



February 17, 2026

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Topic: Montessori Children's House of Bay City - Board Meeting
[Route Bay City Story](#), [MLIVE](#), [Child Care Gaps](#), [WSGW](#), [Shared Drive](#)

Agenda & Minutes

- I. Attendance: Julie Bash, Pam Skutt, Rich VanTol, Emilia Gutierrez, Gary Gudmundsen, Christopher Sheridan, Marco Ramos
Absent: Tiffany Jaime
- II. Call to Order & Welcome
 - A. Approve Agenda
- III. Debrief from the meeting on 2/12/26 at United Way Bay County
 - Community partners, United Way, SBDC, Bay Area Community Foundation, MiHIA, City of Bay City, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Bay County class and Wenona Park, and Montessori regarding the downtown location
 - Results of MCH parent survey (Pam) - Review and discuss
 - [Proposed Board Resolution](#)
 - ECIC Innovation Fund/ECMI and possible expert review of the space
 - Other considerations, discussion and next steps
 - The MCH board has decided to pause the exploration of the United Way of Bay County site, and also pause its capital campaign for the New Hope Bay expansion
 - Chris and Pam will revise the pro forma to determine - with an expansion of GSRP and a new infant-toddler room - what we could manage in terms of a loan payment and also continue to explore a future addition and/or a new location (which would include bussing seniors to another campus for intergenerational activities)
- IV. MCH Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report (Chris Sheridan & Pam Skutt)
 - [CDC Payment schedule](#)
 - Balance of accounts is at \$46,000; [Finance report](#)
 - Revenues and expenses are balanced at this point in the year

- V. Director Report (Pam Skutt):
- Program opened on Monday, March 8, 2021
 - **March 8, 2026 will be our 5 year anniversary!**
 - Emilia was able to earmark \$1,800 from Thivent funds for the summer camp supplies **(thank you, Emilia!)**
 - Enrollment = Fully enrolled 20 a.m.; 14 p.m.
 - Sherill (Activities Director) at NHB meeting to plan intergenerational activities
 - PNC credit card used to purchase summer camp materials and used the Thivent funds to pay it and got PNC rewards
 - **Open house scheduled: Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
 - Staff will be touring the Traverse City Montessori program for staff development on March 6, 2026 and Pam is looking for an AirBNB for the night before, especially with our efforts to start an infant-toddler room. Total cost for hotel was \$232.10
 - Summer and fall enrollment is now open for current families and open to public at open house (already half full going into the open house)
- VI. Marketing update
- FB Follows = 939
 - TikTok videos get about 100 views each time (have
- VII. Fund Development Planning, Fundraising & Grants (Committee Chair: Emilia)
- a. [Draft grant application](#)
 - b. Decision needs to be made on Jen Idalski - [DRAFT Scope of Work](#)
 - c. Follow-up with Northern Initiatives and update to business plan

Adjourned:

Next Meeting – March 17, 2026, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Other notes

1. [Notes from meeting with Hampton Township on 8-5-25](#)
2. [Notes from meeting with GHC on 9-15-25](#)
3. [Notes from meeting with First Children's Finance](#)
4. [Shared MCH Board Folder](#)
5. Articles to share with funders
 - [Bridging the Child Care Gap](#)
 - [When Toddler and Seniors Spend Time Together](#)
 - [New Hope Bay page](#) and add the trade association article (Rumi)