

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2016 AT 7pm

- 1) Welcome/ Introductions- Cindy Pickett
 - a) 24 people present
- 2) Presentation by Trustee Susan Lovenburg on Measure H, the parcel tax
 - a) Current parcel tax Measures C and E set to expire at the end of 2016-17 tax year and are being rolled into Measure H, which will be an 8 year tax providing education funding stability; \$620/year (tax was increased from vs \$531/year to fund the same programs)
 - b) Supports programs for students, including math and reading support, elementary science program, reduced class size, librarians, elementary music, secondary core course offerings, counselors and nurses, and many others.
- 3) Principal's Report- Jim Knight
 - a) Positive Behavior Support: Birch Lane is teaching Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) school wide which encourages students to choose from positive behavior options; parent volunteers are needed to assist teachers and the counselor
 - b) School Site Council: School Site Council needs parents; meetings are the first Monday at 7pm
 - c) School Orchard: PTA is working on a school orchard; fruit trees will ripen throughout the school year; funded with PTA funds, grant monies, and school auction donations
 - d) Snack Tables and Noise: Snack tables will be moved out towards the bicycle racks to minimize recess noise to nearby classrooms
 - e) MPAC Executive Board Member election results for 2016-2018 are final. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer will be added to the Davis Montessori Education Foundation Yolo Federal bank account, while previous board members will be removed from the account.
 - President- Cindy Pickett
 - Vice President- Craig Spence
 - Secretary- Shawna Stevens
 - Treasurer- Liz Truong
 - Historian- Soji Howe
 - Outreach Coordinator- Winne Lee
 - non-Board position: Webmaster- Sheryl Soucy
 - f) Staffing: Ms. Markley is half-time this year and job sharing with Ms. Vellanowith. Ms. Villalobos is our new K/1 and Devyn Rausch, former Birch Lane reading specialist, is our new half-time position with Ms. Hansen. Mrs. Vazquez is having triplets and will be going on maternity leave at the end of October; we will need a long-term sub until end of year; position is being flown right now
- 4) Secretary's Report- Shawna Stevens
 - a) Approval of May 2016 minutes will be delayed until the October meeting
- 5) Treasurer's Report- Liz Truong
 - a) MPAC has already earned over \$200 from our first two small fundraisers

- 6) President's Report- Cindy Pickett
 - a) Teacher Spending Amounts: Last spring we agreed that each teacher should receive \$200 to replace/maintain supplies; need to approve the action
 - i) 1st motion by Soji Howe, 2nd motion by Tina Zicari to give \$200 to each classroom for new materials out of our \$4,000 balance. Ayes- unanimous Noes/Abstains- zero
 - b) MPAC Fundraising Goals:
 - i) Donations towards Montessori conference for teachers is the priority for this year's fundraiser; district contribution is set- should fund Principal Knight and two teachers; Jim Knight will inquire if there is any additional money based on Sally Palow's insistence; will come back at October meeting with dollar amount; professional development days can be used by teachers for the conference if they haven't used them already; Dorte Madsen wanted clarification on how parents can voice their opinions on conference funding at the District off; Sally Palow offered that parents can email Sally at spalow@djusd.net and help to organize targeted talking points, and then all can go and speak to the relevant folks at the district in person, as a group; Lakshmi Aradyha said that teachers spread out at the conference to gather as much knowledge and resources as possible and then share with each other
 - c) Montessori Materials: Roberto ??? wants to make sure purchased materials in the classroom stay with the teachers; you can choose to donate to the classroom or to MPAC; Lakshmi Aradhya said that teachers have inventoried what is in their classrooms and are maintaining lists of personal vs. MPAC owned materials.
- 7) School Board Candidate Introduction- Jose Grande
 - a) Q and A with school board candidate; parents focused on asking Mr. Grande about his position on Measure H and the AIM program
- 8) Open Discussion
 - a) Homework: Sheryl Soucy-Lubell has read studies re elementary homework that show it's not effective; people present decided to table this discussion for the next meeting.
- 9) Adjourn- meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.