

**MINUTES OF  
THE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Tuesday, May 23, 2023  
1730 Montano Road, NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107**

**Present:** Alan Li (president), Ed Gonzales (vice president), Jordan Reed (secretary), Mary Salazar

**Absent:** Pablo Torres

**Administration:** Piper Curry, Stan Albrycht, Alissa Sanchez, Amanda Hagerty

**Other:**

**Note taker:** Jordan Reed, Alan Li

**Call to Order**

Alan called the Special Meeting of the Governing Council to order at 4:45 pm and confirmed a quorum was present with a roll call vote.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Ed's motion to approve the agenda was seconded by Mary. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Review and approve meeting minutes for Special Meeting of Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

Ed's motion to approve the minutes from the regular governing council meeting held on Tuesday, May 16 2023 with the correction of spelling on Mrs. Besante's name was seconded by Mary. There was no discussion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Action – Finance Committee**

**a. BAR # 529-000-2223-0024-I**

Ed's motion to approve BAR # 529-000-2223-0024-I was seconded by Mary. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Expense Reports**

- a. Mary's motion to approve the expense report was seconded by Ed. Discussion included review of the use of gift cards to purchase maintenance supplies, Stan will provide receipts that accompany the gift cards to the board to ensure transparency and better oversight in use of funds. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

**3. Chair Update**

- a. Pablo is not present, there is no chair update.

**Discussion/Action – Closed Session: Limited Personnel Matters**

Jordan's motion to move to a closed session inviting Piper Curry and Stan Albrycht to join the closed session was seconded by Mary. The motion to move to a closed session passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

The Governing Council moved to a closed session at 5:00 pm. The closed session ended and the meeting reconvened at **6:43** pm, only personnel issues were discussed, and no votes were taken.

**Discussion/Action – Addendum to Piper Curry for her role as Acting Executive Director**

Jordan’s motion to approve the addendum of \$15,000.00 Piper Curry for her role as Acting Executive Director was seconded by Ed. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0.

**Discussion/Action – Vote on whether to take action based on Mrs. Mary Jane Besante’s May 3, 2023 email statement**

The Governing Council has considered the concerns raised in Mrs. Mary Jane Besante’s May 3, 2023 email statement. The Council has determined that all complaints contained in that email were within Mrs. Besante’s control to address as they were concerns of her own subordinates, over which she had the control to correct. Therefore, the Governing Council will not take any action based on her statement of May 3, 2023 against any of her staff.

Jordan’s motion that the General Council take no action against Mrs. Mary Jane’s Besante’s staff based on her May 3, 2023 statement was seconded by Ed. The motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0.

**At 6:49 pm Jordan left the meeting due to prior obligations. Alan took notes thereafter.**

**Discussion/Action – FY 2023-2024 Budget Approval**

Stan presented the draft budget for FY 23-24. He explained to the Council the figures allocated for each line item and the rationale for the upcoming school year. The Council was informed that the draft budget was presented to the equity council and will soon be presented to the teaching staff as well.

Ed’s motion to approve the budget for FY 23-24 was seconded by Mary and was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**Discussion/Action – FY 2023-2024 School Calendar Approval**

The draft school calendar was presented for the Council to approve. The calendar was also reviewed by the Equity Council before the GC meeting. Administration presented the calendar as one that is mostly in line with APS other than a change for the Winter Break, which begins the Monday before Christmas Day. Administration also said that for next year, they would get the calendar out earlier in order to receive more input from parents.

Mary’s motion to approve the School Calendar for FY 23-24 was seconded by Ed and was approved unanimously.

**Discussion/Action – Director’s Report**

Piper presented the Director’s Report to the Governing Council. The current student count is 444. Please see attached report for additional details.

**Discussion/Action -- Board Training**

With the completion of Alan and Mary's board training in the past month, the board has completed all required board training.

**New Business -- Next meeting**

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

**Adjourn**

Mary's motion to adjourn was seconded by Ed. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

**Signed:**

**Governing Council of The Montessori Elementary & Middle School**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Li, President