

December 29, 2016

**Secretary of Education**

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The Honorable Steven H. Godowsky, Ed. D.  
Secretary of Education  
Delaware Department of Education  
The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Secretary Godowsky,

Please allow this letter to serve as an endorsement for the establishment of the Sussex Montessori School which proposes to be a Montessori based educational facility supported by Montessori Works, Inc. in western Sussex County. You may be aware that a need for a more diverse set of educational opportunities exists for the residents in western Sussex County. I understand the aim of the Sussex Montessori School is to engage this community with an emphasis on providing K-6 Montessori education with emphasis to its underserved populations. The best interest of the community will be served if their goal is achieved.


Whether through a partnership with local school districts or as a standalone institution the addition of this proven method of instruction will have manifold benefits to the community including:

- **Improved Safety and Quality of Life** – The school will dramatically reduce transportation times and exposures compared to similar institutions in remote areas of the region. Reduced commute times will offer the student and his/her parents more opportunities for community involvement and activities inside and outside of school.
- **Positive Outcome** – History bears that students exiting Montessori into the middle and secondary school systems are fully prepared to enter any academic or technically based track at their local public district or school of choice. This enables the secondary schools to better tailor their curricula to the student and to the needs of community.
- **Community and Economic Development** – Educational options, especially at the elementary level, are a strong determiner of the location a family may choose to live, work, pray, and play. A community with a diverse and vibrant local education system also competes favorably when attempting to attract and retain business and industry.

This is not a speculative, nor is it a pioneering proposition. Montessori schools have an impressive record of success in serving the educational needs of other communities in Kent and New Castle Counties. Montessori Works, Inc. has clearly identified a need within this community, and it seeks to serve here. It is my firm belief that the addition of the Sussex Montessori School in western Sussex County will underpin and augment this emerging community.

Thank you for your consideration. If there is anything I can do to further assist you in a favorable determination I am at your disposal. Feel free to contact me via email, [dhenderson@seafordde.com](mailto:dhenderson@seafordde.com)

With Kindest Regards,



Dan H Henderson  
Councilman and Vice Mayor  
City of Seaford