



# High Desert Montessori Charter School

101 Fantastic Drive. Reno, Nevada 89512 - 775-624-2800

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Board of Directors Meeting - 12/3/25 - 5:30 PM IN PERSON**

**3rd Floor Meeting Space - High Desert Montessori**

High Desert Montessori School's Board of Directors will conduct their public meeting either in person, virtually, or by phone. All Directors shall attend the meeting in person or remotely. Public members wishing to attend the virtual meeting may do so by using the virtual link or phone information as directed below. Unless otherwise restricted, as noted, the Board may take action on any item. Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chairperson. Items may be combined for the Board to consider. Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please contact the school at 775-624-2800 in advance so arrangements may be conveniently made. Supporting materials will be posted on our website, <https://www.hdmsreno.com/board-information/>, no later than 10:00 AM on the day of the board meeting.

The Board of Directors will receive public comment virtually, in person, or via email at [publiccomment@hdmsreno.com](mailto:publiccomment@hdmsreno.com). All public comments received before and during the meeting will be provided to the Board of Directors. Such comments shall not be read aloud at the meeting but will be recorded in the public record and in the minutes. In-person public comment will be limited to 3 minutes. No action can be taken on any comments, but public input is welcome.

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
2. Public Comment
3. Adopt the Agenda (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
4. Approval of Board Minutes from 10/29/2025 (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
5. New Phone System Contract Bid (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
6. Principal's Report (FOR DISCUSSION)
  - a. Status of Charter Renewal
7. Teacher Liaison Report (FOR DISCUSSION)
8. PTO Liaison Report (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment and Future Agenda Items (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

**Items not acted on at this meeting may be acted on at future meetings.**

*"High Desert Montessori School provides a safe, nurturing school environment that fosters independence, problem-solving skills, and great work in our students. We offer tools to explore the universe through Montessori's Cosmic Education, the purpose of which is to link all areas of human knowledge. We urge all of our students to be participating members of a socially conscious and green community by inspiring them to be critical thinkers capable of reflection, communication, and action. We comply with all Nevada State and Common Core State Standards."*

HDMS Board meetings are posted at the following places:



# High Desert Montessori Charter School

101 Fantastic Drive. Reno, Nevada 89512 - 775-624-2800

- Washoe County School District
- Sparks Library
- Washoe County Administration
- HDMS 101 Fantastic Drive, Reno, NV 89512
- HDMS Website [www.hdmsreno.com](http://www.hdmsreno.com)



**Board of Directors Meeting  
October 29, 2025, @ 5:00 PM via Zoom  
101 Fantastic Drive, Reno, Nevada 89512**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 5:01**

Anthony Arger  
Ashley Allen  
Bonnie Pillaro  
Kristen Ashbaugh  
Nancy Smith  
Pamala Pollard (not present)  
Reid Riker

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**3. Adopt the Agenda**

Member Smith motions to adopt the agenda with the movement of Item 9 to Item 4 (see supporting documents), Member Pillaro seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

**4. Acceptance of YE 2025 Financial Audit**

Auditor Horan presented the HDMS YE 2025 Financial Audit.

Member Arger motions to accept the YE 2025 Financial Audit report (see supporting documents), Member Ashbaugh seconds the motion, and it passes unanimously.

**5. Approval of Board Minutes from 8/27/2025**

Member Pillaro motions to approve the minutes from 8/27/25 (see supporting documents), Member Allen seconds the motion, and it passes unanimously.

**6. Approval of Board Minutes from 9/24/2025**

Member Arger motions to approve the minutes from 9/24/25 (see supporting documents), Member Pillaro abstains, Member Allen seconds the motion, and it passes unanimously.

**7. Acceptance of NAC386.400 and NAC386.350 Report (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Administrator Jordan presented the NAC386.350 and NAC386.400 reports.

Member Smith motions to accept the NAC386.350 Report (see supporting documents), Member Pillaro seconds the motion, and it passes unanimously.

Member Ashbaugh motions to accept the NAC386.400 Report (see supporting documents), Member Allen seconds the motion, and it passes unanimously.

**8. Amendment of Board Bylaws (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Administrator Perez presented the proposed amendment of the Board Bylaws as set forth in Article 5 Section 1A of the 10/29/25 DRAFT Board Bylaws (see supporting documents).

Member Arger motions to approve the amendment of the HDMS Board Bylaws as set forth in Article 5 Section 1A of the 10/29/25 DRAFT Board Bylaws (see supporting documents), Member Pillaro seconds the motion, and it passes unanimously.

**9. Approval of HDMS FY 2026 Revised Final Budget**

Administrator Haddock presented the HDMS FY 2026 Revised Final Budget, with addition of Fund 220 for AB398 funding.

