

**Principal/Founding Group, School Leader, and School Leadership Team [14 Del. C. § 512(1)]
Background: of Leadership Team:**

Explain the circumstances and motivations that brought the Founding Group together to propose this school.

Motivated to expand Montessori learning in the public domain, Montessori Works applied to and received from the Longwood Foundation a two-year grant, with conditions on matching funds, to explore the creation of a Montessori school in western Sussex County. The Longwood Foundation expressed interest in providing greater accessibility and opportunity for educational choices in an area of the state which has experienced significant economic and social impacts. Western Sussex has a lower income population than the rest of the county, and is demographically more diverse. Achievement scores are demonstrably lower than in the rest of the county. Sussex County also has only one charter school, which is a high school. Montessori schools across the country (in South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio, Colorado, Arizona, Minnesota, Wisconsin, to name a few) have demonstrated success working with populations similar to those in western Sussex County. Initially, Montessori Works board members met with interested school district leaders in western Sussex County about their interest in a district-authorized charter. Upon determining that this was not a viable alternative, Montessori Works chose to apply for a state-authorized charter.