

# CCSA board meeting minutes

September 10, 2025

Attending: Andrew Shaud, Tim Eisele, Maria Bergstrom, Jon Ensminger, Meghan Bradley, ~~Leyre Alegre~~, Sean Lonnecker, Traci Yu, ~~Micah Erickson~~

Tim called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Minutes of the August 14 meeting were reviewed and approved.

## Executive Director Report

Our bank balance is at \$26,755 with registration payments coming in. This does not include almost \$26,000 in additional outstanding tuition for fall. We were able to collect all of the outstanding tuition for the spring term. Fall tuition does tend to be a bit higher because it includes the membership fee and some summer instrument rental charges.

Our outstanding balance to MTU has been updated with the Visual and Performing Arts department. 2025-26 payments due will total \$81,216.72. Andrew calculated an estimate of what we will owe the piano teacher for the year as well. We still owe \$28,855.72 to MTU from last year. We anticipate approximately \$6000 from the Keweenaw Foundation. The Michigan house version of the state budget strips all of the MACC funding. The senate has some funding for MACC in their budget, so the reconciliation process will tell us more. Until then we don't know how much MACC funding will be available for grants.

Greg Markkanen is our state representative, it would be helpful for people to reach out to him. Baraga county has a different representative, Karl Bohnak, and people could reach out there as well. However, Baraga county currently doesn't receive any funding from MACC.

Tim suggested we explore further how we might use our building to generate revenue.

Currently we have 63 students registered. For comparison, last year we started the year with 53. Recruiting by contacting the local schools and inviting people to the open house was very effective this year. Andrew could probably take another 1/2-2 hours of cello students. Brian may not have room for more students. The piano studio is also probably full. Andrew is forming cello groups and may end up with three different groups.

Music Together had an open house last Saturday, and we have a total of 11 families registered for two classes. There is a little room for a couple more families.

The yard sale made a profit of about \$600. Jen is also continuing to sell items on Facebook Marketplace. The open house worked out surprisingly well. A lot of people showed up and several have signed up for lessons.

Financial Aid: We have had three families request aid for this year. There is money set aside in the budget for this and we have had \$510 per term pledged for financial aid through people donating when they pay their tuition. Andrew tells families to please apply for financial aid with the Keweenaw Community Foundation as well—they have five \$500 scholarships available.

Andrew would like to create a financial aid agreement. For example, while we hope the money will be available for the spring semester, financial aid in the fall is not a guarantee for spring.

## Board discussion

For renting the building: what are some concrete steps we could take? Megan would be willing to start drafting key questions we need to answer. Maria can check on the Bethany Baptist building use agreement, Megan will ask Trinity Episcopal church. Gloria Dei is another example, Maria will check with them. Maria and Megan will come up with some suggestions for the next meeting. We should also think about who our target audiences might be as well as a schedule of when the building would be available for rent. We will also want to clarify what may or may not impact our non-profit status.

It would be good to find some resources to help us understand the tax implications and other legal issues for non-profit organizations.

Andrew would like a board member to send out an email to the Suzuki list encouraging people to write to their representatives. Megan drafted a letter that was shared with the board and will be sent out.

Yard Sale feedback: The yard sale might not be sustainable every year, but could be repeated every 2-3 years. We could work on publicity, possibly add some signs by the bridge. It also works well as an outreach opportunity.

Andrew is thinking about a 2-3 year rotation of fundraisers. Maria will try to put together a comparison of different fundraisers we've done in recent years.

What if we combined the online silent auction with our direct mail campaign? Offering people multiple options for contributing could be useful. There was a suggestion that sending it out in December would be good. There were some concerns about doubling up letters this year (April and also December), but we felt that if the MACC funding is reduced, that would be a good opportunity for another appeal and people would understand the reason for the ask.

Andrew would also like to have us send out an annual letter to CCSA families to explain our fundraising plan. This would be an opportunity to explain how our budget works and the necessity of funding from MACC for our survival.

Maria moved and Sean seconded that we adjourn the meeting—meeting adjourned by majority vote at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Bergstrom  
CCSA board secretary