

## 1.7 Parent and Community Involvement

---

14 Del. C. §§ 512(1) and (6)

### Parent Involvement

**1. Describe the role of any parents/guardians and community members involved in developing the proposed school.**

Montessori Works, Incorporated (MW) recognizes that no school can develop or operate without the support of parents and community stakeholders who care about their child's education. During the process of applying for the charter, MW has met with dozens of interested stakeholders who have encouraged us to move forward. Many of these stakeholders are expected to take a role in the planning, renovation and opening of the school. Likewise, MW will be including parents and community leaders on its Operating Board.

**2. Describe the outreach that you have conducted to engage prospective parents/guardians in the area you are proposing to serve.**

Montessori Works had extensive communication with parents, business leaders and civic officials during the development of the application. We held parent events at the Seaford Library and Sussex Academy and gave presentations through the First State Community Action Agency. Our engagement will continue throughout the next 18 months as we execute our marketing plan. Among our activities (also described in Attachment 14:

- Met with business leaders to discuss the school, educate the leaders on its benefits and ask for financial and facilities support for the school.
- Met with the Georgetown Rotary Club to ask for support for the school;
- Met with First State Community Action Council to present information on the school;
- Held a parent information night at Sussex Academy;
- Marketed the school to all day cares and kindergartens in the Georgetown-Laurel-Seaford- Bridgeville corridor;
- Met with Sussex County civic leaders, including state legislators and county administrators;

Our marketing plans for the next 18 months will include:

- Continued marketing to day cares, preschools and kindergartens for potential parents;
- Continue our outreach to community and civic leaders to promote support and resources for the school;
- Engage community partners, such as the Boys and Girls Club, to participate in community meetings;
- Quarterly prospective parent and community engagement meetings;
- Billboards advertising the school;
- Social media marketing;

- Direct mail advertising, particularly during the choice period in 2017;
- Engage our parent representatives in tours of the school and its programs to prospective families;
- Engage parents in the preparation for the opening of the school.

Our marketing plans for the next 18 months is included in **Attachment 15 – Start Up Plans**

**3. In Attachment 13, provide evidence of support,....**

Please see the attached letters and petitions for support.

**4. Describe how you will engage parents/guardians in the life of the school, in addition to any proposed governance roles described above....**

SMS will be focused on the whole child and that includes working with parents and the community in providing students with experiences both inside and outside the classroom. We encourage parents to engage with students in much the same way teachers engage with students, guiding them through real-life experiences which build confidence, knowledge, critical decision making skills. In addition, the community plays a part in building a student's confidence, experience and knowledge in playing a role in society and preparing them to be good citizens.

Parents and community members are encouraged to volunteer to support the school through mentoring, supporting extracurricular activity, providing facility support and clean-up, hosting new families and working with the students in outside activities. For instance, parents will be enrolled to perform an annual cleanup of the building grounds and classrooms at the close of the school year. Other types of parent involvement includes:

- Parents and volunteers will form volunteer committees to plan, setup and attend functions for student support, activities and fundraising.
- A parent-teacher organization will be formed to provide a forum for dialogue on matters pertaining to the culture and organization of the school.
- As required by law, a Citizens Budget Oversight Board will be formed for community members to gain insight and input into the financial management of the school and preparation of budgets to ensure the financial soundness of the school and preserve the academic integrity of the programs.