

**Western Communities Montessori Society
General Meeting of Society – Minutes**

Meeting Date:	June 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Location:	4075 Metchosin Road, Victoria, BC
Attendees:	Michelle McClure, June Ling, Robin Parker, April Sim, Matt Loken, Crispin Murphy, Luke Geiger, Anastassia Bennett, Erin Eisenberg, Betina Pickelein, Chelle Fox Plus Approximately 96 Society Members
Regrets:	None
Distribution:	All Attendees, Board Members, including Ex-Officio Members, and Society Members

Item	Discussion
1.	Call to Order - 6:42 p.m.
2.	<p>Adoption of Agenda</p> <p>June proposes three amendments to the agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Date change from “June 11, 2025” to “June 11, 2026”</i> 2. <i>Under “New Business”, add 1. Resignations and Appointments</i> 3. <i>Under Nominees for Director-at-Large: Remove Patrick Aresenault and Sam Auerbach</i> <p>1. Motion to adopt the agenda with amendments</p> <p>First - Matt; Second - April; Approve - All; Opposed; None; Abstained - None</p> <p>Motion Passed</p>
3.	<p>Adoption of Previous Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion to adopt the previous minutes - March 5, 2026 <p>First - Luke; Approve - All; Opposed; None; Abstained - None</p> <p>Motion passed</p>
4.	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Head of School - Betina <p>BP provided a summary of the past weeks at Westmont. UE, MS, and HS trips were successful. Education is continuing with happy children and engaged teachers.</p>

One student has withdrawn from the school since May 20

AB - With respect to high school, there has been a meeting and there will be a follow up meeting on Friday, June 12 to confirm contracts for next year..

2. Finance Committee Report (In Package) - Luke

LG noted three issues:

1. A beautiful campus that is being under utilized, especially in the summer;
2. Not enough enrollment
3. Things to be sorted within the programs. LG is confident that the admin and staff will be able to do this work.

LG reiterated that everyone here is to support the school, and while there is lots to work through financially, it is important that we get there for the students.

3. Building and Site Committee Report (In Package) - Matt

Volunteers

ML is seeking additional 2 to 3 qualified volunteers with construction experience to move forward with the East Building renovations as it is too much work for one parent volunteer. These volunteers will need to be available on campus over the summer during work hours to meet trades and solve issues.

East Building

The immediate main project is the East Building renovation. There is a lot of work with trades and timelines to be confirmed. While the building is run down, it is a really good building.

Covered Gym

The long term plan is a covered gym. Due to the Agricultural Land Reserve in the front, the pavilion cannot be built there. In the back, there are options with obstacles, such as the septic fields. Work is being done to remove the confirmed man made pond in order to free up space. The feasibility looks positive to construct a covered gym in that space.

Lighting

With permanent daylight saving time, there will need to be additional lighting in the parking lot so that it's not dangerous during morning drop offs.

Professional Management Company

We are at a stage where a professional management company will need to be hired to maintain matters on campus. It's too much work for the current staff and parent volunteers to be running around. We will need to come up with a strategic plan on campus maintenance.

Longevity

The septic field is near the end of life. The new building is hooked up to the original system from the early 1990s. The replacement will cost several hundred thousand dollars. We need to plan for the next cohort of students and the cohort after that. In 20 years, the hope is that people will benefit.

Expansion

It is ML's opinion that the ALR status will never be removed.

LG: The Board had reached out to the Boys and Girls Club with a letter of intent and they were not in a position to decide whether they could entertain it.

Question about other buildings on campus:

ML: A replacement building where the East Building is with a gym and classroom over top will cost approximately \$20 million. There is an addition available to the main building that is a few million dollars. In order to expand, we will need to expand the student population and focus on recruitment and retention.

4. Policy Committee Report (In Package) - Crispin

CM noted that the Society has a set of bylaws that are outdated and that a serious governance review needs to happen. The plan is to come back in September with a proposal for updated bylaws for the Society to consider.

5. PAC Report (In Package) - Chelle

CF: Would love to see more turn out for PAC meetings and there are a couple vacancies on the PAC for the next year. Having our kids see how involved we are and have them tell their friends is a great way to spread the word about Westmont.

The next meeting is in September.

Discussion of Operations Matters

AB: Administration is hoping to conduct a full review of the programs and will need to retain consultants to do so.

Discussion surrounding Pride flags and safety.

Discussion on Growth

LG: For growing the student body, happy customers is the best place to start. The population pyramid has a thick base and it trickles out over time. Retention is the #1 goal to solve our own problem (*i.e.*, keeping the people who are already here). As it relates to net new recruitment, people will have different views on what programs will be attractive. Examples are a good sports program or a music program.

CF: We have an art program for birthday parties. It's for 10 kids for ages 10 and under with birthday parties all summer long.

LG: Other thing we've talked about, we have such a great campus. It's a beautiful campus to run a summer program. If we can get kids outside of Westmont to come by, we will get a few more people coming back.

Question: What about a daycare for the community? Is there space?

AB: All our licensed spaces are filled and there is no space to open a program. The after school care program has expanded to 36 spaces. If there is a demand, it may be possible to expand another 8 spaces.

Exits

AB: An external contract conducts exit interviews.

CM: Went through the data for a couple years and the breakdown is that 50% leaves for public school, 25% leaves for Brook, and 25% leaves for other reasons. We are not competing with schools like Glenlyon.

Society noted there may be other issues such as student preference on wanting a bigger cohort and other needs.

Question: How much are we looking at for making the numbers work?

LG: The financials really start to work at above 285 students as the fixed costs get spread over enough students. This means another 10 to 15 students. However, there needs to be a right mix of the 285 as gaps of capacity in different programs and different classrooms can cause problems.

Motion to receive all committee reports.

Moved: April; Approved: All; Object: None; Abstained: None

Motion Passed

5.	<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
6.	<p>New Business</p> <p>1. Resignation and Appointments</p> <p>Crispin Murphy provides his resignation. April Sim accepts the resignation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Auerbach - VP appointed pursuant to Bylaw 5.5(3). Term of office until the conclusion of the next AGM. <p>Luke Geiger provides his resignation. April Sim accepts the resignation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristopher Wilson - Treasurer appointed pursuant to Bylaw 5.5(3). Term of office until the conclusion of the next AGM. <p>2. Motion to increase the number of seats on the Board from 7 to 8</p> <p>Moved: April; Approved: All; Object: None; Abstained: None</p> <p>Motion: Passed</p> <p>3. Motion to conduct an election to fill the additional Director-at-Large seat (1 Year Term)</p> <p>One (1) previously submitted nomination form: Mackenize Reeves</p> <p>Nomination from the Floor: None</p> <p>Election results: Elected by Acclamation</p> <p>New Director-at-Large (1 Year Term, Expiring AGM 2027): Mackenzie Reeves</p>
7.	<p>Business from the Floor</p> <p>None</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Review and Adjournment - 20:00</p> <p>1. Adjourned at 20:00</p> <p>Moved: April; Approved: All; Object: None; Abstained: None.</p>

