



**GEIST MONTESSORI ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Location

**6058 W. 900 N.
McCordsville, IN 46055**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2020
5:30 pm**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Uriah Ellis – President | Lacey Willard – Secretary | Mark Clark – At-Large Member |

STAFF

Jen Gosch – Interim Executive Director

Guest

Tina Spencer - Bookkeeping Plus

1. Opening
 - Welcome: Meeting opened at 5:31 pm EST
 - Roll Call - Board of Directors: Uriah Ellis – President; Lacey Willard – Secretary; Mark Clark – At-Large Member
 - Guest acknowledgment: Jen Gosch; Tina Spencer
2. Consent Agenda: **Mark motioned, and Lacey seconded to approve the consent agenda; Unanimous approval.**
 - Approval of February Minutes
 - Approval of February Vouchers
3. Office of the Interim Executive Director
 - Enrollment: 265 (Kindergarten: 41; Grade 1: 41; Grade 2: 36; Grade 3: 37; Grade 4: 20; Grade 5: 23; Grade 6: 31; Grade 7: 24; Grade 8: 12)
 - Insight Into the Parent and Staff Surveys: 50 families participated in the parent survey and noted that there is a strong desire for clear, concise communication from leadership, a heightened need for the retention of Montessori certified teachers, and a willingness to be involved in the GMA community - which can hopefully be safely accomplished very soon. Staff commented that the best part of their day is working with individual children or being a part of a supportive team. More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of staff respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the professional development opportunities provided to them by the Board and administration.
 - Marketing Plan: We have engaged a group of stakeholders representing the families, staff, and board to collaborate on the development of a marketing strategy with Brian Phillips, CEO/co-founder of The Basement in Indianapolis.

- Building & Grounds Update: We recently had some wind damage on the roof causing some leaks in the ceiling. Those have all been addressed with the contractors. Grounds Committee has a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday to discuss updates on plans for a bridge, playground space, and development of the land on the north side of our campus.
 - Montessori Certification: The Board continues to offer pathways to Montessori certification for our lead teachers and administrators.
 - Testing Update: We successfully completed the WIDA testing for our English Language Learners in February; IREAD testing is nearing completion; ILEARN testing for grades 3-8 will take place during the testing window of April 19-May 14.
 - Grant Funding: We were recently awarded a grant from the TechPoint Foundation for Youth which provided 50 new Chromebooks for students as well as 7 refurbished laptops for teachers/staff.
 - Upcoming Events: Students and teachers have been working to prepare for Student Led Conferences, which will take place on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. We can't wait to host GMA's first ever International Festival Parade on April 1 at 1pm!
4. Finance Committee: Uriah Ellis/Mark Clark
 - Finance Report: Finance committee has been formed and handoff of Treasurer role to Mark Clark has commenced
 5. New Business:
 - ED/Board member Search Committee Update
 - ED search committee will commence week of 3/22, including Laurie Stockton-Moreno as the community member (named to the board of the United Montessori Schools of Indiana; director of Montessori Teacher Education at Trine University); Deb Edwards as the teacher named; Michelle Sweeny named as the parent; Morgan Bitz named as the PTO member; and Mark Clark as the secondary board advisor. Chair is Lacey Willard as board secretary.
 - Board member search committee will commence week of 3/29 with parent advisors Karla Diuro, Erin Sills, Borahm Kim, Jen Peden, Grisel Ruiz, Sara Gatch, Beth LaRock, and Uriah Ellis as board advisor. Chair is Lacey Willard as board secretary.
 6. Adjournment: **Uriah motioned, Lacey Seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned with Unanimous approval 5:47 pm EST.**