



# First State Montessori Academy

## **Public Session Meeting Thursday, October 29, 2015**

**Present:** Zeke Allinson, Angela Angeny, Beth Carter, Gina Castelli, Jed Donohue, Courtney Fox, Yvonne Nass, Chris Graham, Kristen Chastain

**Absent:** Heather Townsend, Erin Carrol, Chanda Gilmore, Kyara Panula

Yvonne Nass called meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Yvonne motioned to approve the minutes from Thursday, September 25, 2015. Gina Castelli seconded the motion. Motion passed. No modifications needed.

### **Update on FSMA Sign**

This item was moved up on the agenda. Hunter Clarke-Fields gave an update on the FSMA sign. The sign has been delivered to the school. The installation will occur after we have secured an installer that is licensed by the City of Wilmington and a survey is completed for the plot of land. Hunter Clarke-Fields is working on drawing up the survey herself. She also mentioned that her father donated \$4,500 in labor for the sign. His belief in Montessori education encouraged his donation.

### **Committee Reports**

**Head of School:** Courtney highlighted a few points from her Head of School report.

- The Vocabulary Parade was a successful event for our school and the city of Wilmington. Courtney shared a video clip from WDEL's coverage of the parade.
- Camp Tockwogh was an exciting time for our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. It was the first camping trip for some of our students. Others were able to try archery, rock climbing, or ropes courses for the first time. Community was built and students are excited for this trip to be a continuing tradition.

**Finance:** Zeke Allinson met with Innovative Schools and reported a coding issue that occurred last school year. The 2014-2015 personnel sub-group was coded incorrectly in the system, so their pension wasn't deducted. This could cost up to \$58,000, but that money is there because we were anticipating it to come out anyway. We are continuing to monitor the situation while Innovative Schools works it out.. Zeke Allinson motioned to put web report on web site and Chris Graham seconded. Motion approved.

**Development:** Jed Donohue stated that the committee is focusing on starting the annual fund. Letters will be going out to community members next month. Jed Donohue reminded the FSMA board members of their obligation to contribute to the school financially.

**Academic Excellence:** No report was submitted.

**Governance:** No report was submitted.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Ad Hoc :** Angela Angeny and Courtney Fox gave a brief explanation of why the committee was formed and its purpose. Peter Slease spoke about the survey completed by current FSMA families. This survey asked families what they wanted from our school and what they felt like they were getting from FSMA. More than 120 families responded to the survey. Conversation ensued about the results of the survey. The results will be formerly presented at the December Board meeting. The committee will also be redefined based on information from the survey. Yvonne thanked Pete, Angela and all the parents for contributing to this process.

### **New Business**

**November/December Board Meeting:** Due to the holidays, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Beth Carter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Chris Graham seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted by Kristen Chastain, Teacher Representative