

## HCMSCCA Meeting Minutes 10-21-2020

### Participants

Randi Albertson	Joan Johnson
Amy Schroeder (Mt. Hebron)	Meredith Zuckerman (Temple Isiah)
Jo Smetak (Running Brook Nursery)	Marci Cissell (Bet Yeladim)
Tracy Broccolini (Head Start)	Debbie Manneville (Bet Yeladim)
Maria Kirby (Columbia Academy)	Dana Shourbaji (ABC Little Lighthouse)
Jennifer Parrott (Cradlerock CC)	Sarwat Saleem (Greater Montessori)
Kim Wissman (Glenelg United Methodist Church Preschool)	Heather Andrews (Goddard Ellicott City)
Kayleigh Dalius (Goddard Ellicott City)	Jen Fieni (Mt. Zion)
Sahar Khan (Kiddie Garden)	Jenny James (First Lutheran)
Jodi Fishman (Bet Yeladim)	Michelle Watson (Greater Montessori)
Barbara Law (Trinity Preschool)	

### Updates from MSCCA Board Meeting

- Not a lot of updates from MSDE. Jen Nizer conducts Listening Sessions where she answers questions and gives updates.
- Communication with MSDE – updating with Training Regulations; still waiting on updates on Credential and Accreditation with current status being maintained; Accreditation – Program Improvement Visits are optional, being conducted virtually by QAS not validators.
- Conference by the Sea – It went very well with a few technical problems. Feedback was positive. Over 500 attendees. Have already started planning next conference for Spring 2021 (weekend of 4/29/21). Will be a blended conference – in person and virtual. Prerecorded sessions that could be watched later was a plus.
- No Leadership Symposium this fall. Hopefully, we will have one next year.
- Peter Franchot (Maryland Comptroller) was instrumental with processing the EPCC payments for essential workers. Speculation he is going to run for Governor. Has invited Chris P and MSCCA Board to have conversations about the needs of the child care community and the challenges we face. This is new as we are usually trying to advocate with politicians. He has invited the MSCCA Board to participate in a Roundtable Discussion on these topics. There will be some invitations to Owner/Directors of child care centers to participate. He is looking for feedback from a range of programs. Randi would like to get feedback from our chapter members. She will create a survey for you to complete with your concerns and needs that she can use at the Roundtable. What do you think Annapolis needs to know when it comes to child care? You can

consider COVID but also keep in mind financial concerns, curriculum, assessments, training, unfunded mandates from MSDE, etc. She will bring our voices to the table and it will be useful in January during the Legislative Session. What does it mean for child care be considered as Essential Personnel? Need to increase knowledge of the importance and value of early childhood education.

- Jo – Are they still talking about Universal PreK? Not currently. Focus is on virtual learning.

#### Ratio Updates

- MSDE has increased classroom capacity/ratios to Pre-COVID Levels
- With increased capacity it is difficult to follow CDC Guidelines for social distancing, handwashing and disinfecting.
- Some programs are opting not to increase due to safety concerns, but this is a financial hardship.
- 14:1 ratio (15 max) can be maintained until November 30, 2020.

#### Conversation with HCPSS – Amy Raymond (Early Childhood Coordinator)

- We are lucky to have a great relationship with Early Childhood Office. Our relationship is cordial, open communication, collaborative compared to other counties.
- When are RECC programs going back to in-person learning? Some RECC programs are accepting children to attend school in the building however instruction is still virtual. No in-person instruction in the classroom. There is an adult who is supervising the children in the classroom while they are attending virtual instruction.
- When will HCPSS transition back to in-person learning? Board Meeting on 10/22 at 4 pm to discuss. HCPSS has submitted their plan for hybrid learning for the Board to consider. Parents and staff are being surveyed. Teachers are not willing to go back in-person.
- Amy will be joining us at our December meeting. Randi will send out a google form for questions you would like to ask her.
- Where are we in terms of developmental expectations and curriculum? What does that look like now with virtual learning? In terms of readiness? Meeting the needs of children? HCPSS has to prioritize what their focus is with virtual learning and assessment. Hard to observe children virtually. HCPSS is going back to the Common Language Standards which was in place before ELA/KRA. Randi will send these standards to everyone. This is a good starting point for your teachers to focus on with curriculum and assessment.
- What is transition going to look like next Spring? This will be discussed soon.
- Tuesday Tidbits – COMAR Regulations are under review and open for public comments. Will share this information. Three sections – School Attendance, Age of Entrance and Assessments. They are all in draft format with no indications of what was updated. Not sure what is being changed. One thing to consider – Age of entry and the waiver system is different in each school district. No state guidelines. Also, if a family is asking for an alternate placement, how do you know that this placement is providing the proper instruction?

### MSCCA Membership

- We will skip dues for the chapter this year. I will need contributions in the Spring for the conference basket since we won't have dues to supplement.
- Encourage all programs to join MSCCA. Membership is January – December. Membership renewals will go out in December. Dues are used for advocacy throughout the state. Dues are not increasing for 2021. However, it will include an additional amount to support the hiring of the lobbyist.