

DAVIS MONTESSORI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Birch Lane Montessori Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021, 7-8 pm via Zoom

Sheryl called meeting to order at 7:03pm

- a. Welcome/Introductions, 5 min.
- b. Review of Minutes – Cara Baker, 5 min. Sheryl made a motion to accept minutes; Melanie seconded.
- c. Principal's Report – Jim Knight, 10 min.
 - a. MPR update. Dirt is close to being dug! Brian asked about the footprint of the fencing that is up at the school, and the back grass, whether that much is 100% necessary. Jim answered yes, it is all necessary. Discussion of how the lack of play area will affect students in the fall. Construction is slated to take one year. Sheryl asked about Catalyst, and whether construction would affect them. Jim answered no, they will be able to open and the staff is hoping they will.
 - b. Hybrid model. How will hybrid look at Birch? Core instruction will happen in the morning. In the afternoon, during in-person instruction, SEL, reminding kids what it's like to be at school, art, curriculum extension. Can kids use materials? Yes, but they have to be cleaned before the next group uses them. 4/5/6 Montessori is a stable "group," even if they move back and forth between teachers. Some materials may have to be put away if they are not easily cleanable. Remy mentioned that she doesn't seem how it would be possible to clean cubes, grammar symbols, etc., which the kids would need to use. She doesn't think the kids will be able to use the materials in the classroom. Sally mentioned that she and Lindsay have been envisioning the in-person learning to include a short study hall, a read along, art activities, utilizing open windows and using outside shared spaces as much as possible. She and Lindsay would like to move back and forth rather than the kids moving back and forth. There will be a safety station in the classroom for sanitizing hands. Anything the in-person students will be doing has to be provided to Group C, which are still in all distance learning. Mel asked if we have rough data on numbers/percentages on who will be returning versus all DL? Jim said not quite yet but it's looking like about 75% returning. "Soft" opening still in flux. Sheryl asked about how much adherence to providing all in-person

instruction to at-home students. Jim answered that all core instruction will be in distance learning, and some of the curriculum extensions given to Group A/B may be able to have windows to Group C. Siblings are first priority; second priority is those that need extra help (can't remember the word right now). Melanie asked if all Montessori teachers would be returning for hybrid; Jim said he didn't have an answer for that yet. Cara asked whether desks would be added to the Montessori classrooms, and Jim and Remy answered that it depends on how many students are in the classroom at the same time, it may be necessary to have the kids sitting at desks in order to keep physical distancing requirements. Additionally, K-2 students will be given Chromebooks and 3-6 students would likely need to bring theirs (depending on the lesson). Sally mentioned that teachers had discussed filming themselves to provide equitable access to Group C. Teachers really need the numbers so they can organize this. Jim said our numbers are approaching 36, at 32 today. Probably won't need a lottery. Some of those registrations were from Woodland Montessori. Sent email today to internal staff about the K1 position. After one week, if no one wants it, the posting will go live outside the district. Neighborhood kinder (Keane retiring) position as well as 4th grade (Suzanne Long) position are also listed.

- d. President's Report – Sheryl Soucy-Lubell, 10 min.
 - a. 2021-2022 MPAC board nominations
 - i. People have put their hats in the ring for president and treasurer/outreach coordinator. We will wait one more month to see if any more people step forward. We'll share more on that next month.
- e. Vice President's Report – Brian Pakpour, 5 min.
 - a. Nothing to report.
- f. Treasurer's Report – Leila Hartley, 5 min.
 - a. Nothing to report. A few more checks have come in, but that's about it.
- g. Teachers' Reports – Any teachers present, 10 min.
 - a. Remy mentioned that Jessica Beckinger will be requesting some materials for her classroom. Just getting ready for hybrid. 6th graders will be doing Virtual Sly Park the week of the hybrid return. All Montessori 6th graders will be together. Trying to make the virtual experience something fun for them, including some activities away from the computer screen.
 - b. Sally has worked with Darren on the materials he might need, and then any of the intermediate teachers, then any Birch Lane teachers. Her plan

is to come back to school next year about one day a week to help out.
Discussion of Sally's retirement announcement.

- c. Darren. For hybrid, thinking of splitting the grades because it would be easier. Teachers have pretty much planned out what it would look like, though it does depend on the numbers. Everything else going well.
- h. Announcements, 5 min.
 - a. No announcements.
- i. Public Comments, 5 min.
 - a. No public comments.
- j. Adjourn
 - a. Sheryl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. Brian seconded.

Notes: