



Annual Meeting - November 17, 2021

MMCI Board of Trustees

Mission

MMCI is a community-based nonprofit organization that develops, operates and sustains public charter schools in the accordance with the Montessori philosophy for the education and enrichment of students in Frederick County, Maryland.

Vision

MMCI envisions a future in which a Montessori education is available and accessible to all.

MMCI Annual Election

2021 Candidates

(*updated 11/18 to add floor nominations)

BOT

- ▶ MVMPCS Vice President
 - Ellie Landru
- ▶ CCMPCS Vice President
 - **Christopher Chandler*
- ▶ Treasurer
 - No Nomination
- ▶ MVMPCS Parent Trustees (3)
 - Nichole Dowlearn (2 Year Term)
 - **Elise Goodwin* (2 Year Term)
 - Sara Sambolin (1 Year Term)
- ▶ CCMPCS Parent Trustees (2)
 - Michael Beth Edwards (2 Year Term)
 - Jen Mayo (2 Year Term)
- ▶ Friend of Ed (2)
 - Kathleen Lutrell
 - No Nomination

MVM GC

- ▶ Parent Rep (2)
 - Brooke DeSantis
 - Rachel Schooley
- ▶ Friend of Ed
 - Cita King

CCM GC

- ▶ Parent Rep (4)
 - Jean Burgee (2 Year Term)
 - Lynn Dutrow (2 Year Term)
 - Josh Rathmell (2 year term)
 - Nicole Pierre (1 year term)
- ▶ Friend of Ed (3)
 - No Nomination

ONLINE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Online ballot: <https://vote.associationvoting.com/mmci/>

Login Instructions:

The email address that you registered with the MMCI lottery during enrollment is your login for our online voting system.

Your password is the Birth Date of your OLDEST ENROLLED STUDENT at an MMCI school (CCMPCS or MVMPCS.) Your Password must be entered in the format MM/DD/YYYY (include the slashes!)

In some cases, only one guardian registered in the lottery system. If the 2nd parent/guardian in your household does not receive this email with login instructions, they should visit the link above and select the help button in the top right corner. They will receive their login credentials once their email address has been verified with the front office. If you have any problems, email voting@mmcimind.org

What is MMCI?

We are all MMCI!

All members of both the MVM and CCM communities—parents, staff, founders whose children are not yet school age—are automatically members of Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc., (MMCI).



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WHY DOES MMCI MATTER?

- ▶ In order to form a charter school in Maryland, a nonprofit organization must be formed to administer and support it.
- ▶ MMCI supports its schools by handling the “business” side of running a school and ensuring that they are complying with the Charter Agreement made with the FCPS Board of Education.
- ▶ MMCI may provide a buffer between our schools and state/local educational agencies.
- ▶ MMCI can act to further the interests of its schools outside of the local school system.

HOW DO YOU FIT IN?

Active involvement of parents is at the heart of the charter school philosophy and is necessary for the successful operation of both schools.

- ▶ Much of the work of the GC and MMCI is carried out by parents and teachers working on a large number of committees.
- ▶ Parents, faculty and staff are urged to join a committee and help in the development and continuing operation of the school.
- ▶ In addition, parents are encouraged to attend teacher conferences, meetings of the MMCI corporation and social gatherings for the school community.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The BOT is the governing board of the non-profit and is responsible for both MVM and CCM.

- ▶ MMCI is responsible for legally binding contracts and services for the schools:
 - ▶ Is the leaseholder for the buildings, is responsible for the future facilities project
 - ▶ Holds the bank accounts and has budgetary oversight
 - ▶ Manages the lottery
- ▶ Coordinates with FCPS on any issues related to the charter agreement.

WHAT ELSE DOES MMCI DO?

In daily practice, the BOT...

- ▶ Writes, reviews and approves policies and procedures that affect our schools as well as the functioning of the board itself.
- ▶ Meets with and supports its school administrators and leaders on a regular basis.
- ▶ Reviews/approves key documents and decisions made by the Governing Councils.
- ▶ Communicates with the Board of Education on behalf of the organization and its schools.
- ▶ Actively creates, promotes, and runs fundraising activities.
- ▶ Receives and administers funds on behalf of the schools.
- ▶ Oversees contractors who run Before- and After-Care Program at both schools.
- ▶ Reviews/approves the use of school facilities by outside entities.
- ▶ Deals with banks and landlords for its schools. Assists with finding, constructing and repairing schools.

Board of Trustees

The board of Trustees is made up of:

- ▶ Executive Committee:
 - President (parent/guardian elected from either school)
 - (2) Vice President (parent/guardian elected from each school)
 - Secretary (parent/guardian elected from either school)
 - Treasurer (parent/guardian elected from either school)
 - Assistant Treasurer (parent/guardian elected from either school)
- ▶ (3) MVM Parent Trustees
- ▶ (3) CCM Parent Trustees
- ▶ (2) Friends of Education

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The GC is a subcommittee of the BOT and is the policy making body for the school.

Each school has its own Governing Council (GC). Each develops policies and procedures to direct the principal in implementing the charter of that school. GCs prepare an annual report for the FCPS BOE.

- ▶ MVM has 4 **parent** reps, 2 **Friends** of Education, 2 **staff** reps and the **principal** as its voting members. MVM's BOT Vice President has voting rights in the event of a tie vote. The GC may also select one or more student representatives to serve as non-voting members.
- ▶ CCM has 6 **parent** reps, 3 **Friends** of Education, 3 **staff** reps and the **principal** as its voting members. CCM's BOT Vice President has voting rights in the event of a tie vote.

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FACILITIES UPDATE

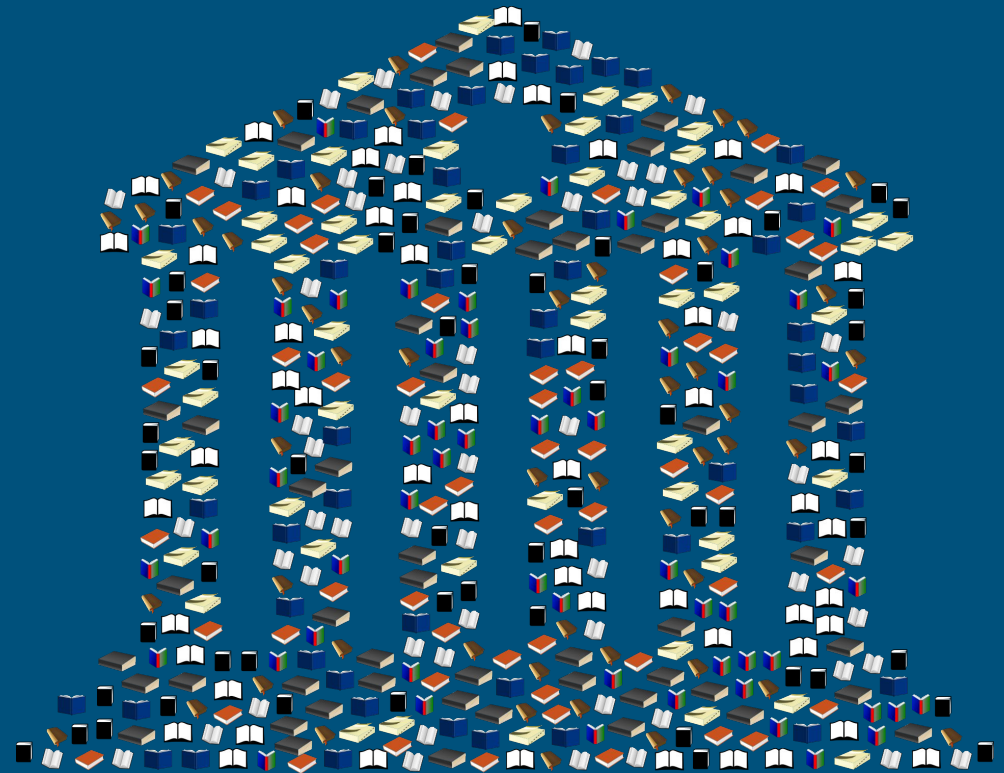
Being a charter school allows us the unique advantage of being able to choose our own facility. This is also one of a charter school's biggest challenges.

- ▶ Since 2012, MMCI has made unsuccessful offers on eleven properties and has actively explored scores of others.

FACILITIES FUNDING

Simply put, our schools operate with less—less funding, less technical support, and no support of our facilities from the local Board of Education.

The bottom line, and determining factor in where we will be, is budget. Finding an affordable project is our number one priority.



