



**Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes  
Board Meeting - Zoom  
February 11, 2025**

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Board of Trustees in attendance: Corey Hurcomb, President; Jennifer LaPrad, Past President; Katharine Lyvers, Treasurer; Jena O'Brien, Secretary; Charlie Brach; Cassidy Martenson; and Maria Muffoletto

Staff/Faculty in attendance: Kathy Kolata, Head of School; Patty Byrd, Interim Director of Finance; and Kim Bosworth, Director of Admissions

Guests in attendance: Darius Lipsey, Mark Welch, Ashley Miller, Kyle Loescher, Sara Marcus, Ted Creagh, Natalie Lipsey, and Avis Barker

Board of Trustees Absent: n/a

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**OPEN SESSION NOTES**

**Open Session started at 6:02 p.m.**

Call to Order (Corey Hurcomb)

- Corey Hurcomb, President, called the meeting to order
- Jennifer LaPrad welcomed TMA faculty and families
  - Reminded non BOT members that the open session portion of the meeting is not an open forum and that all questions that members of the community would like the BOT to address must be submitted before the meeting
- Roll call conducted by Jena O'Brien

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (Corey Hurcomb)

- Minutes from the January 2025 BOT meeting were voted for approval electronically on Monday, Jan. 27
- Vote passed unanimously

Finance Update (Katharine Lyvers)

- BOT received a proposal from the bank for a loan
  - Members of the Finance Committee feel good about it
  - BOT members will vote on the proposal in the closed session
- Finance Committee can also confirm that TMA will have the means to make sure our teachers and staff are paid throughout the remainder of the school year

Advancement Update (Maria Muffoletto)

- With former TMA Advancement Director Kelli Collins stepping down early, Maria Muffoletto has agreed to serve as the Advancement Committee chair
- Have a rejuvenated group of BOT members and parents who are coming in with a lot of ideas
- The first major advancement effort is the phone-a-thon happening Thursday, Feb. 13
- Other major advancement efforts will be on pause until the completion of phone-a-thon so we are not competing with ourselves
- On Feb. 14, the Advancement Committee will send out a survey to the TMA community to gauge interest in dates for our upcoming trivia night in March
  - Trivia tickets will be \$20 per person or a flat rate for a table
  - Depending on the survey answers, child care may be provided
  - This will be a family friendly (and dry) event
- Advancement Committee is interested in doing a variation of Windfall before the end of the year
  - Something small held in the gym or surrounding area in May
  - This could potentially look like a “[Dîner en Blanc](#)” type event where people dressed in white have a meal in a temporary dining setup in a public space and bring their own food, tables, chairs and tablecloths.
    - We could all wear green, since it's our 55th emerald anniversary
  - Another option/idea would to do a “a kitschy windfall”
- Advancement Committee is planning not just fundraising events but also community building events

#### Safety and Facilities Update (Charlie Brach and Kathy Kolata)

- With Corey Hurcomb stepping up as BOT President early, Charlie Brach has agreed to serve as the Safety and Facilities Committee Chair
- The Safety and Facilities Committee has not met since the last BOT meeting, but plans on meeting next week
- The committee has the safety grant that we applied for in January that they're waiting to hear back on
- Kathy has another grant she's looking to apply for later in the spring

#### Committee of Trustees (Corey Hurcomb)

- The committee has had several people reach out to us to express interest in joining
  - One candidate, Mark Welch, is very close joining
  - Of the other candidates who are earlier in the vetting process, we have one who is in the finance industry, one in grant writing, and another in HR

#### Head of School Update (Kathy Kolata)

- Enrollment Status
  - Enrollment for the school is currently at 198

- Since the last BOT meeting, TMA held an Open House where we welcomed 16 new families and one former family
  - During this event, we had four families fill out applications on the spot
    - Three for Early Childcare full day
    - One Lower Elementary
  - Additional communications have been sent to all families in attendance, and Kathy hopes to hear back from even more of them
- Re-enrollment/Enrollment for new families
  - Re-enrollment paperwork was sent home on Monday, Feb. 9
    - It would have been on Friday, but there was no school
    - Current families have until March 10 to submit their paperwork and be eligible for the loyalty discount
    - Enrollment for new families will begin Tuesday, March 11
- Board Meetings and Town Halls
  - TMA will continue to communicate about upcoming board meetings on the private TMA Facebook page the week before each meeting and the Sunday before
  - Since Town Halls have not been on a regular recurring basis, Kathy and Kim will continue to post information about those events as they have them and send reminders closer to the actual date
- Newsletter
  - The weekly newsletter is sent to all current parents, staff, and board members every Sunday
  - Kathy and Kim are working on creating a quarterly newsletter that would be sent out to the greater community at large
    - This would include former students, former families, grandparents, etc
    - Quarterly newsletters would go out in March, June, September, and December
    - Content would include highlights of the past quarter and things that they might be of interest to them in the larger community
  - If there is something you would like to have included in the weekly newsletter, send an email to Kim Bosworth before noon on Wednesday
- Choice Scholarship
  - The Choice Scholarship application opened on January 31, and Kathy has applied and received confirmation that our materials have been received
- School-wide illness
  - Last Thursday and Friday, TMA was closed due to an excessive amount of illnesses
  - Cases of illness within the school are continuing to go down
  - Because of the two unexpected closures, the school will be open on President's Day this year
- Upcoming events:



**THE MONTESSORI ACADEMY**  
EDISON LAKES

- Coffee with Kathy: Wednesday, February 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the school library
  - These events will be the morning after our board meetings
- Science Expo: Wednesday, February 12, 3:45-5:00 pm in the school gym
- Junior High Night: Wednesday, February 12, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Junior High classroom
- TMA Fundraising Phone-a-Thon: Thursday, February 13, 5:30-8:30 in the gym
- President's Day: Monday, February 17
  - School is open
- Town Hall Meeting #3: Thursday, February 20, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the gym
- All School In-Service: Friday, February 28
  - Make up day - half day with before and after care open
- Parent/Teacher Conferences: Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7
  - Classes closed
  - Before and after care open
- Board of Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m.
- Coffee with Kathy: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the library
- Friday, April 4: Half day
  - Spring Break begins at 11:30 a.m.
- Spring Break: No school April 7-April 13

**Miscellaneous (Corey Hurcomb)**

- Corey has talked to several teachers and staff members and the morale is pretty good.
  - Corey has no doubt that the school is going to be stronger, after all of this.
  - We have currently raised around \$58,000.
  - Both the BOT and the HOS will continue to reach out to our larger donors.
- The junior high parents met with Miss Dunham on Feb. 11 to discuss the upcoming junior high trip.
  - This would have been the Tremont year but there were a few other options suggested. All will depend on available dates.
  - The kids are already talking about potentially doing some fundraising ideas.

**Jena O'Brien motioned to adjourn the open session and Jennifer LaPrad seconded at 6:24 p.m.**