



**Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025**

I. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Mr. James McCarthy. The Chairman greeted all Directors and guests.

B. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Dr. Bill Ursillo.

	Present	Absent
James McCarthy	X	
Angel Audiffred	X	
Dr. Reva Gershen-Lowy	X	
William Ursillo	X	
Sr. Patricia Broderick	X	
Carolyn Telesmanich	X	
Happy Laskar	X	

Charter School Staff: Dr. Mary Anne DeVivio, Christian Adamkiewicz, Jerry Sgambati, and Lynsey Bailey

Guests: Kamlesh Singh, Svetlana Gnesina, and Nicole Morrissey

C. Approval of the September 2025 Board Meeting Agenda

Directors reviewed the proposed agenda for the September 2025 board meeting. Dr. Gershen-Lowy motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Audiffred seconded. All aye and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of the August 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. McCarthy presented the minutes from the August 12, 2025, board meeting. Dr. Ursillo motioned to approve the minutes as submitted, Mr. Audiffred seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. Principal's Report

Dr. Mary Anne DeVivio presented the Principal's Report. Keynotes included:

- The first day of school on 9/4 was very successful.
- The Block Party and Meet the Teacher events on 9/3 were well attended.
- All students received a backpack, school supplies, and two uniforms.
- With the recent release of the NYS testing results, the school has been asked to present about math growth success at the NY Charter Schools Conference in Rochester, NY, on 10/15-16.
- Curriculum Night for K-2nd grade students will be held on 9/18 and for 3rd-5th grade students on 9/25.

Having obtained the charter contract goal of Certification of the Sanctuary Model, Mr. McCarthy proposed developing a values-based curriculum that would support CMCCS's mission to address the developmental needs of our students.

Ms. Laskar proposed a universal social work screening. Dr. DeVivio shared the school's current process for screening students, including the Sanctuary model-based community meeting and the role of the de-escalation counselors.

III. Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee Report: Dr. Bill Ursillo

Dr. Ursillo, Chair of the Academic Committee, presented the August 2025 Academic Committee report. Keynotes included:

- The June 2025 Sanctuary Certification visit resulted in successful certification status for CMCCS. Certification will last for three years. The school has been invited to share their best data practices at an upcoming conference.
- SY2425 NYS testing results have been released. CMCCS achieved significant gains from 2024 to 2025 across all grade levels and subjects.
 - Proficiency scores were shared and compared to the prior year.
 - Comparative data will be shared at the next committee meeting.
- The Committee discussed their vision for academic support this year. Goals for the year will be determined at upcoming meetings. Members discussed having a committee meeting at the school campus and possibly joining a professional development session to share appreciation for the school staff.

Dr. DeVivio welcomed the entire board to plan to visit the school together and thank the staff for their hard work at an upcoming professional development session.

B. Finance Committee Report: Dr. Reva Gershen-Lowy

Dr. Gershen-Lowy, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the August 2025 Finance Committee report. Keynotes included:

- End of Fiscal Year Financial Report:* Ms. Svetlana Gnesina reviewed the end of FY25 financials as of June 30, 2025. Financial reports will resume in September.
 - Cash on Hand totals \$6.5M at 6.62 months.
 - Total current assets are \$7.3M; total net assets are \$6.9M.
 - There is a \$146K surplus projected for net assets.

- The new fiscal year began on July 1, 2025. The school ended the year with very healthy financials.
 - The PA account has been closed and supporting documentation is on file.
- b. *FY25 Audit Report*: Ms. Gnesina provided an update on the status of the audit. Keynotes included:
- There are a few outstanding items for the FY25 audit. Once received, the audit will be complete.
 - There are no findings to report.
 - A draft of the audit report will be shared with the school team and then presented at the next board meeting for approval.
 - The final report is due to the state and the authorizer by November 1, 2025.
- c. *LOI Update*: Dr. DeVivio provided an update on the status of the LOI for a prospective property in CSD-10. Keynotes included:
- The current lease ends in June 2026. The school is exploring various options for a school site should the lease not renew at the current site.
- d. *CSP Grant Update*: Dr. Gershen-Lowy provided an update on the long-term litigation regarding an 'open' CSP grant. Keynotes included:
- There are five charter schools in the Bronx area also affected.
 - Arnold and Porter, representing the schools, wants to meet with the board to discuss next steps. The committee will schedule and include counsel as well.

C. Governance Committee Report: Mr. James McCarthy

Mr. McCarthy, Chair of the Governance Committee, presented the September 2025 Governance Committee report. Keynotes included:

- The committee discussed the implications of the current lease ending in June 2026. The school is exploring various options for school sites for next school year. The committee recommended hiring a real estate firm to act as the broker for the site search.
- The board self-evaluation has been prepared. All members should complete their self-evaluation and submit to Ms. Lynsey Bailey.
- The committee has proposed shifting the monthly board meeting to the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 PM. Subsequent board meeting items should be reviewed at the previous meeting, to ensure compliance items and other CSI-proposed topics are addressed.
- Board policies are due for an annual review. A policy deck will be presented to the full board for review and approval at an upcoming meeting.

IV. Partner's Report

Dr. Ursillo presented the CMCS/CMCCS Partner's Report for September 2025. Keynotes included:

- CMCS is exploring the feasibility of purchasing the Aquinas Hall property.
- A service agreement between CMCS and CMCCS is required for the charter renewal this year. Amendments are needed to reflect relevant services.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a contract issue and seal the minutes. Dr. Ursillo conducted the roll call vote:

- James McCarthy: Aye
- Angel Audiffred: Aye
- Dr. Reva Gershen-Lowy: Aye
- William Ursillo: Aye
- Sr. Patricia Broderick: Aye
- Carolyn Telesmanich: Aye
- Happy Laskar: Aye

The motion carried unanimously. Executive session began at 4:25 PM. Sr. Patricia made a motion to end executive session and enter open session. Mr. Audiffred seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Open session began at 4:42 PM.

Dr. DeVivio left the meeting at 4:43 PM.

V. Action Items

A. Updated SY2526 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. McCarthy motioned to adjust the board meeting schedule as submitted to meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 PM, adding an amendment for the October meeting to move to October 8 in observance of Yom Kippur. Dr. Ursillo seconded, all aye, and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business

There was no new business.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Audiffred motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Laskar seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 PM.

Next Meeting: *The next board meeting will be Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 3:30 PM.*

Submitted by Nicole Morrissey, CheckBox Pro Consultant