Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting for North Star Montessori Academy. Held in the North Star Montessori Academy Cafeteria on September 23rd, 2026 at 4:15pm

Members Present: Melissa Bowers, Marguerite Guter, Jessica Pfitzer, Derek Pugh, Roger Zappa

Others Present: Mary VanderMolen, Angela Chang, Taylor Gaudreau, Lisa Bergman, Annie Fawler, and Frank Patterson

1. The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Bowers at 4:17pm
2. A quorum of the board was established.
3. Motion by Marguerite Guter to approve the Consent Agenda, supported by Jessica Pfitzer. Motion passed 4-0.
4. Public comment: None

Consent Agenda

5. Chief Financial Officer Frank Patterson provided an update on the first Finance Committee meeting. He reviewed the expected student count and the final budget. Frank noted that there was limited financial activity during July and August. He also provided an update on grants that were in the final stages of approval.
6. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to approve the proposed Consent Agenda, supported by Derek Pugh. Motion passed 5-0.

Action Items

7. Approval of ACM Audit Agreement.
    a. Mary VanderMolen provided a brief update regarding the name change of the school's audit firm.
    b. Board Member Comment: None
8. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to approve the ACM Audit Agreement letter, supported by Derek Pugh. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports/ Discussions

9. Finance Committee Update:
    a. The North Star Montessori Academy Finance Committee held its first meeting last week. A discussion was held regarding the meeting and its outcomes.
10. Teachers First Report:
    a. Chief Financial Officer Frank Patterson provided the Board with an update on the first PLC meeting held by Teachers First. Frank reviewed the Teachers First report included in the board packet and provided a brief overview of the financial snapshot included in the report. He also provided an update on current grants, including several grants awarded to North Star Montessori Academy, including the 35M grant.
11. Superintendent/Principal Report:

a. Superintendent Angela Chang provided an update regarding a teacher resignation that occurred earlier in the week and reviewed the plan for filling the position.
Angela highlighted several successes so far this school year, including the addition of new students. She shared that the transition of students from 3rd grade into 4th and 5th grade has been very successful and is working well.
Angela also discussed some challenges, including staff absences due to illness. She provided an update on the process of hiring a new bus driver and reviewed the first Professional Development session held earlier this month.
Angela provided an update on the new systems and procedures implemented this school year and shared that they have been working well so far. She also reported that the Ice Cream Social was a great success, with strong participation from families.
Finally, Angela reviewed the new system for tracking student behaviors and incidents.

12. Special Education Report/ Legal Update:
    a. Director of Special Education Mary VanderMolen provided an update on the number of students with IEPs at North Star Montessori Academy. Mary also reviewed several FERPA requests that North Star has received over the past few weeks.
13. PTO Update:
    a. Superintendent Angela Chang gave the board an update regarding PTO and who is taking it over for this year.
14. NMU Charter Schools Office Report:
    a. Betty LaPointe was unable to attend the meeting, so Lisa Brugman attended on her behalf. Lisa provided the Board with an update on upcoming events throughout the school year. She also reviewed important information regarding the Board self-evaluations, which are due February 25th.
15. Next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 28th, 2026 at 4:15 pm
    1. Public Comment: None
    2. Board Member Comment: None
    3. Motion by Jessica Pfitzer to adjourn, supported by Roger Zappa. Motion passed 5-0.
    4. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

~~Jessica Pfitzer~~ NSMA Board Secretary

Derek Pugh

10/28/2026

Date Approved