

To: Sterling Montessori parents, faculty, staff and students

Thank you to each of you in the Sterling community (parents, students, faculty and staff) who participated in the initial phases of the Strategic Planning process. Our strategic planning work as a campus community came at a very opportune time, with the arrival of our new Executive Director Bill Zajic and with plans for a new facility underway. As a follow up I want to share with you the outcome of the discussions and the enclosed report prepared by Lilly Skok Bunch.

By attending one of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) Sessions or Discussion Groups led by Lilly you have provided invaluable feedback. The result is the adoption of a new Mission Statement for Sterling Montessori Academy and Charter School that reflects the strengths and aspirations as expressed by you. Further the LHU Board has adopted Guiding Principles that represent goals for the School and provide a framework for planning in the months and years ahead.

Revised Sterling Mission Statement

Sterling Montessori Academy and Charter School is a diverse educational community built on the Montessori philosophy that fosters curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking in its students. At Sterling, teachers follow students' individual needs to achieve personal academic excellence and to become life-long learners who respect themselves, others and their environment.

Sterling Montessori and Charter Academy Guiding Principles:

- 1.) Sterling Montessori will nurture in its students a life-long love of learning, and respect for themselves and others, in a "peaceful" environment.
- 2.) The philosophy of Maria Montessori will be the cornerstone of the educational programs at Sterling Montessori while complying with the requirements of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Office of Charter Schools.
- 3.) The Sterling Montessori campus will be artistically beautiful and will be an interactive extension of the classroom by offering a "prepared" and sustainable environment for students.
- 4.) Sterling Montessori will be a community where the voices of the students, parents and faculty are valued equally and all members of the community are welcomed to actively participate.
- 5.) Sterling will have a strong management team, led by the executive director, who will create sound policies and procedures that ensure a safe environment for all.
- 6.) Sterling Montessori will be committed to responsible growth driven by genuine Montessori practices, financial sustainability and the collective needs of the community.

Over the next few months, detailed strategies will be developed to insure our adherence to our Guiding Principles. Those goals and strategies will be shared with the community upon their completion. Thanks again for your commitment to Sterling!

With appreciation,

Sharmila Bristol
President, LHU Board

Sept 17, 2008