

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

September 14, 2009 – Board of Directors Meeting Minutes --- Submitted by James Gregory

In Attendance: Sue Perram, Neill Myers Caudill, James Gregory, Lori Wendelin, Tim Evans, Robert Chastain, Cynthia Gonzalez, Marcia Kidd, Linda Otto, Melissa Ronayne.

Absent: Robert Buse

Sue opened the meeting, the first in the new Champions Farm conference room. Lori 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:

- *Guided by what is best for the child*
- *Fiscally responsible*
- *Environmentally conscious*
- *Leading toward national recognition*
- *Acknowledging responsibility for stewardship in the community*
- *Respectful of religious diversity*

Sue then introduced Melissa “Missy” Ronayne, a Montessorian of some thirty years who currently teaches at Kennedy Montessori. Missy was present to observe as a board applicant and potential board member.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve July minutes was tabled. Tim approved the August minutes, upon motion, with revisions to be made.

Board Education: Linda Otto gave a discussion regarding Maria Montessori and her background. The discussion covered parts of Dr. Montessori’s personal education, and also detailed the subsequent development of Montessori’s educational philosophy while teaching at the Orthophrenic School in Rome. Linda recommended the book The Child in the Family as a guide to furthering the education of children in the home.

Director’s Report: Cynthia provided the Director’s Report, noting that the current student population was 59 enrolled with three applications in hand for 2010-11. Per Cynthia, interest in the school remains high and tours are still being given to prospective families on a regular basis. The open house, scheduled for November 7th, was noted as a critical opportunity to present the school to the community.

Cynthia further discussed the efforts of the Accreditation Committee, which was preparing to reconvene with Barb Beauchamp as a possible chair. This led to a discussion of the merits of standardized testing for MSL students and when such testing should be introduced. Arguments for giving standardized tests to all students on a yearly basis were given, with the inverse arguments for alternate year testing also presented. It was decided to put these options before the teachers for their recommendations before taking any action.

Cynthia further announced that AT&T would be the MSL Internet provider until accommodations could be made with Insight. Wiring is still an issue with Insight, but it is believed that they are working to eventually provide service to the MSL.

Mission & Vision

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Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: James Gregory motioned that a new Gardening Sub Committee be established for the purpose of establishing a garden in the Outdoor Classroom behind the facility. The goal of the committee would be to work with students and staff to maintain a working garden, along with maintaining the grounds. The motion was carried by acclamation. James further stated that he had been made aware of the need for parenting cleaning crews to help maintain the school on a bi-weekly basis. He will begin organizing this effort.

Finance: Lori Wendelin projected a budget deficit for the 2009-10 school year along with several efforts being made to bridge this gap, including a line of credit and a loan, both with Stock Yards Bank. In addition, there remains several account receivables from which to collect. Lori then motioned for a raise in the registration fee to \$400.00. Rob seconded and the Motion carried. The new fee will still be applied directly to tuition upon enrollment. Lori also noted that spirit wear is now available and can be ordered online.

New Business: Sue Perram discussed the annual fund and the need for callers on the night of September 23rd at 6:30. All board members were encouraged to attend. Sue was also preparing to send an email regarding the need for board members to serve coffee at the Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser later in the month. Nametags for the board were discussed, at the cost of \$6.00 per member. It was agreed that these would make board members more visible and approachable if worn at school functions. A discussion of wayfinding signs for the building followed, in which Tim stated that he would check with his sign contact for quotes on window signs and directional signs for the facility.

Old Business: Sue gave an exit interview summary, in which it was learned that most withdrawals following the last school year were mainly due to the school's move, philosophical differences, or the wish to attend a local school. Per Sue, the opinion of those interviewed of the MSL remained high, and all were satisfied with the level of education their child had received.

James gave an overview on contract enforcement, stating that he was still working with the MSL attorney to settle one outstanding matter.

Sue discussed the board structure, and gave the recommendation that Past Presidents be considered for board positions in an *ex officio* capacity. The board took this as submitted for study. Melissa Ronayne applied for board membership at Sue's urging. Her application was to be submitted for individual review by the board and discussed at the next meeting.

Sue closed with a reading from Parent Talk.

Motion to adjourn. Approved.

Meeting adjourned.

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