

In The Matter Of:
Department of Education

Sussex Montessori School
April 4, 2018

Wilcox & Fetzer, Ltd.
1330 King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
email: depos@wilfet.com, web: www.wilfet.com
phone: 302-655-0477, fax: 302-655-0497



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICE

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEW CHARTER
APPLICATION
SUSSEX MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Delaware Department of Education
Townsend Building
401 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Wednesday, April 4, 2018
5:10 p.m.

BEFORE: CATHERINE T. HICKEY, ESQ.,
Deputy Attorney General for the
State Board of Education

DONNA JOHNSON,
State Board of Education,
Executive Director

DENISE STOUFFER,
Lead Education Associate,
Charter School Office

WILCOX & FETZER
Registered Professional Reporters
1330 King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 655-0477
www.wilfet.com



WILCOX & FETZER LTD
Registered Professional Reporters
(302) 655-0477
www.wilfet.com

1 MS. STOUFFER: Good evening.

2 I declare the public hearing to
3 be open.

4 My name is Denise Stouffer, and
5 I'm the lead education associate. And I've
6 been appointed by the Secretary of
7 Education to conduct this public hearing.

8 At this time I ask the other
9 people with me to introduce themselves for
10 the record.

11 MS. HICKEY: Good evening.

12 My name is Catherine Hickey.
13 I'm a deputy attorney general with the
14 Delaware Department of Justice, and I am
15 here this evening as counsel to the hearing
16 officer.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening.

18 My name is Donna Johnson. I'm
19 executive director for the State Board of
20 Education.

21 MS. STOUFFER: The Sussex
22 Montessori School has filed an application
23 for a new charter. As required by law, the
24 matter was referred to the Charter School



1 Accountability Committee for investigation
2 and report. The joint public hearing is
3 being held by the Department of Education
4 and the State Board of Education to receive
5 public comments on the application.

6 I would like the record to
7 reflect that the notice of the time, date
8 and place of today's public hearing was
9 published in The News Journal and the
10 Delaware State News on January 23rd, 2018.
11 In addition, notice was published -- posted
12 at the Charter School Accountability
13 Committee's official place of business, on
14 the Delaware Department of Education's
15 official website and on the State Public
16 Meeting Calendar on the state's official
17 website on January 9th, 2018. Further,
18 this applicant was personally notified of
19 the time, date and place of today's public
20 hearing on March 26th, 2018.

21 A court reporter is present so
22 that a record of this hearing can be made.
23 It will be necessary for each speaker to
24 clearly identify his- or herself before



1 beginning to speak so that the court
2 reporter will be able to note who you are.
3 The record of this hearing will be provided
4 to the Secretary of Education and the
5 members of the State Board of Education,
6 together with any written or electronic
7 comments received during the course of the
8 new application process. To date, the
9 comments received can be found on the
10 charter school website section of the
11 Department of Education's official website.

12 We will proceed in the
13 following manner. First we will hear from
14 representatives of the applicant who wish
15 to comment on the new application. Then we
16 will take comments from anyone else who
17 desires to speak.

18 And we will begin with the
19 school.

20 MS. ZANKOWSKY: Thank you. So
21 I just have a short comment for you.

22 MS. STOUFFER: Your name.

23 MS. HICKEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

24 And I'm Linda Zankowsky, Z, as



1 in zebra, a-n-k-o-w-s-k-y. And I am the
2 board chair of Sussex Montessori School.

3 MS. HICKEY: Thank you.

4 MS. ZANKOWSKY: So Sussex
5 Montessori School is excited to have the
6 recommendation of the Charter School
7 Accountability Committee to move forward to
8 the State Board for, hopefully, their
9 approval on April 19th for us to move
10 forward with the charter application. We
11 appreciate the support of the community
12 members who are here tonight with us, as
13 well as the supporters who have helped us
14 get to this point. And we are eager to
15 begin the next stage of work to serve the
16 children and the families of Sussex County.

17 So thank you for the
18 opportunity to be here tonight.

19 MS. STOUFFER: Are there any
20 other representatives of the school who
21 wish to speak?

22 Hearing none, are there members
23 from the community that would like to
24 speak?



1 Anyone else?

2 MS. CZYZ: Hi. I'm Erika Czyz,
3 E-r-i-k-a, C, like Charlie, Z, like Zulu,
4 Y, like Yankee, Z, like Zulu.

5 And I'm sorry that I'm on my
6 computer. I'm also working, so -- but I
7 really wanted to be here, though.

8 So I am a resident of Seaford
9 and I am here to pledge my support for
10 Sussex Montessori. I think it's important
11 to have options. But, then, it being a
12 Montessori just makes it that much better.

13 I grew up in Seaford and I went
14 to Seaford schools. And, you know, I've
15 lived all over. And then we moved back
16 here. But it is kind of nerve-wracking.
17 We talked about moving all the time because
18 of the schools. But then I think about it.
19 Is that really going to improve our
20 community? I don't know. I don't think
21 so. So I think that the Montessori school
22 could also benefit our community but also
23 benefit the children and the parents. I
24 mean, really we need options down there.



1 So yeah. I just wanted to let you guys
2 know that.

3 MS. HICKEY: Thank you.

4 MS. CZYZ: Thank you.

5 MS. ROHLICH: My name is Alison
6 Rohlich, A-l-i-s-o-n, last name
7 R-o-h-l-i-c-h.

8 I am also a resident of
9 Seaford. I have a daughter who's a little
10 over two. So if the school is approved --
11 when the school opens -- she won't quite be
12 of age to start that first year. But
13 she'll be ready the second year. And I
14 just had to come up here and support the
15 school. I think it's really important. I
16 have to echo my friend who just spoke. Not
17 only do we need more opportunities, but I
18 just think it's great to have a Montessori
19 opportunity.

20 I did work at Wilmington
21 Montessori School when I was in college. I
22 would come back home. I worked during the
23 summer. I worked there until I found a
24 full-time job after I graduated college.



1 And I just really grew attached to the
2 method. And I just think it's great and so
3 different than what we have in traditional
4 schools.

5 I've been following Montessori
6 Works for a few years now. This whole
7 process -- I'm really excited that,
8 hopefully, it's starting to get close. And
9 I feel like I can guarantee that if it's
10 approved that the demand will be there. I
11 mean, I -- you know, all of my friends are
12 my age. We all have the young children.
13 And I can assure you that many people feel
14 the same way I do. And I just -- I think
15 it's necessary. And I just hope you'll
16 approve.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. STOUFFER: Thank you.

19 MS. HICKEY: Thank you.

20 MS. STOUFFER: Is there anyone
21 else who desires to speak?

22 Hearing none, I will like to
23 thank you for participating today. The
24 Secretary will consider your comments in



1 making her decision at the conclusion of
2 the new application process.

3 This hearing is closed.

4 (The hearing adjourned at
5 approximately 5:20 p.m. this same evening.)

6 - - - - -

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 STATE OF DELAWARE :
4 KENT COUNTY :

5
6 I, Robert Wayne Wilcox, Jr.,
7 Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
8 Public, do hereby certify that the
9 foregoing record, Pages 1 to 9 inclusive,
10 is a true and accurate transcript of my
11 stenographic notes taken on April 4, 2018,
12 in the above-captioned matter.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
14 set my hand and seal this 4th day of April,
15 2018, at Wilmington, Delaware.

16
17
18
19 _____
20 Robert Wayne Wilcox, Jr., RPR
21
22
23
24



A	<p>approximately (1) 9:5</p> <p>April (1) 5:9</p> <p>associate (1) 2:5</p> <p>assure (1) 8:13</p> <p>attached (1) 8:1</p> <p>attorney (1) 2:13</p>	<p>chair (1) 5:2</p> <p>Charlie (1) 6:3</p> <p>charter (6) 2:23,24 3:12 4:10 5:6,10</p> <p>children (3) 5:16 6:23 8:12</p> <p>clearly (1) 3:24</p> <p>close (1) 8:8</p> <p>closed (1) 9:3</p> <p>college (2) 7:21,24</p> <p>come (2) 7:14,22</p> <p>comment (2) 4:15,21</p> <p>comments (5) 3:5 4:7,9,16 8:24</p> <p>Committee (2) 3:1 5:7</p> <p>Committee's (1) 3:13</p> <p>community (4) 5:11,23 6:20,22</p> <p>computer (1) 6:6</p> <p>conclusion (1) 9:1</p> <p>conduct (1) 2:7</p> <p>consider (1) 8:24</p> <p>could (1) 6:22</p> <p>counsel (1)</p>	<p>2:15</p> <p>County (1) 5:16</p> <p>course (1) 4:7</p> <p>court (2) 3:21 4:1</p> <p>CZYZ (3) 6:2,2 7:4</p>
<p>able (1) 4:2</p> <p>Accountability (3) 3:1,12 5:7</p> <p>addition (1) 3:11</p> <p>adjourned (1) 9:4</p> <p>after (1) 7:24</p> <p>age (2) 7:12 8:12</p> <p>Alison (1) 7:5</p> <p>A-l-i-s-o-n (1) 7:6</p> <p>also (4) 6:6,22,22 7:8</p> <p>a-n-k-o-w-s-k-y (1) 5:1</p> <p>anyone (3) 4:16 6:1 8:20</p> <p>applicant (2) 3:18 4:14</p> <p>application (6) 2:22 3:5 4:8,15 5:10 9:2</p> <p>appointed (1) 2:6</p> <p>appreciate (1) 5:11</p> <p>approval (1) 5:9</p> <p>approve (1) 8:16</p> <p>approved (2) 7:10 8:10</p>	B	<p>back (2) 6:15 7:22</p> <p>before (1) 3:24</p> <p>begin (2) 4:18 5:15</p> <p>beginning (1) 4:1</p> <p>being (2) 3:3 6:11</p> <p>benefit (2) 6:22,23</p> <p>better (1) 6:12</p> <p>Board (5) 2:19 3:4 4:5 5:2,8</p> <p>business (1) 3:13</p>	D
	C	<p>Calendar (1) 3:16</p> <p>Catherine (1) 2:12</p>	<p>date (3) 3:7,19 4:8</p> <p>daughter (1) 7:9</p> <p>decision (1) 9:1</p> <p>declare (1) 2:2</p> <p>Delaware (3) 2:14 3:10,14</p> <p>demand (1) 8:10</p> <p>Denise (1) 2:4</p> <p>Department (4) 2:14 3:3,14 4:11</p> <p>deputy (1) 2:13</p> <p>desires (2) 4:17 8:21</p> <p>different (1) 8:3</p> <p>director (1) 2:19</p> <p>Donna (1) 2:18</p> <p>down (1) 6:24</p>

during (2) 4:7 7:22	First (2) 4:13 7:12	hearing (12) 2:2,7,15 3:2,8,20, 22 4:3 5:22 8:22 9:3,4	job (1) 7:24
E	following (2) 4:13 8:5	held (1) 3:3	JOHNSON (2) 2:17,18
each (1) 3:23	forward (2) 5:7,10	helped (1) 5:13	joint (1) 3:2
eager (1) 5:14	found (2) 4:9 7:23	herself (1) 3:24	Journal (1) 3:9
echo (1) 7:16	friend (1) 7:16	Hi (1) 6:2	Justice (1) 2:14
education (7) 2:5,7,20 3:3,4 4:4,5	friends (1) 8:11	HICKEY (6) 2:11,12 4:23 5:3 7:3 8:19	K
Education's (2) 3:14 4:11	full-time (1) 7:24	his- (1) 3:24	kind (1) 6:16
electronic (1) 4:6	Further (1) 3:17	home (1) 7:22	L
else (3) 4:16 6:1 8:21	G	hope (1) 8:15	last (1) 7:6
Erika (1) 6:2	general (1) 2:13	hopefully (2) 5:8 8:8	law (1) 2:23
E-r-i-k-a (1) 6:3	going (1) 6:19	I	lead (1) 2:5
evening (5) 2:1,11,15,17 9:5	Good (3) 2:1,11,17	identify (1) 3:24	Linda (1) 4:24
excited (2) 5:5 8:7	graduated (1) 7:24	important (2) 6:10 7:15	little (1) 7:9
executive (1) 2:19	great (2) 7:18 8:2	improve (1) 6:19	lived (1) 6:15
F	grew (2) 6:13 8:1	introduce (1) 2:9	M
families (1) 5:16	guarantee (1) 8:9	investigation (1) 3:1	made (1) 3:22
feel (2) 8:9,13	guys (1) 7:1	J	makes (1) 6:12
few (1) 8:6	H	January (2) 3:10,17	making (1) 9:1
filed (1) 2:22	hear (1) 4:13		manner (1)

4:13 many (1)	2:23 4:8,15 9:2 News (2)	6:23 participating (1)	6:7,19,24 7:15 8:1,7 receive (1)
8:13 March (1)	3:9,10 next (1)	8:23 people (2)	3:4 received (2)
3:20 matter (1)	5:15 none (2)	2:9 8:13 personally (1)	4:7,9 recommendation (1)
2:24 mean (2)	5:22 8:22 note (1)	3:18 place (3)	5:6 record (4)
6:24 8:11 Meeting (1)	4:2 notice (2)	3:8,13,19 pledge (1)	2:10 3:6,22 4:3 referred (1)
3:16 members (3)	3:7,11 notified (1)	6:9 pm (1)	2:24 reflect (1)
4:5 5:12,22 method (1)	3:18	9:5 point (1)	3:7 report (1)
8:2 Montessori (9)	O	5:14 posted (1)	3:2 reporter (2)
2:22 5:2,5 6:10,12, 21 7:18,21 8:5 more (1)	officer (1) 2:16	3:11 present (1)	3:21 4:2 representatives (2)
7:17 move (2)	official (4) 3:13,15,16 4:11	3:21 proceed (1)	4:14 5:20 required (1)
5:7,9 moved (1)	only (1) 7:17	4:12 process (3)	2:23 resident (2)
6:15 moving (1)	open (1) 2:3	4:8 8:7 9:2 provided (1)	6:8 7:8 ROHLICH (2)
6:17 much (1)	opens (1) 7:11	4:3 public (7)	7:5,6 R-o-h-l-i-c-h (1)
6:12	opportunities (1) 7:17	2:2,7 3:2,5,8,15,19 published (2)	7:7
N	opportunity (2) 5:18 7:19	3:9,11	S
name (6) 2:4,12,18 4:22 7:5,6	options (2) 6:11,24	Q	same (2) 8:14 9:5
necessary (2) 3:23 8:15	other (2) 2:8 5:20	quite (1) 7:11	School (14) 2:22,24 3:12 4:10, 19 5:2,5,6,20 6:21 7:10,11,15,21
need (2) 6:24 7:17	over (2) 6:15 7:10	R	schools (3) 6:14,18 8:4
nerve-wracking (1) 6:16	P	ready (1) 7:13	Seaford (4) 6:8,13,14 7:9
new (4)	parents (1)	really (6)	

<p>second (1) 7:13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p>6:7 7:1 way (1)</p>	<p>5:1 Zulu (2)</p>
<p>Secretary (3) 2:6 4:4 8:24</p>		<p>8:14 website (4)</p>	<p>6:3,4</p>
<p>section (1) 4:10</p>	<p>talked (1) 6:17</p>	<p>3:15,17 4:10,11 whole (1)</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>serve (1) 5:15</p>	<p>their (1) 5:8</p>	<p>8:6 who's (1)</p>	<p>19th (1) 5:9</p>
<p>short (1) 4:21</p>	<p>themselves (1) 2:9</p>	<p>7:9 Wilmington (1)</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>sorry (2) 4:23 6:5</p>	<p>there (6) 5:19,22 6:24 7:23 8:10,20</p>	<p>7:20 wish (2)</p>	<p>2018 (3) 3:10,17,20</p>
<p>speak (5) 4:1,17 5:21,24 8:21</p>	<p>think (8) 6:10,18,20,21 7:15, 18 8:2,14</p>	<p>4:14 5:21 work (2)</p>	<p>23rd (1) 3:10</p>
<p>speaker (1) 3:23</p>	<p>though (1) 6:7</p>	<p>5:15 7:20 worked (2)</p>	<p>26th (1) 3:20</p>
<p>spoke (1) 7:16</p>	<p>today (1) 8:23</p>	<p>7:22,23 working (1)</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>stage (1) 5:15</p>	<p>today's (2) 3:8,19</p>	<p>6:6 Works (1)</p>	<p>5:20 (1) 9:5</p>
<p>start (1) 7:12</p>	<p>together (1) 4:6</p>	<p>8:6 written (1)</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>starting (1) 8:8</p>	<p>tonight (2) 5:12,18</p>	<p>4:6</p>	<p>9th (1) 3:17</p>
<p>State (6) 2:19 3:4,10,15 4:5 5:8</p>	<p>traditional (1) 8:3</p>	<p>Y</p>	
<p>state's (1) 3:16</p>	<p>two (1) 7:10</p>	<p>Yankee (1) 6:4</p>	
<p>STOUFFER (7) 2:1,4,21 4:22 5:19 8:18,20</p>	<p>U</p>	<p>year (2) 7:12,13</p>	
<p>summer (1) 7:23</p>	<p>until (1) 7:23</p>	<p>years (1) 8:6</p>	
<p>support (3) 5:11 6:9 7:14</p>	<p>up (2) 6:13 7:14</p>	<p>young (1) 8:12</p>	
<p>supporters (1) 5:13</p>	<p>W</p>	<p>Z</p>	
<p>Sussex (5) 2:21 5:2,4,16 6:10</p>	<p>wanted (2)</p>	<p>ZANKOWSKY (3) 4:20,24 5:4</p>	
		<p>zebra (1)</p>	