

Montessori School of Louisville – A Non Profit Organization  
Meeting Summary

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**November 9, 2009** – Board of Directors Meeting Summary --- Submitted by James Gregory

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

**Absent:** Tim Evans, Robert Buse.

Sue opened the meeting. Neill 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*

**Board Education:** Marcia Kidd provided the Board Education with a discussion of handwriting development, specifically the metal insets devised by Maria Montessori to aid children in developing their handwriting skills. Marcia explained how Montessori believed in laying the foundation for specific skills (like handwriting) by using manipulative equipment like knobs and punches. Children also gain skill by tracing various geometric insets. Marcia demonstrated this procedure and also provided the Board with some examples of tracings done by the children, many very intricate in design and execution. Marcia also demonstrated the use of sandpaper letters, which help children to understand letter formation through tactile memory. These methods demonstrate “incremental learning”, which was a tenet stressed by Montessori.

**Approval of Minutes:** Lori motioned for the minutes to be approved from October; Robb seconded with the motion being approved. It was agreed that the lost minutes from July would be reconstructed from Sue’s notes and provided to the Board for approval in November.

**Director’s Report:** Cynthia reported that 39 families completed forms at the November 7 open house. The thirty nine (39) families represented eleven (11) toddlers, fifteen (15) early childhood, eight (8) lower elementary, three (3) upper elementary and two (2) middle school. The open house was a great success by all accounts. Some learnings from the event included that current students from every level are beneficial at such events, as they act as ambassadors to their rooms and can demonstrate room activities. Further, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to always have native Spanish speakers available from among the parents, if at all possible, as many decision makers from prospective families speak Spanish as their first language and are made more comfortable and their understanding expanded by conversing in their native language.

**Finance Committee:** Lori reported that the current budget is on track as projected. The annual fund has had its most successful year, with forty one (41) families and board members participating, with only \$125.00 left to attain the year's goal. Lori reported that the tax return would be due on November 15<sup>th</sup>, with Lori having prepared and Diane Kilner reviewing.

**Building & Grounds:** James reported that the first "deep clean" of the year took place on November 6 with great participation by the parents. The feasibility of hiring a professional cleaning crew on a weekly basis was to be brought by Lori before the Finance Committee and discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

**New Business:** Cynthia reported that per the recommendation of the Technology Committee, Rebecca Gentile would be transferring the school web hosting to Insight Communications. Robb is to aid with this transfer. Lori reported that her husband, Dr. Daniel Wendelin spoke to the PTO regarding a sun policy for the school. He stated that there is a grant available that would allow for installation of outdoor sun shades if such a policy were to be adopted. Sue motioned to create such a policy, Robb seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** James reported that he was still working with the school's attorneys to collect on the past due account referred to them. He hoped to see the matter settled by next meeting.

Sue closed with a reading from Whose Game Is It Anyway?

Motion to adjourn by Sue. Approved by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned.