



*The Community School of Excellence District # 4181
270 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul MN 55113*

***Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
August 20 , 2025, 4:30 p.m. – Board Room***

Mission

The Community School of Excellence develops global-minded leaders through high academic standards and real-life experiences.

Vision

Community School of Excellence is a catalyst for academic transformation.

Board of Directors' Purpose

To provide leadership, set policy, and develop accountability practices that will ensure high student achievement.

Name	8/20										
Terence G. Jones	P										
Christie Keefer	P										
TC Young	A										
Xeng Xiong	P										
Faith Thao	P										
Say Vang	P										

Agenda	Notes
Call to Order	Community School of Excellence Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mr. T. Jones, on August 20, 2025 at 4:30pm. Roll Call: 1. <u>Board Members</u> : Mr. Terence Jones, Ms. Say Vang, Ms. Christie Keefer, Ms. Faith Thao, Mr. Xeng Xiong 2. <u>Ex Officio Member</u> : Ms. Bao Vang, and Ms. Kazoua Kong-Thao 3. <u>Guests</u> : Ms. Julie Thao
Public Comments	None
Conflict of Interest Declaration	Roll Call: ● Ms. C. Keefer - Yes (CBA) ● Ms. S. Vang - No ● Ms. F. Thao- No ● Mr. X. Xiong- No ● Mr. T. Jones - No

Agenda Review for August 20, 2025 Board Meeting	The Board of Directors reviewed the Agenda for August 20, 2025. ● Board Chair, Mr. T.Jones, called for any additional comments or questions on the agenda. ● The June-July Financial Information was tabled to September due to the audit. ● Moving forward, all CSE policies will be presented 3 times. First time, for public comment, second time for reading, review and discussion and third time, for approval. ● Ms. C. Keefer motioned to accept the agenda with the suggested changes; Ms. S. Vang seconded the motion. ● All voted in favor.
Board Meeting Minutes review from June 18, 2025.	The Board of Directors reviewed the June 18, 2025 minutes. ● No comments or changes to the minutes ● Ms. C.Keefer moved to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. S. Vang seconded the motion. ● All voted in favor of accepting the June 18, 2025 Board minutes as presented.
June-July 2025 Financial and Supplemental Reports	TABLED
Union- Collective Bargaining Agreement(CBA) 2025-2027	Ms. B. Vang presented the CBA with the new changes to the Board of Directors. ● Ms. F. Thao motioned to approve the new CBA as presented; Ms. S.Vang seconded the motion. ● Roll Call: majority voted in favor of. ○ Ms. C. Keefer-Abstain ○ Ms. F.Thao-Aye ○ Ms. S.Vang- Aye ○ Mr. X. Xiong- Aye ○ Mr. T. Jones- Aye
Minnesota State League (MSHSL)	CSE has hired our first Athletics Director, Mr. Seth Ismil, to lead sports and extended learning which include after school and summer programs. This year, CSE will be joining the Minnesota State League and needs board approval. Ms. B Vang read the requirements and sought board approval. ● Ms. Keefer motioned to accept the MSHSL requirements; Ms. S. Vang seconded the motion. ● All voted in favor
Staff Contracts and Employment	New hires for 2025-2026 were brought to the board for review and approval. ● Ms. C. Keefer motioned to approve the new hires as presented; Ms. F. Thao seconded the motion. ● All voted in favor
Board Policies	The Board of Directors reviewed and discussed six policies. ● #715 Purchasing, Procurement, Contracting and acceptance of Gifts ● #205 Open Meetings and Closed Policy



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	● #208 Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies ● #526 Hazing Prohibition Policy ● #210 Conflicts of Interest Policy ● By Laws ○ 5G-Clarified language about removal of a director. ○ VI-Updated language to reflect and quorum must consist of the majority. ○ VIII 2C- Changed term of office shall hold from office for 10 years to 12 consecutive years. ○ XIV 3- Language updated ● Policies #715, 205, 208, 526 and 210 will move to the next meeting for final review and approval. ● Ms. C. Keefer motioned to approve and adopt the Bylaws on August 20, 2025 as corrected; Ms. S. Vang seconded the motion. ● All voted in favor
CEO/CAO Update	Ms. B Vang and Ms. Kazoua Kong-Thao updated the board on the following topics. ● Enrollment as of today is 1573. ● Construction update: punch list is still being worked on. ● CSE will be tabling at the Rice and Larpenteur Block party with the CSE Dancers. ● Hmong 50th Festival is taking place at the MN state capital on August 23, 2025. ● Hmong resource fair will be on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10AM-2PM. ● New pilot of workshop weeks. The first week will be dedicated to classroom set up and non-academic training. The second week will be dedicated to team building, new curriculum and other academic training. ● The first day of school for all students is September 2, 2025. ● MN Guild held a Summer Convening on July 29, 2025 to provide education and updates on statutory requirements and board training and development. ● Ms. B. Vang presented the total education contract financials to the Board of Directors.
Authorizer Update	None
Others	● Ms. F. Thao shared her resignation from the Board of Directors and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. We will miss her leadership on the board. ● Ms. C. Keefer agreed to continue to serve as secretary of the board of directors. ○ All voted in favor of accepting Ms. F. Thao's resignation and Ms. C. Keefer continued role as secretary of the board.
Adjourn	The Board Chair adjourned the August 20, 2025 board meeting at 6:15pm.

