to provide a high quality, classic Montessori school that will inspire and empower children to fully develop their academic and personal potential through the implementation of the methods and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori.*

## **FCMS Board Meeting Agenda**

**April 16, 2025**

**6:00 pm-7:30pm**

**Location: Virtual Only**

### **Google Meet joining info:**

Time zone: America/Denver

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/icb-droo-boz>

Or dial: (US) +1 218-451-4408 PIN: 131 157 362#

### **6:00 - 6:10 Welcome and Action Items:**

Rosa moves to commence the meeting, adopt the April agenda and approve the March minutes

Katie Seconds

All are in favor

- Community Comment

No community Comments this meeting

### **6:10 – 6:30 Board Update:**

- Katie introduces Joshua Kerstetter, one of two candidates running for the parent boards seat for FCMS.

Joshua has 3 kids at FCMS. 2 started at a traditional school but when they switched to montessori all sorts of attitudes changed towards school and learning.

His professional background includes 4 years in the military, construction, facilities management, some education classes, tutoring in a charter school and handling government contracts (which is his current job).

Katie asked about how much time he would have each month to commit to the board.

Joshua says about 10-15 hours per month.

Rosa asks what inspired him to be on the board

Joshua replied that he loves the FCMS community and wanted to be more involved.

Jim asks about Josh's experience with financial management.

Joshua replied that in his past and current roles as a government contractor he was/is a budget manager.

Joshua asks what is the time commitment for the board.

Most members said 5 plus hours per month.

Joshua asked for a comparison between PSD's needs and the needs of FCMS boards.

Paul replied that inclusion, belonging, teaching the whole child, and literacy have always been strong values of the school and that his main challenge is to stay authentic. His main need from the board is budgetary discussions and decisions.

Lorie added creating a warm community

Jim added supporting Paul

**6:30 - 7:00 Head of School Report: Paul Vincent**

- **Operations Update**
  - We continue to work within the classrooms. All students are on campus.
- **Compliance**
  - Drills continue to improve.
  - CMAS finishes this week with final materials returned by April 25. There were some issues with the firewall blocking the internet for the test, apparently it is working too well. The issue was figured out and children were all able to complete their testing.
- **Students:**
  - The 24-25 school year is going well.
  - May 14th will be the Upper Elementary's performance of Alice in Wonderland
  - 25-26 Re-enrollment is at 94.57% throughout the school.
    - Nothing new: Currently we have no space in the upper elementary, no space in the lower elementary and limited kindergarten.
- **Parent Education/events:**
  - April 10 parent engagement on positive parenting strategies.
    - A good small group of parents
  - Adding another parent engagement event on April 30 to cover the language progression and how to support children throughout the summer.
  - Lots of work continues planning a 10 year celebration.
- **Finances 24-25:**
  - Engaging financing for our bonds. Our call date is June so we can begin the process.
    - We are working through the diligence process still and will have more information as it comes.
    - **Rating meeting in May 16th with HoS and Board President @FCMS**
    - CECFA **23 April 12:30** is the meeting date virtually, with HoS and CFO.
  - We are cautiously planning our projected budget given the unstable climate.
- **Facility**
  - **Primary Playground:**
    - On Monday 3-24-25 the roof for the playground was inspected. Finally inspected and open for use! The inspection brought to light two more structures that needed to be inspected. They are currently not in use until they can be certified. Paul was not happy with the company that built the shade structures and he will not engage them again.
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- **Potential Improvements**
  - We are exploring the options with the larger class size in the upper elementary next year. Again with more financing information as well as some study on retention moving forward.

- **\*\*\*Vote on next year's calendar**

Paul gave some details as to how next year's calendar differs from PSDs calendar. The main goal was to get students out before memorial day. The only difference is that FCMS will have school May 15th rather than a teacher work day. This will allow the last day of school to be May

22nd. This will still meet the minimum number of instructional minutes dictated by the state. PSD signed off on his alternate calendar. Board just needs to adopt the new 25-26 school year calendar.

Jim moves that the board approves the 2025/2026 school leadership team approved FCMS calendar.

Katie Seconds

All are in favor.

**7:00 – 7:10 Financials: Jim Bexfield**

- \*\*\*Vote on proposed 2025/26 budget

All board members received a copy of the budget to review for the 2025/2026 school year. As always it is a conservative budget. There are some issues with the state budget short fall and there is no word on what the increase in PPR will be. Budget has it projected at 2% for inflation. Federal spending cuts could affect the special education portion of the budget, but the budget is conservative enough to most likely compensate for that. The FCMS teacher salaries are not quite on par with PSD teacher salaries but we are trying to get there. PSD gave teachers a significant raise a few years ago by consolidating its staff members.

Rosa moves to approve the proposed 2025/2026 budget

Lorie Seconds

All are in Favor

Katie will sign the approval, then pass it to Rosa, and then she will send it to Paul and Dawn

**7:10 – 7:20 Big Give: Katie Slota**

Big Give set to commence at the beginning of the Kid's Gala on April 26th. We will have fliers ready to be sent home the Monday after the event. It will run for two weeks and end on May 10th. We will be sending out notes throughout those two weeks to encourage folks to donate. The give sign up website is ready to accept electronic donations and folks will be encouraged to drop off checks or cash to the front desk of the school if they would rather donate that way.

**7:20 – 7:30 PVC: Lorie Federman**

Lorie says the PVC is very busy! They are working hard on teacher appreciation day, year book, and the 10th anniversary kid's gala.

Rosa moves to go into executive session

Steve Seconds

All are in favor

**Executive Session:** Regarding a personnel issue, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) (Motion to move into Executive Session; Vote by roll call for 2/3 majority to move into executive session)

Rosa moves to adjourn meeting

Katie Seconds

All are in favor