



**Urban Montessori**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

## **Board of Directors – Statement of Agreement**

**Our Mission:** The charter for the Urban Montessori Charter School, established in 2011, states that our mission “is to develop self-directed and engaged learners who are academically, socially, and emotionally prepared to succeed in any high school. Nurturing the innovators of tomorrow to creatively meet the challenges of today’s world with confidence, compassion and grace, Urban Montessori cultivates individual curiosities and strengths, while holding children to a high standard of excellence. At Urban Montessori, children deepen their understanding of what it means to live responsibly in a diverse urban community.”

**Board Member Pledge:** As a Board member of Urban Montessori Charter School seeking to realize this mission, I understand that, along with other Board members –

### **Charter Vision**

1. I am responsible for realizing UMCS’ charter, which explicitly states a commitment to Montessori education, a design thinking approach, arts integration, and equitable educational outcomes for all of our students. I understand that supporting this charter involves integrating the spirit of our values around Montessori education, design thinking, arts integration, and equity into our work at both the student and adult level.
2. I am responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of our instructional program, which orients around the key themes of our charter (Montessori, arts integration, and design thinking) and maintains a high bar of academic excellence.
3. I am responsible for supporting UMCS to become increasingly reflective of the overall student population of Oakland.

### **Sound and Inclusive Governance**

4. I am responsible for operating in alignment with the stated policy and implied spirit of the Ralph M. Brown Act through my actions, communication, and decisions. I am, similarly, responsible for holding our Board accountable to values of transparency and integrity in light of our positions of authority at UMCS.
5. I am responsible for working cohesively, across lines of difference, to create inclusive spaces that enable equity of voice and work towards consensus.
6. I am responsible for contributing to the long-term sustainability of UMCS by supporting the renewal of our charter.
7. I am responsible for respecting and supporting the decisions of the Board through my actions and communication.

### **Fiscal Solvency, Financial Health, and Personal Accountability**

8. I am responsible for contributing to the long-term sustainability of UMCS by supporting our fundraising target. I will commit to raising what is, for me, a meaningful financial contribution to our school *and/or* I will commit to putting forth meaningful efforts to our school-sponsored fundraising efforts.
9. I understand that UMCS is a publicly-funded institution and that it is illegal to leverage my Board role to my own financial benefit. I will reveal any conflicts of interest to the Board with immediacy, and will recuse myself from voting on any measure that pertains to the conflict.
10. I am aware of the requirement for Board members to submit Form 700 on an annual basis, which enables others in the school community and the public at large to inspect any potential conflicts of interest. I am responsible for completing this form in a timely manner.
11. I am responsible for the fiscal well-being of UMCS. Regardless of whether I have a formal role with the Finance Committee, I will help make sound financial decisions.

**Individual Board Member Duties**

12. I understand that other board members will trust one another to carry out the agreements above to the best of their ability. I am responsible for carrying out these agreements in good faith, knowing that if I become incapable of carrying them out, I am responsible for working with other Board members to determine a solution. I am aware that, if I am incapable of fulfilling my duties, I may be asked to resign.

13. I understand that joining the UMCS Board of Directors requires a significant personal time commitment. I am responsible for regularly attending Board meetings, both regular and special; maintaining participation in at least one Board or school-site committee; and corresponding with other members of the UMCS community in a timely manner.

**In turn, UMCS is responsible to me in a number of ways ...**

1. I will be furnished with regular school performance data, financial reports, fundraising updates, and an update from the Head of School (at Board meetings). This information will allow other Board members and myself to focus on the work of our Committees while keeping track of our school's overall progress to goal.
2. I have ready access to our Chairperson, Head of School, and staff if/when I have need to gain context on the programs, policies, progress, and goals of our school.
3. I can depend upon the Chairperson and other members of the Board to vouch for my participation as an active Board member.

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Board Member Signature

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Date

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Printed Name