

**COASTAL EMPIRE MONTESSORI COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
(CEMCO)**

**GENERAL SESSION**

**18 September 2008**

**Members Present:**

**Dr. David Lerch – Board President**

**Ms Anne Monaghan - Board Vice President**

**Mr. George Bowen – Secretary/Treasurer**

**Mr. Tom Kohler**

**Mr. Sanford Jones**

**Mr. Michael Graham – Board Attorney**

**Ms Tricia Moseley – Head of School**

**1. Call to Order**

General Session called to order by Board President Dr. Lerch at 3:02 PM

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda amended to include 4.05a – Tuition for Pre-K students and  
4.05b – Head of School report.

Motion to approved amended agenda made by Ms. Anne Monaghan  
and seconded by Mr. Sanford Jones. Approved Unanimously

**3. ROUTINE MATTERS AND REPORTS: None.**

**4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS.**

**4.01. Comments by the Public.** Several parents spoke to their concerns about late buses. They also voiced concerns about the lack of hot meals..

**4.02. Montessori Training Report** - Mr. Sanford Jones updated board on teacher training. He stated that all teachers had attended all scheduled training classes. Based on his discussions with SCCPS administrators he believes each teacher will receive 10 PLUs or more for the training. Mr. Jones also requested the board consider some form of stipend for teacher assistants for the 10 hours of training he has scheduled for them. Board authorized him to inform teaching assistants that some form of stipend would be paid them at a rate yet to be determined.

**4.03. Problem with Bus Scheduling.** Buses 206, 17, 260 and 104 are either frequently late or fail to show. This data has been relayed to Ms Brady (Dist 6 Board Member) for assistance in resolving the problems. Although there is speculation that CEMCS is the location experiencing problems, the fact is that other schools are having similar busing issues. Based on discussions it was agreed that CEMCS would establish September 29 as the date for resolution of bus problems. After this date a concerted effort will be made to engage parents to assist us in getting the attention of SCCPS to resolve the issues.

**4.04. Problems with Lunch Program** – Lunches provided to CEMCO students are wholly inadequate. Cold lunches have been the usual fare since the opening of school. Despite effort to resolve this problem students are still receiving cold lunches. The Food Services Director visited the school, but has not given any indication as to when hot lunches will be provided. Head of school will continue to work this issue and will advise the Board if further action or assistance is needed.

**4.05. Other Problems Related to Opening of School** - Dr. Lerch discussed the need for security lighting to illuminate the site for those individuals working late. He also pointed out the need for a perimeter

fence around the buildings to isolate them from the retention ponds. He further suggested that we fence off a playground area. A donation of the fence section could be solicited from one of the home improvement stores could be pursued. We could also pursue donation of playground equipment on the same basis. Volunteer parents could assist with installation of the fence.

**4.05a. Tuition for Pre-K Student** – With some 15 kindergarten vacancies available because of withdrawal of students because of busing issues, the board discussed the possibility of taking on pre-k students on a tuition basis. The state authorized a total of 40 pre-k slots for CEMCS. All slots are filled and we still have a waiting list. After some discussion it was decided that accept 15 pre-k students on a tuition basis for \$100.00 per week or we would take up to 10 3 year old pre-k for half days for the same fee. This fee would be for this year only. Accepted students would move into the no fee category the next school year. On a motion by Dr. Lerch and seconded by Sanford Jones, the board approved this concept unanimously.

