

Many Hands Montessori Review Team Recommendation

January 7, 2014 the Review Team of Shelley Reed, Chair and Mike Wilhelm and Heidi Sampson met to discuss our individual assessment of the proposal. The Interview with the Governing Board of Many Hands was held on January 15, 2014.

The Review Team’s recommendation is that the Many Hands Montessori School application not move forward for further consideration by the Commission for the following reasons:

The Review Team unanimously agrees that we do not have the confidence that the applicant has met the requirements of the RFP to create a successful, sustainable, high-quality public charter school

Details to operationalize and implement the concept need further development

A. Education Plan

The academic program is not aligned with the Maine Learning Results

The applicant did not describe a comprehensive plan to provide a full range of services for special education students

The applicant’s budget did not reflect appropriate staffing to carry out special education student needs

B. Organizational Plan

Allocation of staff was not determined to be adequate to meet the tasks outlined in the proposal

particularly all the tasks assigned to the Head of School with no administrator or administrative assistant

The applicant did not demonstrate a sound understanding of staffing needs aligned with the mission and vision, the budget and with the school’s anticipated enrollment

The Governing Board members’ roles as volunteers were intending to fill in tasks to assist in the day-to-day running of the school

C. Governance Plan

The Review Team is not confident that the Governing Board can carry out all the necessary functions to start and sustain a public charter school. Such as, but not limited to, its legal obligations and state and federal compliance.

The applicant did not present a clear plan for the Board to evaluate the success of the school and the school leader

D. Business and Financial Services

The applicant did not present a thorough, realistic and cost-effective transportation plan

The applicant did not present a clear and compelling plan for acquisition and maintenance of a facility that is financially viable. Nor is there a reasonable expectation that a facility can be acquired and ready in time for the school to open.

The Review Team is not confident that the food service has a budget sufficient to support all aspects of a public school food service program.

The Review Team is not confident that budget assumptions, including grant/fundraising assumptions will generate revenues to sustain a public charter school

Overall:

The Review Team determines that there are too many monumental tasks to be accomplished in the time period prior to September of 2014 to be confident that the school will be able to open as planned.

Team: Shelley Reed, Heidi Sampson, Mike Wilhelm

Strengths	Concerns
<p>A. Education Plan</p> <p>Montessori is a well-established approach to education, this school would offer this learning environment to the public.</p> <p>The application showed that the founders working with the philosophy understand child development and establishing a nurturing learning environment</p> <p>Assessment of students and staff is designed as part of the program</p>	<p>A. Education Plan</p> <p>The academic program is not aligned with the Maine Learning Results</p> <p>The applicant did not describe a comprehensive plan to provide a full range of services for special education students</p> <p>The applicant’s budget did not reflect appropriate staffing to carry out special education student needs</p>
<p>B. Organizational Plan</p> <p>As part of the Montessori system the staff handbook is very well detailed , it appears that many resources are available through the Montessori organization</p>	<p>B .Organizational Plan</p> <p>Allocation of staff was not determined to be adequate to meet the tasks outlined in the proposal particularly all the tasks assigned to the Head of School with no administrator or administrative assistant</p> <p>The applicant did not demonstrate a sound understanding of staffing needs aligned with the mission and vision, the budget and with the school’s anticipated enrollment</p> <p>The Governing Board members’ roles all volunteers were intending to fill in tasks to assist in the day to day running of the school</p>
Strengths	Concerns
<p>C. Governance Plan</p> <p>Many Hands has gathered a hands on board with the passion and will to establish a charter</p>	<p>C. Governance Plan</p> <p>The Review Team is not confident that the Governing Board can carry out all the necessary</p>

<p>school. It is evident that all board members have contributed to the application and know what they want to do.</p> <p>D. Business and Financial Plan Financial tasks have been assigned to roles for accountability. Founders believe that many volunteers will be able to be recruited to help with facility development. Food preparation led by a chef with the goal of the school raising much of its food Closure protocol is well thought out</p>	<p>functions to start and sustain a public charter school such as but not limited to its legal obligations, and state and federal compliance</p> <p>The applicant did not present a clear plan for the Board to evaluate the success of the school and the school leader</p> <p>D. Business and Financial Plan The applicant did not present a thorough, realistic and cost-effective transportation plan The applicant did not present a clear and compelling plan for acquisition and maintenance of a facility that is financially viable The Review Team is not confident that budget assumptions, including grant/fundraising assumptions will generate revenues to sustain a public charter school</p>
--	--