

SWAN RIVER MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL
Special Closed Session School Board Meeting
for the purpose of reviewing the school director performance
Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

The school board will hold this meeting in person at Swan River Montessori Charter School in the 503 Maple St. building.

Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER by _____ **Franco Fanucci** _____ at ___ **1:17** _ **PM**

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Board Members Present: Franco Fanucci, Nicole Perez, Jana Evink, Amy Jensen, Amy Savage, Julie Halvorson, Rick Freese
- b. Board Members Absent: none
- c. Other Attendees: none

III. REVIEW OF SRMCS MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

The mission of Swan River Montessori Charter School is to provide a child-centered environment for self-directed and personalized learning in a small, community-based public school with an emphasis on the natural environment.

Swan River Montessori Charter School's vision is to employ an interdisciplinary approach to education by teaching the whole child (heart, mind, and soul). The Montessori learning environment is designed to foster this whole child approach by meeting the child's inherent needs of self-discovery, creativity, independence, and competence. Swan River Montessori Charter School will create a kind, respectful environment where each child has a sense of belonging. Learning at Swan River Montessori Charter School involves the student, the student's family, the teachers, and the larger community. Swan River supports family and community participation in each child's education by utilizing and appreciating community resources and the natural world as a learning environment.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA- Motion to approve by Freese __, Seconded by Savage __. Board Vote- all aye

V. CLOSED SESSION PER MN STATUTE 13.D: SCHOOL DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Motion to close the meeting in accordance with MN. Stat.13D.05 Subd. 3. to review the performance of the school director, Annette Vemuri made by Perez ___ at ___ **1:19 PM** __, 2nd by Halvorson ____. Board Vote- all aye

Closed Session Summary:

Retaliation has not been substantiated to have occurred. Staff/parents are encouraged to follow the SRMCS policy for grievances but are also welcome to raise concerns to any member of the board. Moving forward the Director will clearly communicate to an affected employee when/if there are performance concerns. The board will work with the director to ensure that an action plan is in place to help coach/develop employees prior to termination. Board has revised the director's goals to make an effort to continue to build a rapport with the community. Goals regarding furthering training/understanding of the Montessori method were already in place and will be followed up with regularly. Changes to the curriculum of the school can only be made by the school board. The school board is majority Montessori trained teachers to ensure that the school stays true to the Montessori method. Goals regarding improving/modifying communication with staff and the community were already in place and will be followed up with regularly. The school board is

responsible for financials, reviews and approves financial statements with the SRMCS accounting firm and school director monthly including all checks/wire transfers out of our accounts. The read-a-thon funds were deposited into our general fund, as is always the case with donations, and have yet to be disbursed. This year the school needed to work through the last \$10,000 of a \$20,000 grant for new reading and math materials before spending read-a-thon funds. Director is a licensed administrator - the first ever at SRMCS. Both Montessori certification and an administrator's license are preferred qualifications for the SRMCS school director but are not required.

VI. Motion made to open the meeting made by __Halvorosn__ at __4:31__ am, 2nd by ____Freese____, Board Vote- all aye

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. The board will have a Special Closed Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the board's revised director's action plan with Annette Vemuri on June 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN by ____Freese____, Seconded by __Savage____ at __4:37__ pm. Board vote- all aye