

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)
MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2016 at 7pm

- 1) Welcome/ Introductions- Cindy Pickett
 - a) 19 people present
- 2) School Board Candidate Forum
 - a) School Board Candidates Susan Lovenburg, Alan Fernandes, and Bob Poppenga were present and answered questions from meeting attendees in a town hall format
- 3) Secretary's Report- Shawna Stevens
 - a) Craig Spence moved to approve the September 20, 2016 minutes; Sheryl Soucy-Lubell seconded the motion; passed unanimously
- 4) Principal's Report- Jim Knight
 - a) Staff changes: Kelly Vellanowith, who is Montessori credentialed, will take over Mrs. Vazquez' K/1 class. The void in Ms. Markley's K/1 classroom will need to be filled- the position will be advertised. Ms. Rausch has moved to Marguerite Montgomery Elementary, so need to fill the co-teaching position in Ms. Hansen's 4/5 classroom. The district has posted the half-time positions on EdJoin and has agreed to pay for posting on additional job recruitment sites. Teaching credential programs have been contacted as well. There are short-term subs in Hansen's and Markley's classrooms for now.
 - i) Dorte Madsen inquired about the delays with teacher hires, and whether there was any way to make the current position in Mrs. Vasquez's room a contracted position versus a long-term sub. Mr. Knight explained that they must fly the position announcements internally for 5 days before it can be posted externally. He also explained that the Mrs. Vazquez' replacement must be a long-term sub due to district HR issues re personnel employment law.
 - b) Snack tables: New snack table area is successful so far. Noise has been reduced during class time and they keep kids on playground after school.
- 5) Webmaster Report- Sheryl Soucy-Lubell
 - a) Website changes: Need pictures of kids performing Montessori tasks to put on website. Need to update photos and bios of teachers, and the description of how teachers implement Montessori in the classroom. Ms. Glovin suggested that the kids write the descriptions. Sheryl also suggested adding a page explaining how MPAC is different from the PTA, and why we should support both. Will also add links for other Montessori websites or YouTube channel demonstrations.
- 6) Treasurer's Report- Liz Truong (ABSENT)
 - a) October 2016 Treasurer's Report delayed until the next meeting
- 7) Teacher's Reports
 - a) Ms. Glovin (2/3): Second great lesson- life coming to earth. Lots of animals in class, up to 10 by the end of the year. 3rd graders researching animal care with 2nd graders assisting. Practicing social skills play- how to interact with people. Roles include superheroes and advisors and the play works as a lesson. 2nd graders are working on Envision math curriculum while using Montessori math to bridge the gap. 3rd graders

did fractions and moving on to multiplication, communicative properties. Starting opinion papers on Halloween costumes at school.

- b) Ms. Vellanowith (K/1): Art and writer's workshop and cultural studies. Have been following Markley's lead in the classroom.
 - c) Ms. Villalobos (K/1): Pumpkin Patch field trip last week. Studied pumpkins with big buddies- measurements and investigations. Applying for Davis Art Foundation grant around ceramic arts. Language- working on K-sound tubs for letter sounds. 1st graders- sound tubs and word building with the moveable alphabet. Word building program purchased using MPAC donation funds. Math- 1 through 10, 11 through 19 bead stair; learned about the golden ten-bar. 1st graders are working on the stamp game.
 - d) Ms. McBride (2/3): In-depth Continent studies focusing on a new country each month. Right now studying Mexico. Non-fiction writing on space- introduced them to topic of space and then they continued more in-depth space research which suited their interest. New unit on narrative writing based on class interest; story starters with character, setting, plot resulted in some hilarious stories. Math- 2nd graders working on addition with stamp game while 3rd graders following Envision with Montessori materials support. Language- new curriculum on how to improve writing using parts of speech.
- 8) Vice-President's Report- Craig Spence
- a) Fundraising: Hold separate fundraising and community development events. Would like to raise \$5,000 for professional development for teachers. Focus on 1 or 2 larger fundraising events, such as Sundstrom Winery night out for parents or golfing (50-70 people). Also looking at some outside grants.
- 9) President's Report- Cindy Pickett
- a) Mr. Knight is working with the district to get more professional development funding
 - b) AMS membership- district is interested in trial membership
- 10) Other Business
- a) Conference discussion: looks like district will fund 6 teachers; Nov. 18 is early registration; conference is in March. Ms. McBride commented that there is no other Montessori professional development available except for these conferences.
 - b) Ms. Glovin suggested advertising our open positions in the AMS magazine with our membership
- 11) Meeting adjourned 8:17pm