Member Pillaro motions to approve the HDMS FY 2026 Revised Final Budget, with addition of Fund 220 for AB398 funding (see supporting documents), Member Allen seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

**10. PTO Liaison Report**

Member Ashbaugh presented the PTO Liaison Report.

**11. Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**12. Adjournment and Future Agenda Items**

Members discuss future agenda items. Member Allen motions to adjourn the meeting, Member Smith seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned.

**Principal Board Update, December 3, 2025**  
**High Desert Montessori Charter School**

**Submitted by Principal Eric Perez**

**Charter Renewal Update**

- The charter renewal application was submitted to WCSD on October 1, 2025. See board documents for the September HDMS board meeting.
- HDMS Leadership Staff met with Rochelle Proctor and the other 3 members of the charter renewal advisory committee on November 17th to answer clarifying question
  - The committee is recommending the WCSD board renew the HDMS charter for 3 years. This is mostly based on the school's elementary 1-star rating and changes in the laws regarding charter schools.
- HDMS Charter renewal will be up for WCSD Board approval at its December 9th meeting
  - HDMS Renewal will be a consent agenda item, which means it will most likely be approved without discussion but could be pulled for further questions by board members.

**Montessori Principles and Tenets**

- HDMS World Expo is on track to be a great event. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th, beginning at approximately 4:00. Please check the newsletter for exact times for student and class presentations.
- Professional Development
  - November and December has been focused on optimizing our school discipline practices to meet the needs of our students and staff while staying within our Montessori pedagogy and philosophy.
  - In February, we will be looking at how our school addresses mental health issues and faculty awareness through the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) Notice. Talk. Act. at School program.

**Academics/Student Success**

- HDMS is utilizing multiple data points to identify children at-risk academically through our MTSS process and in accordance with the read-by-3 law.
  - Students assigned additional help (intervention) as identified.
  - Bringing on a part time math interventionist to prepare students for SBAC testing in the spring
- HDMS Admin has instituted a monitoring process for identifying, monitoring, and intervening on chronic absenteeism.

**Parent Outreach and Engagement**

- The Northern Nevada Literacy Project continues its monthly literacy nights targeting primary aged students and their families to increase love of literacy.

- The elementary family dance was a great success as an upper elementary fundraiser.
- The middle school has begun its Read-a-Thon fundraiser with the goal of HDMS students reading 100,000 pages this month. They have already raised over 4000 to help fund creative expressions and other middle school activities.
- HDMS World Expo is Wednesday, December 17th.
- HDMS admin, with the help of our counselor, provided Thanksgiving meals to a number of HDMS families in need before the Thanksgiving break.

### **Principal/Executive Director News**

- As we approach the end of the calendar year, I would like to formally announce my retirement as Principal and Executive Director, effective June 30, 2026.
  - Please refer to Item 6b in the board meeting documents for my formal letter of retirement.

### **Next Steps**

- Complete all WCSD and Nevada DOE audits.
  - As of this report, we are finishing all remaining reports and expect to have all completed well before all WCSD deadlines.
- Begin the 2025-2026 state testing season, including staff refresher training, and begin the WIDA/Access (for English Language Learners) beginning in January.
- Complete our mid-year i-Ready academic diagnostic testing
- Aid the board and the HDMS Administrative Support Team in the transition process for the future administration of High Desert Montessori.
- Next HDMS Board Meeting:
  - Accept the formal letter of retirement from the Principal/Executive Director
  - Approve an application to be a part of the Nevada Deferred Retirement Program
  - Approve the 2026-2027 HDMS Calendar

December 1, 2025

Dear Board Members, Faculty, and Staff,

Following up on my informal conversations and emails to you in the past few weeks, I am writing to officially submit my intent to retire as Principal/Executive Director of High Desert Montessori School at the conclusion of this school year, effective July 1, 2026.

While most of you are already aware of my decision, putting this into writing brings a renewed sense of reflection. My thirty-year journey in public education—particularly my time here at HDMS as a parent since 2007, and subsequently as a teacher and administrator—has been the absolute privilege of my career.

As I shared previously, this decision is rooted in a need to prioritize my wife's and my health, as well as our family's well-being. It is time for me to focus on this next chapter of life. However, I want to reiterate that I am not leaving the HDMS family; I am simply changing my role within it. You will certainly still see me around, as I care too deeply for this community to disappear.

For the remainder of the school year, my energy will be dedicated to ensuring a strong finish and a seamless transition of leadership. My goal is to leave the school in the best possible position for the future, and I look forward to making sure we achieve that goal.

Thank you again for your understanding, your friendship, and your partnership over these many years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ES Perez', written in a cursive style.

Eric S. Perez, M.Ed-EDL  
Principal/Executive Director  
High Desert Montessori