

MLCS Board Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026



Board Members present

Will Sarkisian, Megan Lee, Jason Podesta, Kristie Laxague, Stephanie Niven

Others present

Stephanie Torok, Annie Stayer, Beth Duncan, Jessica Cole, Tanja Johnson, Josh & Jason from SIG Solar, Aleja Oliva, AnnaMarie Cover, Crystal Wolf, Kim Hartsell, Denise Peck

Will called the meeting to order at 4:32pm and Kristie opened with prayer.

Approval of minutes

December minutes: Will opened a motion to approve. Megan made the motion to approve, Kristie second the motion, all in favor and approved.

Public Comment

Aleja Oliva requested that the Board have more of a presence in the decision-making process for Jubilee. Specifically, regarding our pie baking policy for food safety.

Denise Peck would like to know how to put together a committee that focuses on outreach.

Reports

Administrator Report

Stephanie Torok reporting:

We are getting ready for Jubilee! Our staff had a great discussion at our last meeting, reflecting on last year's Jubilee. AnnaMarie and Aleja joined us for that meeting, and part of our discussion was what's the best way to safely handle all the food we serve at the Jubilee. Walt approved charging for deliveries and making it a DC Fundraiser. Our 3rd – 8th grade ski day is this Friday. We desperately need more snow! Balloon Grams are right around the corner; this will be a fundraiser going towards Hume Science Camp. We went over our 2026/27 school calendar at our staff meeting today. We will be matching Summerville High School aside from our start and end day. We are going to explore a new communication platform for parents and teachers; we would like to stop using GroupMe. Our FACTS training is going well, a lot of zoom meetings! We have a great team training us, they really know what they're doing. We are planning on March 25th to go live and open registration for the 2026/27 school year.

Preschool Report

Crystal Wolf reporting:

Our Christmas program was so sweet, it was a packed house! The academic reports for our Butterfly class were sent home. The next one will be in April. Crystal and Candace went to an I.C.E.S presentation, they are meeting and exceeding their requirements. There are some parents asking why multi child discounts aren't offered to preschool parents with children in K-8.

PTF Report

AnnaMarie Cover reporting:

During our meeting last week, we discussed Balloon Grams, our school cookbook, Grandparents' Day and Jubilee. There's a lot going on!



Financial Report

Jessica Cole reporting:

We have been using Bill.com for 11 months now, we receive 1.1% cash back for all purchases, and we have received \$1,300 in cash back! From our money market account, we have received \$1,822 back in interest. Thank you Board for pushing this months meeting one week. That really helped us to get the mid-year budget ready for closed session tonight. We have been busy with FACTS meetings so postponing it was very helpful.

Teacher Report

Tanja Johnson reporting:

She is so grateful that she gets to teach here. Thank you Board for the Christmas bonus! Cell phones are still a huge issue in middle school. They are causing disunity between the students and teachers. This issue is damaging the student/teacher relationship. Parents and students are undermining the rules. This problem is causing division.

Facilities and Projects

No Donnie, BB tournament tonight:

Our turf field is having problems and will be costly to fix. Donnie might have a donor to help with the cost. Our new outdoor PE equipment will be delivered on March 18th. To get our generator up and running, it will cost us \$1,000-\$2,000. There is no water damage in the girls downstairs bathroom.

Old Business

Board Member Search

Any recommendations or interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to any Board Member.

New Business

Student Support Team Policy

Will Sarkisian-

The Board has been discussing how Mother Lode Christian School can best support our students regarding IEP's and 504's. We want to develop something that supports our students, teachers, administration and families. We would like to put together a policy that we can implement, that puts the support in place and is manageable for everyone involved. Our hope is to get a group of people together who are passionate about this. If anybody is interested in being a part of the SST meetings, or has any good ideas, please email the Board. We can meet in person or via Zoom. The SST meetings are effective and beneficial for everyone. We have typically 4-5 of them a year.

SIG Solar Presentation

Jason Kerr provided a great presentation with information about our school potentially switching to solar. He passed out a packet with detailed graphs, projections and a summary of what this change would intel.

The meeting ended at 5:28pm.

Next meeting is February 10, 2026 at 4:30pm in the Chapel.

-Closed session