FACILITIES COMMITTEES

MMCI BOT Facilities Committee

RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Buys property for or holds leases for the schools
- ▶ Maintains insurance
- ▶ Works with real estate brokers, architects, construction firms to search for and develop properties
- ▶ Secures financing for any purchase
- ▶ Makes the final decision based on project feasibility and budget

CCM & MVM Facilities Committees

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ▶ Research options and make recommendations to MMCI Facilities Committee
 - Recommendations on current lease
 - Recommendations on future facility needs
 - Recommendation on shared vs. individual campus
- ▶ Ensure buildings remain up to code
- ▶ Monitor air quality testing, lead testing, repairs, etc.

RECENT SEARCH HISTORY

Summary : 2016-present

- ▶ More than 40 properties under active consideration in the last five years
- ▶ Individual school searches, combined school searches
- ▶ Individual school building projects, combined school building projects
- ▶ Purchase preferred, but lease options considered too
- ▶ Renewed interest in a combined project in 2019-2020 to better leverage the \$12 -14 million facilities cap
- ▶ Both schools remain open to individual projects if they are a good fit

WHAT ARE OUR LIMITATIONS?

- ▶ Lease rates continue to exceed budgets, and increase at faster rates than the unpredictable Per-Pupil Allotments that define budgets.
- ▶ Zoning restrictions limit access to County properties in the ORI, LI, and GC zones, which are the safest, most desirable, and most affordable.
- ▶ Lot acquisition and school construction costs far exceed school budgets (i.e. Butterfly Ridge Elementary school's cost of \$45,586,000 was more than three times the \$13-\$15,000,000 budget for both MMCI schools combined, for a roughly similar enrollment).
- ▶ MMCI is often competing for properties with developers and, more recently, biotech and medical research firms looking to relocate to Frederick County.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ▶ Join your school's Facilities committee (email facilities@carrollcreekmontessori.org or facilities@mvmmps.org to get involved!)
- ▶ Attend BOT and GC meetings, and questions to better understand the landscape
- ▶ Share property ideas with Facilities committee members
- ▶ Be involved in governance (regular meeting attendance is helpful even if you don't have an elected role)
- ▶ Stay informed by reading the minutes from meetings
- ▶ Donate to and/or fundraise for your school's Annual Fund to help us obtain a new home!

How Funding Works

- ▶ Each school receives a per pupil allocation (PPA) from FCPS
- ▶ The school's Governing Council is responsible for the development of the budget for PPA funds.
- ▶ MMCI is responsible for overseeing the budget process.
- ▶ FCPS handle 95% of the PPA funds. MMCI pays rent and insurance to providers. MMCI receives an administration fee from each school. Part of that fee is placed into savings accounts for future facility needs.

Funding mechanisms



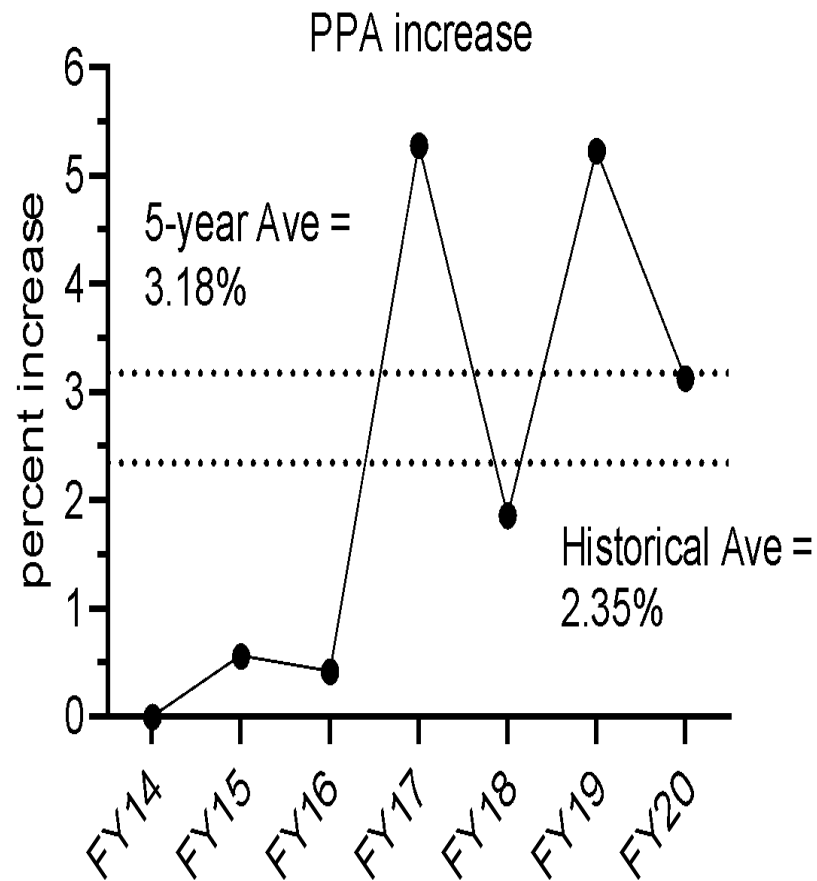
- MMCI receives the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) from FCPS
 - 270 students per school
 - MMCI increased the administrative fee to 2.0% from 1.75%
 - MMCI's Bookkeeper was increased to FT
 - MMCI is paying for each school's insurance
- Each school develops its own operating budget
 - Incorporates each school's unique needs
 - Aligns to each school's long-term strategic plan
 - MMCI oversight

