This spring, parents and guardians of CMP students will have the chance to vote for 2 members of the CMP Governing Board. This memo explains the role of the Governing Board, duties of Board members, and election logistics. Parents and guardians are encouraged to run for the Board. The Governing Board currently consists of eight members. Because all Governing Board members are responsible to, and for, the CMP network as a whole, all CMP parents and guardians (network-wide) may vote for the parent representatives.

Role and Responsibilities of the CMP Governing Board
The California Montessori Project is a non-profit corporation which operates six charter schools in the Sacramento region. The Board governs the non-profit corporation; it does not directly oversee day-to-day operations of CMP schools. The Governing Board is legally responsible for (1) CMP’s compliance with applicable law, with the terms of CMP’s charters, and with the organization’s own mission; (2) CMP’s annual budget and fiscal solvency; (3) policies which apply to the organization as a whole and; (4) strategic planning for the network as a whole.

The Governing Board is also responsible for hiring the superintendent of CMP, who answers directly to the Board. Individual campuses are run by the principals under the supervision of the superintendent, and with the involvement of the local Campus Advisory Boards. The CMP Governing Board does not generally decide issues specific to individual campuses, and is not involved in hiring staff other than the superintendent. Parents who wish to be involved in matters directly related to their child’s campus are encouraged to join their Campus Advisory Board.

The CMP Governing Board may consist of the following members:
- up to four parent representatives, one from each charter (elected by CMP parents);
- one Community Representative (appointed by the Board);
- two Business Representative (appointed by the Board);
- one Montessori Representative (appointed by the Board);
- one Charter Representative (appointed by the Board);
- up to four District Representatives, one from each of CMP’s authorizing school districts (appointed by their respective districts; districts may choose if they will have a representative on the CMP Board).
Responsibilities of Governing Board Members
Under California law, each member of the Governing Board has a “fiduciary duty” to the California Montessori Project as a whole. This means each member has an obligation to act in the best interests of the non-profit corporation. The Governing Board is legally responsible for CMP’s actions.

Governing Board members are expected to attend the monthly meeting of the Board (usually the second Monday evening of the month), plus an annual day-long retreat. Governing Board members will be expected to serve on committees and fulfill other roles as directed by the Board.

Governing Board members generally serve three-year terms. Board members may run for re-election at the conclusion of their terms. The Bylaws provide for filling vacancies as needed due to resignations or changed status mid-term.

Elections Schedule
Elections for the position will begin in March 2020. Volunteer candidates will be given an application form and asked to write a brief statement explaining why they want to serve on the Governing Board and what skills or experience they bring. The deadline for all applications and candidacy statements is March 13, 2020.

Ballots and candidate statements will be distributed to all CMP families the week of March 23, 2020. Each parent or legal guardian may vote for the Parent Representative seat on the Governing Board, based on the candidate statements. Ballots may be returned to your campus in person or by mail on or before April 1, 2020. Elections results will hopefully be announced at the April Board Meeting and on our web site by April 22, 2022.

In Addition
In addition to the elected Parent Representative, we have two appointed positions open as well, Charter Representative and a Business Representative position.

Interested in Joining the Governing Board?
Joining the CMP Governing Board is a wonderful way to support your child’s education and serve your community. As a member of the Governing Board you will be directly involved in providing a high quality, tuition-free Montessori education to a diverse population of children. The Governing Board benefits from the wide variety of skills, experiences, and backgrounds of its members. If you would like more information, please speak to your child’s principal, to the Superintendent, Brett Barley at bbarley@cacmp.org, or to the Governing Board Secretary, Carrie Klagenberg at cklagenberg@cacmp.org or (916) 971-2432.