

Montessori School of Louisville - A Non-Profit Organization
Meeting Summary

January 12th, 2009 - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes---Submitted by Simpfronia Taylor

In Attendance: Bob Buse, Tim Evans, James Gregory, Sue Perram and Lori Wendelin. Also in attendance: Nicki Bushway, Cynthia Gonzalez, Marcia Kidd, Simpfronia Taylor.

Absent: Robert Chastain, Neill Myers Caudill, Lisa Scheller

Sue opened meeting. James Gregory read the board vision statement:

We, the Montessori School of Louisville Board of Directors, believe Montessori education to be a progressive and evolving understanding of child development. In light of this belief, our policies shall be:

- o *guided by what is best for the child*
- o *fiscally responsible*
- o *environmentally conscious*
- o *leading toward national recognition*
- o *acknowledging responsibility for stewardship in the community*
- o *respectful of religious diversity*

Approval of Minutes: November 10th, 2008 and December 8th, 2008 meeting minutes and meeting summaries were approved.

Board Education: Nicki Bushway presented her research project. The following is a partial announcement about the project.

LOCAL EDUCATOR'S RESEARCH TO BE PRESENTED AT WORLD CONFERENCE IN JANUARY

OXFORD, Ohio - As part of Earth Expeditions from Miami University's Project Dragonfly and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Montessori School of Louisville educator Nicki Bushway has completed an extensive research project to be showcased at the Earth Expeditions World Community Conference at the Cincinnati Zoo on January 10th 2009. Bushway was a participant in Earth Expeditions, a global conservation program that recognizes outstanding educators regionally and throughout the country, providing educators with research and conservation experiences at the Cincinnati Zoo and at conservation hotspots around the world.

Nicki developed a topic in the "Plants & People" group using Aromatherapy. She examined the effect of different scents on student focus and learning. Results indicated no effect except when Nicki used the Peppermint or Lavender scents.

Accreditation: Claire Hughes Lynch presented an update on the accreditation process. Claire reviewed the Timeline, discussed accomplishments and presented ongoing items.

Grade level Process – Step I

- Mapping out Objectives
 - o Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary match mostly with KY Standards.
 - o Early Childhood standards do no match so the teachers are writing objectives from scratch.
- Clair noted that the teachers did an amazing amount of work.
- Matching materials to objectives and seeing what's on hand.

Mission & Vision

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Meeting Summary

- Mapping where students are.
 - Montessori is "Mastery" based and not "grade" based. MSL teachers will define what each objective looks like when a student has achieved one of the three levels (Presented, Practicing, Mastered).
 - There were gaps revealed during the process. In general, educational standards/curriculum begins with learning about the individual and moves to learning about the world. Montessori standards/curriculum begins with learning about the Cosmos and moves to learning about the individual.

Tracking Student Progress – Step II

The lessons developed (entered into MRX database system) are materials driven. This lets the audience know what the students are doing, but does not relate what skills the students are learning.

MRX is used for tracking how students are progressing. For example the handout (blue pages as compared to yellow pages) tracks student growth, goals, accomplishments and skill growth.

The MRX lessons reflection allow you to see resources, deficiencies and skills. You can assess how lessons are connecting data to learning.

January Timeline

Teachers will do a summary at the end of January. The "Gap" committee will be formed from representation of all stakeholders including Board members. This committee will be meeting every other week to discuss gaps.

SACS has three levels: Denied, Accredited or Provisional Accreditation (outlines specific deficiencies with period of time to correct/address)

Director's Report: Cynthia submitted December 2008 Director's Report, including updates in the areas of Enrollment/Admissions, Personnel, Materials, Finance, Accreditation, Curriculum, Assessment, Regulation, Technology, Marketing/PR, Development/Fundraising, PTO, OMOS relations, Building & Grounds, Strategic Planning, Professional Development, Outreach and Parent Education.

OMOS lease addendum for one year extension is being drafted by OMOS attorney and should be available within the week.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee Report: Lori Wendelin submitted financials and reviewed.

Strategic Planning: Sue Perram provided an update on the Strategic Planning document. The plan is to present to entire community at 2009 visioning event, date TBD.

Auction: Elicia Newcom-Gregory provided update on Butterfly Benefit planning. There will be a scavenger hunt with the Education director at the Ali Center on the night of the auction. This event will increase awareness of the Ali Center in the community. John Ramsey confirming as emcee. The event includes seated dinner, silent & live auction. Amman Imman's Ariane Kirtley will join us via web

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Meeting Summary

cast from Niger. Spoke with Mike Littell to get ideas on how to increase parent volunteerism and contacts. Hopefully he can give us some assistance.

Tickets for the Auction will be reduced to \$75.00, based on other events that are also the same night. Each board member is asked to sell 10 tickets (we have 35 tables of 10 people each available to sell).

New Business: None.

Old Business: Contract Enforcement – discussion of the MSL enrollment contract terms and legal ramifications for attempting to collect on unpaid tuition.

Sue closed meeting with reading.

Motion to Adjourn. Approved.

Meeting adjourned.

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