



**Public Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025**

Meeting Start Time: 6:09 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:17 pm

In attendance in person: Courtney Fox, Lindsay Abrahams, Meghan Newberry, Emily Burton, AliShah Watson, Matthew Bender, Becky Phillips, Kristen Gideon

In attendance via Zoom: Anabelle O'Malley

Regrets: Matthew Petrin

Guests:

In person: Emily Higgins, Sara Stabb, Cheryl Jones, Karin Nagle, Maureen Northey, Leslie Turner, Lauren Janusz, Holly Pommerening, Liz Madden

Via zoom : Jocelyn Hall

Public Comment

There was no public comment received at the email addresses or in person.

Approval Public Minutes

The minutes from the December 4, 2024, public board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the December 4, 2024, public board meeting minutes was made by E. Burton. Second. B. Phillips. Vote passed. No objections.

Website Monitoring Checklist from the Department of Education

- The website monitoring report was received for December 2024 and all areas are in compliance.

Head of School Report

C. Fox reviewed the following topics:

- Enrollment window has closed and the lottery will take place on 2/11/25. Families will be notified soon after verification is completed. There are a total of 78 seats for Kindergarten.
- Upcoming events:
 - 1/30/25 Montessori Math Night
 - 2/7/25 Happy Hearts
 - Black History Month
 - Mark your calendars for FSMA 8th Grade Graduation: Monday, June 9, 2025 at 1:00
- Snow Days:
 - C. Fox gave some background about the process for determining snow days. Meetings take place with area districts and charter schools. Some factors impacting decisions include bus schedule for buses on their first run (if the first school/district has a late opening, this affects our bus routes), hub stops plow status, city block plow



status. FSMA would likely not need to add days to end of the year due to the approved calendar having more than the required hours. FSMA has no plans to have virtual school days.

- Policies and Procedures:
 - FSMA continues to rely on state regulations, bound by Title 9, and the commitment to being a safe learning environment for all.
- Staffing:
 - Congratulations on retirement to Lori Davis (K/1 part time); new teacher has been hired and starts 2/10/25.
 - Open position: Education Diagnostician
 - New program: Chorus for upper school
- Recognition of staff who have been at FSMA since the first year:
 - Emily Higgins, Sara Stabb, Cheryl Jones, Karin Nagle, Maureen Northey, Leslie Turner, Lauren Janusz, Holly Pommerening, Liz Madden
 - Staff members shared memories from the first year, favorite traditions, why they have stayed at FSMA/what they love about working at FSMA, what would make FSMA better, and how the staff could be supported by the board.
 - Discussion around the culture of FSMA and care for people within the community, authenticity of staff and students, integrity, high expectations, how the Montessori qualities lend themselves to building community.
 - FSMA would be “even better if” we had green space, access to nature, a bridge connecting the two buildings, and more diverse staff. B. Phillips noted that this has been an on-going discussion regarding staff diversity and asked for staff to provide any ideas or connections too.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report & Governance Committee Report

M. Newberry reported both for both the Executive Committee and Governance Committee. M. Newberry shared that a letter of resignation from Rikki Petruccelli was received this week, effective immediately. Executive committee met regarding green space as B. Phillips will share.

Development Committee Report

B. Phillips shared that she and C. Fox met with FSMA parents who have expertise and connections within the commercial construction industries regarding the possibilities of creating green space that would be accessible to school safely while also contributing to our city community. B. Phillips is going to follow up with the parent contacts.

Finance Committee Report

M. Petrin was not able to attend and C. Fox provided finance update. The preliminary budget will be provided for board prior to the February board meeting and voted on at the meeting. C. Fox provided time for group to review the narrative for the period ending 12/31/24, representing 50% of the fiscal year. Revenue is over the preliminary budgeted amount with an additional revenue of approximately \$800k with some pass through for increases for staff salary, unit count,



transportation increases (approximately \$500k) and the remaining ~\$300k needs to be examined to determine if it is one time or recurring. There are also interest rate payments coming in that are new to understand the fluctuations from month to month. Expenses represent 52% of the year to date and slightly over the preliminary budgeted amount, typically trending higher due to when purchases are made throughout the year. The areas trending over are computer supplies (replaced some systems and all lower school classroom has screens and projectors), new boiler, insurance contract increase, and substitute teachers. Debt service covenant requirements are met.

A motion to approve and post the finance narrative was made by E. Burton. Second by A. Watson. Vote passed. No objections. No Abstentions.

A Motion to adjourn was made by M. Bender. Second by B. Phillips. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.