

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

August 9, 2009 – Board of Directors Meeting Minutes --- Submitted by James Gregory

In Attendance*: Sue Perram, James Gregory, Tim Evans, Robert Chastain, Lori Wendelin, Tim Evans, Cynthia Gonzalez, Diane Kilner, Vannah Betty-Armstrong.

Absent: Neill Myers Caudill, Robert Buse

Sue opened the meeting, the first in the new Champions Farm facility, by reading 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: Motion to approve July minutes was tabled.

Board Education: No board education was presented.

Director's Report: Cynthia reported that school enrollment had reached sixty (60) students, with thirty-two (32) of those students being new to the school. She felt that total number enrolled was influenced by the condition of the building, which was difficult to show to prospective families while under construction. All agreed that the completion of the facility and the stability that this would provide would be a great advantage in securing new students in the future. The Director further reported that the early childhood division, which has approximately 29 students, would be divided into two (2) separate classrooms, with teacher Katie Lee's class accommodating twenty (20) students (with an assistant) and teacher Linda Otto's room accommodating nine (9) students, most whom were her students last year.

Cynthia noted that SACS accreditation is still scheduled for April 19-20 of 2010. The Gap Committee is still meeting and working in concert with the Curriculum Committee to prepare for accreditation.

Building signage work is still in progress but should be ready in the next seven (7) to ten (10) days, depending on certificate approval. Also, the PTO is working on an annual grants calendar and preparing for the Harvest Festival, to be held at the school on October 17-18. The festival will focus on "green living". An updated handbook has also been prepared to distribute to the parents.

* Board Members indicated in bold.

Mission & Vision

We ignite the child's innate love of learning in a diverse and nurturing community by integrating authentic Montessori philosophy with contemporary research-based educational methods. We empower each individual to make knowledgeable, responsible, and peaceful contributions to the global community.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: James Gregory discussed recent meeting with Poe, which included Poe representatives Tiffany Nolot and Marc Barlow. Discussed a timeline for getting final certifications in order to begin school.

Finance: Lori Wendelin provided budget projections for the year. She discussed the group health plan now in place for staff members. Lori noted that she is working on obtaining a credit card for ease of purchase, trying to accomplish this without the need for a co-signor. Noted that some unforeseen expenses had adversely affected the budget, namely \$13,000.00 for the security system at the new facility and moving costs some \$3,500.00 over quoted amount. Per Lori, the budget is paired down, but increased fundraising and enrollment should make up deficiencies.

New Business: Sue Perram discussed exit interviews she conducted with non returning families. Stated that the feedback was mostly good and that most families left for reasons not related to school performance (i.e. money, distance from new facility). A possible “Fox in the Morning” connection for a remote from the school was discussed. Robb noted that it might be a good idea to connect with principals of public schools in order to make them aware of our presence in an effort for possible overflow recommendations. Tim suggested a possible open house expressly for school principals and pre-school owners.

Old Business: Contract enforcement was discussed and it was agreed to move forward with suit on pending matter. Sue continues to canvas for new board members, with an emphasis on finding a Montessorian.

Conclusion:

Sue closed the meeting with a quote from Maria Montessori from her book *The Absorbent Mind*.

Motion to adjourn. Approved.

Meeting adjourned.