

Monocacy Montessori Communities, Incorporated (MMCI) Board of Trustees (BOT)

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 @ 7 p.m. | Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School

Members in attendance: Amy Duvall, Kathleen Lutrell, Jeff Koehler, Melissa Najera, Kevin Wilfong, Molly Spence, Deb Knox-Teitel, Libby Miller, Deb Korth, Matt Mills, Tara Dunsmore, Jen Kuhn; Ellie Landru, Carrie Jean Rathmell.

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. **Call to Order/Welcome** (Amy Duvall)
2. **Community Comments:** *Email/letters from community members read by Amy Duvall (see attachment)*
3. **Consent Agenda Items**
 - a) December 2018 meeting minutes (*E-vote passed 1/17/19*)

4. **Reports**

CCMPCS VP Report (*Liz Seal absent*)

MVMPCS VP Report / MVM Building Project Update (Kathleen Lutrell): *Our discussions with the IOOF (the owners) about the purchase of the Banner School property have been delayed due to the death of the head of the IOOF. IOOF has requested an additional two weeks to respond to our last offer to allow the election of another head of the organization. Although the Banner property is still the first choice, we feel it is important to consider other alternatives. We have forwarded a request to our current landlord for a one-year extension of our occupancy at Dill Avenue and we will be turning over any lease negotiations to the MMCI attorney. The landlord is interested in us buying 217 Dill Avenue and we have asked him to outline his ideas in writing. We are continuing to scan listings for any locations that may be suitable for our needs. We will pursue preliminary ideas and potential costs involved in the purchase of our current building.*

BOT Treasurer Report (Kevin Wilfong): *This year we got approximately \$90,000 from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) grant. With the MSDE grant going away, we need to fill that gap with other grants or other fundraising efforts in next year's budget. Collectively we must think about some big picture moneymakers.*

5. **Updates**

CCM update (Carrie Jean Rathmell / Marilyn Horan): *The CCM Annual Report was completed and sent to the BOT. The report will be presented to the FCPS Board of Education on Wednesday, February 27 at 6PM.*

MVM update (Ellie Landru / Nancy Radkiewicz): *Today was Nancy's first day back following medical leave. Ellie and Regina are working on the MVM Annual Report, it must include a charter amendment request for 5 additional students, as discussed. Both documents must be sent to BOT prior to submission to Mark Pritts.*

Safety Committee (Deb Korth): *none*

Fundraising Committee (Tara Dunsmore): *MVM has signed Race for Education application – goal is \$15,000. Middletown Elementary raised \$40,000 last year. Sent information to CCM, as it is not too late to sign up.*

Legislative Committee (Matt Mills): *Governor has proposed the Charter Facility Funding Bill. Many oppose it in Annapolis. \$1600 per student proposed. Many agree advocacy in the form of letter writing to our legislators, from our board, both governing councils, and staff and parents is needed.*

Grants Committee (Jeff Koehler): *none*

Lottery Committee (Melissa Najera): *Some community members brought up questions about the new lottery system and its requirement for re-registration from current parents/students. There was some discomfort about the level of data being collected. This and other issues will be discussed on Feb. 20, during a Lottery Committee meeting.*

6. Discussion/Action Items

- **Discussion:** *Follow-up on “Independent Toileting” issue at MVM*

Feedback from Ellie: When I attend meetings, the intention is to empower parents to advocate for themselves. I say to parents, have you talked to the teacher, then talk to Ms. Nancy, and then if you’re still having trouble, I can sit there with you and offer support. When I attend meetings, I am there to bear witness and offer support in their self-advocacy. I wanted to create a framework for communication during GC meetings on this topic.

Feedback from Nancy: Page 6 of Parent Handbook – there is a chart on how to solve a problem. First is to talk to teacher, then principal, then Governing Council, then BOT who will involve FCPS if needed. Been dealing with toilet-training issues for 3 years, took it over from assistant principal. As a principal, my job is to do something that makes sense and is sensitive to the needs of the student.

Amy – I know that the number one advocates for my child are the teachers and principals, I know they are there for me to communicate my concerns. The mission and vision of school leadership should be to encourage relationships amongst teachers/staff/principals and parents.

Ms. Estep – There should be a policy written that parent representatives on councils or boards should not become advocates for children who are not their own.

- **Discussion:** *Facilities funding legislation (assignment of duties to support): 2 volunteers from CCM are working on draft language for letters to send to the community that they can copy and paste in order to send acknowledgement of our support to our delegation. Amy will attend strategic planning meeting on Feb 11 to help figure out advocacy. Annapolis Lobby Night on Feb 19 – volunteers are needed to attend to show we are aware of issues.*
- **Discussion:** *Knowledge transfer and transition expectations for incoming BOT. All members of the BOT, regardless of whether they are new or returning, should sign 2019 Confidentiality Agreement to be sent via email and returned.*
- **Vote:** *Letter of Intent for CCM Facility (Kevin). **Motion** by Matt: To approve sending a letter of intent to CCM’s landlord regarding future use of the facility. Second: Amy. Vote: All in favor. **Motion passed.***
- **Discussion:** *Approval of money to pay lawyer for lease negotiation issues (Kathleen). Advice is to hold a vote on the GC level that would give Kathleen the OK to work with a lawyer during lease negotiations.*
- **Vote:** ***Motion** by Amy: Enter into closed session to discuss personnel issues. Second: Molly. Vote: All in favor. **Motion passed.***

7. **Announcements:**

1. Upcoming MMCI Business Meetings (held at 7PM the FINAL Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted):
 - *February 26 @ CCM
 - March 27 @MVM
 - April 24 @CCM
2. The MMCI Lottery will be held Tuesday, March 26.
3. Minutes and Agendas may be found online at <http://mmcimd.org/calendar/>