Fiscal Report Summary



- FY21 Audit: no significant findings
 - Yearly review of income, expenses, assets, and documentation
 - Conducted by Deleon and Stang
- Most significant financial uncertainty: facilities
 - Budget/PPA cuts?
 - New buildings?
 - Co-campus with both schools?

FCPS PPA changes



- FY21: 2% increase
- FY22: 3.2% increase
 - Does not include additional COVID funds

Overall MMCI revenue sources



	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
FCPS PPA	\$5,012,999	\$5,425,790	\$5,596,414	\$5,691,394
Programs	\$25,362	\$21,205	\$17,842	\$0
Events	\$13,452	\$25,003	\$7,852	\$7,088
Contributions	\$11,778	\$7,659	\$14,826	\$33,605
Grants	\$94,800	\$93,437	\$200	\$0
Other	\$36,902	\$17,837	\$2,037	\$4,394

MMCI FY22 budget



	FY20	FY21	FY22*
Salary	\$25,550	\$47,795	\$47,750
Office and Technology	\$9,780	\$10,160	\$12,300.00
Insurance, Legal, and Accounting	\$25,674	\$40,600	\$70,700
Training (escrow)	\$10,275	\$0	\$0
Back to schools/mandatory savings	\$55,828.83	\$46,996.97	\$11,761.32**
Total	\$127,107.83	\$145,551.97	\$142,511

*estimated

**MMCI mandatory savings

FY22 school budgets



	CCM			MVM		
	FY22 expense	FY21 % PPA	FY22 % PPA	FY22 expense	FY21 % PPA	FY22 % PPA
admin/facility fund	\$ 141,674.36 [#]	1.75%	4.8%	\$ 592,603.00 [#]	11.72%	20.8%
salary/benefits	\$ 2,400,619.81	78.16%	81.6%	\$ 2,359,517.20	78.42%	82.8%
facilities	\$ 547,161.83	16.32%	18.6%	\$ 475,897.08	14.30%	16.7%
classroom support	\$ 35,602.00	3.77%	1.2%	\$ 64,032.00	3.25%	2.2%
total	\$ 3,125,058.00		106.3%	\$ 3,492,049.28		122.6%
PPA	\$ 2,940,327.00		100.0%	\$ 2,849,325.00		
MSDE/Reserve Funds	\$ 184,731.00		6.3%	\$ 642,724.00		

*FY21 surplus balances budget

[#]Additional funds to facilities savings

MVM HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Key Highlights:

- ▶ If approved by the Frederick County Board of Education (BOE), the high school program will open in the fall of 2022 with an initial class of 30 students each in 9th and 10th grades.
- ▶ All MVMPCS 8th grade students will have the option to matriculate to the high school program. After Sibling and Staff Priority, CCM students will be given priority for 35% of the remaining lottery seats.
- ▶ Learn more or get involved by emailing: charterexpansionteam@mvmpcs.org

MVM HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

NOW: Final application was delivered to fcps on 11/18, and is currently under review by Dr. Alban and staff.

12/8/21: Dr. Alban to deliver recommendation to BOE

1/12/21: BOE to vote on application

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT?

- ▶ Write letters of support to Dr. Alban and the BOE
- ▶ Attend the hearings on 12/8 and 1/12 to show your support
- ▶ Tell friends and family, especially those with 8th and 9th graders!
- ▶ Email the team for more information!

HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

BEST NEWS FOR LAST:

MVMPCS has been awarded a **\$900,000 grant** from the MSDE Charter School Program to open the High School Program!!!!

This is a major accomplishment and took months of work from a dedicated group of volunteers.