

Do you have a desire to support Willow Oak Montessori in furthering its mission?

As a public charter school we cannot function without a board and we need you!
We are excited to add strong planners and forward thinkers, folks who are interested in strategic planning, focusing on strong systems, where the school is going in the next 5 years, and how to make that happen. We would love to talk to you about joining.

Please email Elizabeth Bonitz at president@willowoakmontessori.org

FAQs

➤ What is the mission?

The board's mission is to support the work of William Oak Montessori Charter School, Willow Oak Montessori Children's House, and the Willow Oak Montessori Foundation.

➤ Who are the members? What do they represent?

Our board members have included parents of current and former Willow Oak students, plus non-WOM Montessori educators. We come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Our board members sit on three separate boards (Charter School, Children's House and the Willow Oak Foundation) and support the Willow Oak Montessori values of achievement gained through independent decision-making, peaceful interactions, nurturing self-confidence and positive global contributions, and supporting a culture of equity in our school and community.

Board membership is open to any interested party except employees of Willow Oak Montessori Charter or Willow Oak Montessori Children's House. Board members can include parents or grandparents of students, former or current teachers or administrators with experience or interest in the Montessori method, local community leaders, or other interested community members. Parents who sit on the Board of Directors do so not as a representative for their particular child(ren) but as dedicated volunteers who wish to see Willow Oak succeed and flourish for years to come.

Previous experience on a board is not required. The Board Development Committee will provide training for all new board and committee members.

➤ How are board members selected?

The Board Governance Committee looks for possible new board members throughout the year and begins talks with new board recruits in the early spring. Applications to join are accepted February - March, and a slate of board nominees is presented to the board at the May meeting. The slate of nominees is then voted on at the June meeting, and begin their governance duties on July 1st. A board orientation and training is typically scheduled in August.

➤ How is the board structured?

Members serve a three-year term on a governing board responsible for policy setting, financial oversight, school performance oversight, and setting and funding strategic growth plans of the Charter School, Children's House and Foundation. In addition, board members chair a standing committee (or actively serve on at least one committee), which presently include:

1. Educational Excellence Committee
2. Governance and Policy Committee
3. Strategic Thinking Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Development Committee
6. Executive Committee

➤ **What are the expectations of persons who join the board?**

Board members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the School's reputation and furthers the mission of the School and model the values of the school: individual growth, interdependence, peaceful cooperation, and respectful care. Board members commit to participate in orientation and training at the beginning of the school year; regular board meetings approximately 12 evenings per year; and standing committee meetings six to 12 times a year. Sometimes additional meetings could be warranted if an immediate need arises and are scheduled with input from members. Since March 2020, the board and committees have been using Zoom tele-conferencing for meetings.

➤ **After reading all this, I'm wondering if I can serve on just the committee level?**

Absolutely! The work of our board happens in our committees. New committee members are welcomed throughout the year and can serve annually with no term limits. Please have a look at [WOM's Board Committee descriptions](#) and take your pick! We would love to have you join in this important work.

➤ **Interested/Questions? Email president@willowoakmontessori.org (Elizabeth Bonitz)**