

Draft MINUTES OF  
THE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
1730 Montano Road, NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107

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

**Absent:**

**Administration:** Piper Curry

**Other:** Patty Matthews

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

**Call to Order**

Alan called the Special Meeting of the Governing Council to order at 4:36 pm and confirmed a quorum was present with a roll call vote.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Review and approve meeting minutes for Saturday, April 29, 2023**

Mary's motion to approve the minutes from the regular governing council meeting held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 was seconded by Pablo. There was no discussion. The motion to approve passed unanimously, with Edward abstaining because he had to leave the meeting early.

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

Jordan's motion to move to a closed session inviting Patty Matthews to join the closed session was seconded by Ed. The Council would like the record to show that Mrs. Mary Jane Basante was instructed to attend this meeting and join in the closed session failed to did not respond nor attend. The motion to move to a closed session passed 5-0 with a roll call vote. The Governing Council moved to a closed session at 4:40 pm. The closed session ended and the meeting reconvened at 5:38 pm, only personnel issues were discussed, and no votes were taken.

**Discussion/Action – Vote on whether to take action based on Mrs. Mary Jane Besante's April 5, 2023 email statement**

The Governing Council has considered the concerns raised in Mrs. Mary Jane Besante's April 5, 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 April 5, 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 April 5, 2023 statement was seconded by Ed. The motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0.

**Discussion/Action – Vote to approve/disapprove a notice of discharge to Mrs. Mary Jane Besante**

Jordan's motion that the Governing Council of The Montessori Elementary and Middle School issue a notice of discharge to Mrs. Mary Jane Besante setting forth her procedural due process rights and grounds for discharge; further, that the Council and President Li will have final authority as to the form of the notice of the discharge was seconded by Alan. The motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0.

**Discussion/Action – Vote to approve/disapprove maintaining Mrs. Piper Curry as the Acting TMEMS Executive Director**

Jordan's motion that Mrs. Piper Curry continue in her position as acting Executive Director was seconded by Alan. The motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0.

*At 5:45 pm Pablo and Jordan left the meeting due to prior obligations. Alan took notes thereafter. Mrs. Patty Matthews also left at this time.*

**Discussion/Action – 2023-2024 School Year Mini-Lottery**

Acting Executive Director Piper Curry provided an update on the current lottery system. She has affected changes to provide greater transparency to the mini-lottery system, which is used to pull students after the initial lottery pull is performed by the board during its regular February meeting. She is working on a policy change to ensure transparency going forward which will be reviewed and voted on at the August annual meeting.

**Adjournment**

Ed's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mary. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Signed:

Governing Council of The Montessori Elementary & Middle School

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jordan M. Reed, Secretary