**4.05b. Head of School Report** – Ms Moseley discussed concerns about carpool parents walking between buses during pickup of students. She indicated a need to define carpool pickup points and bus parking areas. She also shared information of a parent who is working with CSX to have trains slow down while passing the school. She also told the board of a parent who has stepped up to assisting with maintaining our lawns until we procure a mower for our custodian. Ms Moseley was not certain if this was a gratis offer. Board ask her to pursue the offer and report back at the next board meeting. Ms Moseley also requested the Board authorize her to hire a Ms Amy Thomas to replace a recent teacher who resigned. On a motion by Ms Anne Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Tom Kohler the Board unanimously approved Ms Moseley hiring Ms Amy Thomas as a teacher at a salary of \$32,900.00

**4.06. Completion of Site** – Dr. Lerch reported that our contractor (ANGUS) would be returning to fill in the areas under the portable to slope the ground underneath to drain away from the site. The contractor will also be removing trash from the site. There will be no charge for this work. Dr. Lerch also indicated that he has an individual who will plant the trees required to fulfill our agreement with the county. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$2500,00.

**4.07. Date of Ribbon Cutting** - Ribbon cutting will be at 2:00PM on a date to be determined in October. A list of invitees will be prepared and a special recognition will be made for the contractor who saved the live oaks adjacent to our retention ponds

**4.08. CEMCO Parent Board Membership** - Ms. Moseley will take the lead in organizing the PTO for CEMCS. She will seek our volunteers who wish to serve on the CEMCO Board of Directors and submit those names to the Board for review and final selection of Parent Board Members.

**4.09. Planning Committee for Permanent Site** – Dr. Lerch discussed future need for facilities on the campus. There will be a need for additional classroom space. One possible solution is to place a cluster of six to eight classrooms on the campus. Dr. Lerch also advised that he has submitted for a facilities grant to assist to cover the cost of some of the campus development cost. The facilities grant is just one option being pursued. Tapping into the SCCPS E-SPLOST funding initiative is an option that can be explored. Ultimately we have to work on plan to build permanent facility to house upward of 450 students.

**4.10. Parent Teacher Organization Formulation** – Ms. Moseley has meetings scheduled to speak with parents about participating in the PTO. Her initial meeting is at 4:00PM on the September 22<sup>nd</sup> and a

follow-on second meeting is planned for 6:00PM on the September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **5. FINANCE**

**5.01. First Chatham Loan Balance** – Meeting will be scheduled to discuss financial issues in the near future.

**5.01a.** CEMCO has met with some success in recouping fees charged by the County for various plan reviews. To date some \$4,000.00 has been refunded. Plans are to address the County Commission to seek refund of the remaining \$13,000.00.

**5.02. CEMCO Financial Status** – Currently overspent on site development cost and operational funds are barely sufficient to cover daily expenses.

General Session adjourned at 4:45PM.

**COASTAL EMPIRE MONTESSORI COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
(CEMCO)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**18 September 2008**

**Members Present:**

**Dr. David Lerch – Board President**

**Ms Anne Monaghan - Board Vice President**

**Mr. George Bowen – Secretary/Treasurer**

**Mr. Tom Kohler**

**Mr. Sanford Jones**

**Mr. Michael Graham – Board Attorney**

**Executive Session** - Commenced at 4:46 PM. (Motion by Ms Anne Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Tom Kohler)

**Legal Matters** – Board requested Mr. Graham write a letter to Ms Harriet Speer to seek repayment of \$250.00. This action is being taken in accordance with pre-training agreements which stipulate that trainees would be subject to repayment of training cost should they fail to remain employed at CEMCO for a period of three years.

**STAFF CONTRACTS:** Mr. Graham is working to develop an employment contract for the Head of School. He will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

**School Data Support:** Contract for Data Service was received from Washington Square Works (WSW) offering to manage systems and networks for CEMCS. The CEO of WSW is Mr. Todd Lerch who has extensive experience working with school systems in Texas and Louisiana in providing random student selection software. This knowledge, couple with his network management skills and his knowledge of CEMCS make him a viable candidate to provide service to CEMCO. Mr. Bowen has been tasked to evaluate WSW submittal and report back to the Board on the merits of engaging WSW to manage CEMCS data network. If his findings confirm that WSW submittal is fair and reasonable, he may authorized Ms Moseley to enter into a contract for data services support from WSW. Dr. Lerch has recused himself from involvement in this issue.

Executive session adjourned at 5:01PM.

