

	<p><i>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.</i></p>
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## **FCMS Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 21, 2025**

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

### **Google Meet joining info**

FCMS May Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 21 · 6:00 – 7:30pm

Time zone: America/Denver

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/mox-fmtc-uxy>

Or dial: (US) +1 507-607-0144 PIN: 176 684 950#

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

Rosa moves the Board approve and adopt the consent agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the April meeting.

Lorie seconds

All are in favor

- Community Comment: This is an opportunity for parents, teachers, and other community members to let the board know what is on their mind. This can be a complaint, a concern or a comment on something that we are doing well. All types of comments are welcome and appreciated. Please keep comments to 3 minutes per individual.

No Comments at this time

- **6:10-6:15 Board member update and introduction:** Katie Slota
  - Vote on new board member, Shannon Pipes
 Board did not vote on new board member, has moved to the June agenda
- **6:15-6:30 Board Training discussion**

Lorie and Rosa believe we should do extra board training sessions and that it is a worthwhile expense. Katie agrees that the board should do this and suggests strategic planning. Paul says he will put the money for this in the revised budget.

Action Item:

Board members will go to the Colorado League of Charter Schools website and look at some of their training topics and come back at the June meeting with some suggestions.

- **6:30– 6:45 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.
  - Calendar updated: having school on May 15 and having the last day be May 22 instead of coming back for a day and a half after Memorial Day.
  - Calendar is now posted on the main website- board accepts the 2025-2026 calendar
  - Secretary and President need to sign the amendment to the charter contract
- Students:
  - The 24-25 school year is going well.
  - 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.
  - Letter from PSD superintendent: read allowed: Super Intendent wrote a very thoughtful and encouraging letter congratulating FCMS on some of our past academic awards including the John Irwin award and the Governor's Distinguished Award.

Although they are not our primary focus, test scores are important to the autonomy that FCMS enjoys. Lorie would like us to post the awards on our website.

- Parent Education/events:
  - April 30 to cover the language progression and how to support children throughout the summer.
    - Well attended and held during a different time of the evening. Several parents appreciated being able to get home in time for dinner and bedtime. Next year we will work on scheduling events at different times to see if we get more attendance.
  - 10 year celebration was a success. Assistant Superintendent Tracy Gyle was there and seemed to enjoy herself.
- 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 was May 16th with HoS and Board President @FCMS

They were impressed with our school; however the size of the school may ultimately determine our rating. The better our rating, the better our refinancing rate will be for our loan. We should know by the end of May and go ahead and publish the rating or decide the next steps from there.

- CECFA 23 May 12:30 is the meeting date virtually, with HoS and CFO.
- We are cautiously planning our projected budget given the unstable climate.
- Vote to approve budget for 25-26

- Facility

As we come to the end of the semester we are working through contracts with different groups for summer cleaning, etc.

- Potential Improvements
  - We are still 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.

- **6:45-6:55 Financials:** Jim Bexfield

Board votes to approve 2025/2026 school budget. See notes on details of school budget from April's meeting minutes.

Rosa moves to approve the budget

Steve seconds

All are in favor

The board must vote to approve Hoetling as our financial auditors for the 2024/2025 school year. They have done it in the past and have done a great job.

Jim moves that the board will hire Hoetling as our financial auditors for the 2024/2025 school year.

Rosa seconds

All are in favor

President and secretary must sign contract

Jim reports that the April finances look good. The unexpected Mill Levy has helped us tremendously. We still have some outstanding bills but it looks like we will have enough to cover our debt ratio two times over and keep us in the green zone.

- **6:55– 7:05 Big Give:** Katie Slota

Katie reports that the money earned during the Big Give was over \$41,000. She mentioned that it would be helpful to have a spreadsheet as to where donations come

from before the Big Give begins in order to track larger donors and to figure out where we need to place our fundraising efforts.

Rosa would like to know how the donation checks are handled after they reach the school. Paul reports that they go to a trained clerk.

- **7:05– 7:20 PVC:** Lorie Federman

PVC has dates for events for school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year

Lorie begins a discussion around the recent Kid's Gala. Paul believes it was a big success, both clean up and set up were great.

Lorie suggests having a protocol for PVC and events.

Paul suggests having a written proposal from whomever would like to hold an event at the school and then creating a written contract between the school and the event organizer. The board agrees with this approach.

The school garden looks amazing thanks to the grant the PVC folks put together.

**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)

Katie moves that the board move to executive session

Rosa seconds

All are in favor

Lorie moves to continue executive session with out Paul Vincent

Steve seconds

All are in favor

Rosa moves to end executive session

Lorie Seconds

All are in favor

Rosa moves to renew Paul's contract with a 5.5% raise

Lorie Seconds

All are in favor

Lorie moves to end the meeting

Kate Seconds

All are in favor