



# First State Montessori A c a d e m y

## **Public Session Meeting Monday, December 28, 2015**

**Present:** Zeke Allinson, Angela Angeny, Gina Castelli, Jed Donohue, Courtney Fox, Yvonne Nass, Chris Graham, Kristen Chastain, Erin Carrol, Beth Carter, Chanda Gilmore, Kyara Panula

**Absent:** Heather Townsend

Yvonne Nass called meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Yvonne Nass motioned to approve minutes with corrections from Thursday, December 3, 2015. Zeke Allinson requested verbiage changes under finance section and Courtney Fox requested verbiage change under Unfinished Business. Chanda Gilmore seconded. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance.** Zeke Allinson reported that the school continues to be on track. There are a couple of places where the budget is running higher and the committee will make note of that for future budget planning. Zeke will present a final 2015-16 budget for approval at the January 2016 public session. The finance committee is trying to narrow down on the carryover from last year to figure out what it is comprised of. It has yet to determine how much of the \$728,000 is sustainable. Zeke acknowledged the hard work of committee member DaWayne Sims, Courtney Fox, Will, and Karen Thorpe. Chris Graham motioned to put the finance report on the web. Gina Castelli seconded. Motioned passed.

**Exploring Expansion Committee.** Angela Angeny recapped meeting she, Courtney Fox, Yvonne Nass and Chanda Gilmore had with the Delaware Charter Schools Network Executive Director about what other charters have done regarding expansion and the pros and cons of such a venture. Courtney Fox stated that the finance committee met and talked through a possible expansion to make sure that it was financially smart and viable. She also met with the Department of Education representative and finance representative to walk them through the financial plans of a potential expansion. Enough money is in next year's budget to do all parts of expansion except for the additional rent, though fundraising and possible grants have not been factored in as well as the donations line item.

## **New Business**

***Review Charter Modification.*** Courtney Fox proposed a more aggressive growth plan to expand into an additional site and create a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2017-18 school year. Students will not be added at the upper grades, however will expand at the K/1 grade level from 4 to 6 classrooms, keeping the class size at 26 students. The current building maxs out at 12 classrooms so we have the ability to fill in at the lower grades. Angela Angeny noted that this allows a pipeline to be established to grow the curriculum at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. By doing this, the school to continue with the same integrity but adding in strategic way to create more of a lower and upper school. Courtney noted that the hardest part will be managing two sites and sustaining them both financially without adding at upper grades. Major modification request is due by Dec. 31, 2015. The modification would be for an enrollment growth over 15 percent, grade reconfiguration (adding 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), and a location change because we will be adding an additional site. Beth Carter asked for timeline and Courtney stated not sure what specific timeline would be. Discussion ensued around the feasibility of expansion. Jed Donohue motioned for a major modification of the charter. Gina Castelli seconded. No opposes. Motion passed.

***National School Choice Week.*** Yvonne Nass noted that this will be held the week of January 25 and that FSMA should plan an event. The Development Committee was charged with this task.

Motion made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Chanda Gilmore, Secretary