

# ISLAND MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 9.18.24

**Meeting Location:** 6339 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington, NC 28412

**Time:** 7:04 PM meeting called to order

**Board Members Present:** Lara Fritz, Emily Elmore, Whitney Wilson, Kate Medero, Pamela Thigpen, Mackenzie Wetherill, Nicole Smith, Jeremy Linquist, Jill Davenport (via zoom), Michael Davenport

**Not in attendance:** Tyler Howell

**Staff in attendance:** Alicia Rheel, Carrie O'Brien Dworshak, Brittany Ivey

**Guest:** AmberLynn Pappas

Nicole opened the meeting at 7:04 PM

Kate started with the reading of the Mission Statement:

### IMS MISSION STATEMENT

**The mission of Island Montessori Charter School is to enable children of diverse backgrounds to learn and grow at their own pace by offering a developmentally appropriate and challenging academic Montessori environment that models grace and courtesy and fosters a peaceful community of lifelong learners.**

### 2 Minute Visitor Public Comments:

None

### Meeting Agenda:

Jill made a motion to approve the agenda. Emily seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

### Previous Minutes:

Mackenzie made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Jeremy seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

### FSA Update (AmberLynn):

- AmberLynn made a quick introduction, she is the president of the FSA
- They have 3 members on their board
  - President – AmberLynn
  - Vice President – Elizabeth Auben
  - Children's School liaison - Stephanie Martin
- Goal to raise \$26,000 for teacher grants, \$10,000 for updated chrome books, \$6500 Montessori materials, and \$2500 for children's school

- Our events this year: Fall Festival, Book Fair, and Turtle Trot
- We also have our alternative fundraiser running.
- Still Looking for a Treasure and Communication Coordinator
- We also have opportunities to work concessions at 2 football games at Legion Stadium
- Will be doing a silent auction instead of Holiday Bizarre this year
- Ways the Board can help:
  - Would like the board to spread the word about our alternative fundraiser.
  - Would like the board to help with getting sponsorships for Turtle Trot.

**Other Business:**

None

**Head of School's Report – (Alicia)**

**To: Board Members**

**From: Alicia Rheel**

**Date:9/18/24** \_\_\_\_\_

**Re: Head of School's Monthly Board Report**

**The following information is provided to the Board of Directors:**

**Enrollment**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Active Enrollment</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>24</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Withdrawals:</b>	<b>Reason:</b>

### Student Discipline Report

*School Discipline Goal: Make all consequences a learning moment!*

<b>Month</b>	<b>In School Suspension # students / # days</b>	<b>Out of School Suspension # students / # days</b>	<b>Incident reports to office Major/minor</b>
<b>August</b>	0	0	0/0
<b>September</b>			
<b>October</b>			
<b>November</b>			
<b>December</b>			
<b>January</b>			
<b>February</b>			
<b>March</b>			
<b>April</b>			
<b>May</b>			

### Important Dates:

- 9/19 - Back to School Night - Lower El
- 9/20 - Whole School Event - International Peace Day
- 10/14 - No School
- 10/16 - Oct Board Mtg

## Updates on Goals/Issues for Discussion

### Data for Reporting/Discussion

#### *1. Academic Achievement*

##### *Goals for the 2024/2025 School Year*

- *Track and demonstrate growth in math across all grade levels*
- *Support teachers' specific and individual learning needs*
- *Strengthen cultural lessons as they intertwine in all academic areas.*
- *Build connections between schools, families, and the community.*

##### *Mission-Based Program and School Improvement Initiatives Updates*

- Reviewing teacher Maps
- creating observation schedule
- Beginning back to school meetings with parents

#### *3. Communications Update*

- Blair is updating the website

#### *4. Marketing Update*

- *Blair continues to work on our website*

#### *5. We were nominated as top 3 public schools in New Hanover County*

### *Facility Update*

- a few minor leaks from the storm have been addressed

### ***Compliance Reporting***

- All state requirements are being submitted.

#### ***7. HR/Policies & Procedures Update***

- 10/1 - Parental Leave determination due to the state

#### ***8. Professional Development***

- 10/14 teacher work day will focus on MTSS, data, and areas of need.

### ***Strategic Plan Update***

- [Review here](#)

#### ***10. IT Update***

- Chromebook cart has arrived

#### ***11. EC Update***

#### ***12. The current headcount is 34***

### ***Nutrition/Lunch Program Update***

- 13. Partnership with NHCS will continue. We have 3 families that have opted into this program.**

### ***After-School Program Update***

- Alfabest is up and running. .

### **Financial Report (Treasurer's Report – Kate):**

September Bank numbers:

- \$239,116.23 United Bank (Main Account)
- \$346,584.26 United Bank (Extended FDIC Acct)
- \$256,920.60 Live Oak Bank (Savings Account)
- **\$842,621.09** Total

FYI, we are \$70,000 above where we were last year.

### **Brittany, update:**

- The General Assembly did pass the funding for growth and it is now before the governor. He has not signed off on it yet, but we are optimistic that it will pass.
- We are updating the depreciation schedule that we have and are working on having that available for next month's meeting to help with planning for future expenses.

### **Fundraising and Grant Committee Update -**

#### **Nicole**

- We are moving forward with the Dreyfus Foundation Grant, the submittal is due in November and if we received that, the funding would be for spring 2025
- Still waiting to hear back from the Landfall Foundation, we should hear back in October
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### **Academic Update** – (presented by Alicia)

Alicia presented our school performance and discussed our EOG's from last school year. We did not meet growth, and our letter grade dropped. We typically see our growth is higher compared to our achievement and we also see a 3-year cycle in our growth and achievement. Achievement is based on students scoring proficient in reading, math and science. They start EOG's in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and measure growth between the grades. We looked at data for reading, math, and science.

- Achievement is worth 80% of our school grade
- Growth is worth 20% of our school grade.
- We are now classified as a low performing school for this year:
  - We are required to be looking at data, setting goals and reporting directly to the state.
  - These goals will include - record keeping, scope and sequence, increase in growth and achievement
  - Observations will include pre-conference that will review data and PDPs.

Board Requirements are:

The state requirements are as follows:

- Within 30 days of the initial identification the superintendent shall take one of the following actions:
  - Recommend to the local board the principal be retained in current position\*
  - Recommend to the local board the principal be retained in current position and a plan of remediation be developed o Recommend to the local board the principal be transferred\*, or
  - Proceed under G.S. 115C-325.4 to dismiss or demote the principal

The board has until Oct. 4, 2024:

Within 30 days of the identification of a local school administrative unit as low performing by the State Board, the superintendent shall:

- submit to the local board of education a preliminary plan for improving both the school performance grade and school growth score of each low-performing school in the unit, including:
  - How the administrators will work with staff and monitor the low-performing school's progress and
  - How current local school administrative unit policy should be changed to improve student achievement throughout the local school administrative unit.
  - The plan shall also include specific strategies to improve early childhood learning along with measurable goals.

Timeline:

September - Prepare plan to submit to board

- Letter to families explaining the performance and next steps

October - Board review plan. Make suggestions for changes

- Period for public comment - Google Form - make suggestions for changes

November - Final Board approval of the plan

- Submit to state for Feedback

January - Update plan based on State feedback as necessary

Full Presentation:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tq1f2K9F60wKhUD2EV-JSvxZi0-le2gNDpL\\_RcArV0o/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tq1f2K9F60wKhUD2EV-JSvxZi0-le2gNDpL_RcArV0o/edit#slide=id.p)

### **Diversity committee:**

See Alicia's Update

### **Marketing and Communications Committee Report:**

- We will be having a meeting soon.
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### **Service Learning**

- During our professional development days before the school year began, our staff had the opportunity to serve in the community at several of our partner organizations as well as others. This was great for them to connect with the community and learn more about the organizations we partner with.
- **Monthly Donation Drive** - Change for Change to raise funds for our school
- **Saturday Serve Day** - Beach Sweep on September 28th 9-10am
- **Service Learning Program** - Our partners have been contacted and schedules have been made for the school year.
  - We will be partnering with Autumn Care, Rise Up Farms, The Salvation Army, and The Humane Society
  - This year we are going to try allowing students to serve during the fall semester at one location and switch for the spring semester. This will allow students the opportunity to learn more about ways to serve and give back to the community. We will see how it works this year and assess/evaluate for moving forward like this.
  - We have paused our weekly visits to Skywatch for several reasons, but we still want to support them for donation drives and inviting them to come for a school program.

### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Old Business:**

- Discussion and vote on the Board of Education Paid Parental Leave (PPL) – documents are in the folder for review. We have to opt-in or opt-out every year
- Discussed option of having our own plan
- Decided to create a committee to formalize an official proposal.

- Brittany, Jeremy, Lara, Alicia, Mackenzie

Lara made a motion to opt-out of the Board of Education Paid Parental Leave (PPL) with the contingency that we come up with a plan of our own. Jill seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

At 8:36 PM, Nicole made a motion to go into closed session, Mackenzie seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

At 8:37 PM, Lara made a motion to leave closed session, Emily seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

Lara made motion to keep Alicia Rheel as our superintendent, Michael seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

Nicole made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm, Emily seconded the motion. The vote was held and passed unanimously.

**REMINDERS:**

**Next Exec meeting is Friday, October 11, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom**

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**