

 Fort Collins Montessori School	<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>
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FCMS June 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025

6:00 pm-7:30pm

Google Meet joining info

FCMS June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 18 · 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:

Lorie moves to begin the meeting of the Board of directors for the Fort Collins Montessori School and approve the minutes from the May meeting.

Katie Seconds

All are in favor

Katie moves to approve the consent agenda.

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 Financials:** Jim Bexfield

All financials look healthy at this point. Pre-k tuition may need to increase at some point because 3-4 year olds don't get the same mill levy as k-12 year olds, probably \$2000 per year per student.

We will need to decide if we will try to refinance our bonds now or later. Financial committee will meet in July to recommend a decision with more information, will need to have a board meeting in July for the BOD to make a final decision. We are currently just paying interest on the bond, we will need to refinance before 2029 when there will be a balloon payment due.

Paul says budgeting will be more difficult going forward as we will not be in a period of growth anymore. PPR for next year may be closer to 5% rather than 2.2% which would be great, but still uncertain for raises vs. bonuses for staff. We can guarantee staff gets a 4% raise next year.

Currently we have extra money that we are putting in reserves to save for a one time expense; however, that would create a problem because we would be spending with no extra revenue coming in. We have to carry 10% over what we are spending, otherwise we will break our covenant.

Katie encourages the board and Paul to give the staff a raise in the future.

Lorie asks what tuition is for a full day of pre-k and how it compares to what other Montessori schools charge.

Paul says currently we charge \$13,560 per student. Private tuition is usually over \$20,000 per year. He is also concerned about the financial climate and increasing tuition.

- **6:15-6:25 Board member update and introduction:** Katie Slota
 - Vote on new board member, Shannon Pipes

Katie moves to vote in Shannon Pipes as a new board member of the Fort Collins Montessori School Board.

Jim Seconds

All are in Favor

- **6:25–6:40 Head of School Report:** Paul Vincent

- **Operations Update**

- Summer camps are going well, staffing is good. Interviews are happening for next year.
- **Compliance**
 - End of the year reports and filing documents is underway.
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- **Students:**
 - 25-26 Re-enrollment is at 94.57% throughout the school. Still a chance that some folks may be hedging, possibility of having a couple of spots open. Upper Elementary still full, will need a teaching assistant.
- **Parent Education/events:**
 - End of the year picnic was well attended and the weather held for each event, Field day for Primary, for Elementary and our Moving up ceremony.
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- **Finances 24-25:**
 - Ending the year books with bills as they come through.
- **Facility**
 - Permits for the shade structure have been obtained and our Owner's rep will help us navigate the rest of the requirements.
- **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.

- **6:40-6:55 revisit board training:** Lorie Federman

Lorie has more information about the Colorado League of Charter Schools board training. We need to decide what our needs are as a charter school. Money will be available for a full day of training, ideally in person, they will come to us. They only offer half days or evenings in the fall.

Katie and Shannon both think strategic planning would be a good topic for a board training. Lorie says we could potentially do two, such as roles and responsibilities. She will look into this more and bring information back at the August board meeting.

- **7:00– 7:10 Parent Volunteer Committee:** Lorie Federman

Lorie reports there will be a summer PVC meeting at the park on June 25th. Paul mentions they can meet at the school in case of bad weather. PVC is planning a parent party on August 15th from 6-8pm. PVC also has all events for 2025/2026 school year on the calendar.

- **7:10-7:30: Confidentiality Agreement:** Shannon Pipes

Shannon suggests have a confidentiality agreement so that it is ensured that the all board members remain in confidence about topics discussed during executive session. Shannon can give us a template and have a meeting with Paul and Bethke to get it finalized.

Paul will let us know when we will have our July meeting. He will attempt to do a doodle poll to see when most folks are available.

- **7:30: Move to adjourn meeting**

Katie moves to adjourn the meeting

Lorie Seconds

All are in favor

CORE VALUES

WE BELIEVE in individualized care and support for every member of our school community.

WE LOVE and dignify children by listening to them, valuing the whole child, honoring their inner guide, and providing the most optimal environment for them to become empowered, inspired and engaged.

WE SUPPORT diversity, empathy, tolerance, transparency.

WE PROVIDE developmentally appropriate experiences and expectations so our children can bring out that which is already within them, instilling a life-long love of learning.

WE FOSTER independence and creativity in the learning process, empowering all to fulfill their highest human potential.

WE CREATE a physically and emotionally safe environment by practicing patience and openness that invokes discovery and harmony with each other and the natural world.

To exemplify these values, we must:

NURTURE relationships and build community through communication based on trust, honesty, kindness and transparency.

BE COMPELLED by integrity, cooperation, collaboration, compassion and service to others.

HONOR our individuality, respect our differences and inspire each other with candor and courage.

CONSIDER our impact beyond the classroom, including in our community and in our natural environment.