

DAVIS MONTESSORI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Birch Lane Montessori Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC)  
Meeting Minutes

**September 21, 2021, 7pm via Zoom**

In Attendance (via Zoom):

President: Jeff Lee  
Treasurer: Patricia Mueller-Moule  
Historian: Elena Fewell Howard  
Secretary: Cara Baker  
Vice President: Brian Pakpour  
Teacher Rep: Eliza Sater (2/3); Amanda Garza (2/3)

Attendees: Alison Bright, Josielyn Fassl, Michael Prommer, Remy Glovin (4/5/6 teacher), Teresa Steele, Lindsay Capitanich (4/5/6 teacher), Jasmin Chermak, Erica Meyers, Mark Verbitsky, Mark Reyes, Jackie Reyes, Andy Oquinn, Iman Oquinn, Julie Klein, Neel Shah, Elise Willis, Sara Mitchell, Erin McDonough, Tess Morris (K/1 teacher), Carly Maurano, Missy Barbato, Shannon Davis, Natalya Apostolou, Erica Wright (PTA president), Josh Hihath Kinder, Jacqueline Gray, Melanie Vida, Catherine Ensmann, Binuta Sudhakaran, Laura Whitsett, Krista Hoffmann, Leila Hartley, Courtney Siperstein-Cook, Eleanor Gunda, Liz Heckles, Michele Guerrieri, Johannes Starke, Kelly Jones, Mijke Rhemtulla, Freddie Vaziri, Lisa Sperber.

7:03 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Jeff Lee.

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Review of May 18, 2021 minutes. Brian Pakpour made a motion to approve the minutes; Patricia Mueller-Moule seconded.
3. Principal's Report – Jim Knight.
  - a. So much good going on at school! Carly Maurano (parent from Room 32, fully credentialed teacher) has been hired to work with Tess Morris in Room 32. We are looking at hiring a few more yard duties. April 5 is the target date for MPR. Possible uses for the old MPR is dependent on how much money is available. It is up to the district, but we have a lot of different ideas. When the time comes, we will ask for feedback. We will have time for more questions from attendees at the end of the meeting if anything more comes up.
4. President's Report – Jeff Lee.
  - a. Welcome everyone. What is the MPAC's role? A bit of history: the district decided not to provide ongoing support for Montessori materials (apart from initial setup of \$5000), so our organization was formed to fundraise to

be able to provide money for our teacher's materials as well as professional development and outreach. Teacher presentations at our meetings going forward, please let us know if you have ideas on what jobs you would like teachers to demo. Since we don't have access to classrooms this year, you may have questions about what your child is learning, and how. Any teacher or staff member can fill out a form that we have for funding requests, and we want it to be more known that this is available for those outside the Montessori program as well.

5. Vice President's Report – Brian Pakpour.
  - a. Due to very wonderful fundraising in the past few years and less spending last year, we may not need as aggressive fundraising this year. The plans are to run a direct donation drive in mid-to-late October.
6. Treasurer's Report – Patricia Mueller-Moule.
  - a. Very little spending or money coming in since the year is just beginning and we haven't come up with a budget yet. We have about \$15,000.
7. Teachers' Reports – Any teachers present.
  - a. Amanda Garza. We are in a normalization period, it takes about 6 weeks to settle in. She shared a photo of a "Quiet Job Time I-chart," which shows how she is working with the students to understand and practice the routines in the classroom, to build stamina, to learn from each other, to have fun, etc. She also shared a slide that she is working on with her students, their rights and responsibilities, helping them to understand which is which.
  - b. Liza Sater. During the normalization period we are working with the students to build stamina, to become more independent (showing them around the classroom) and to be able to work quietly, which empowers them since they have the right to often choose their own jobs. The students are so eager to work!
8. Public Comments/Questions
  - a. How many students are in Montessori? Approximately 250. About 40% of the school.
  - b. Fundraisers that those from out of the area can participate in? In the past, we have done a Make-a-Plate Fundraiser, and that was successful and people had a lot of fun with it. We could do that again.
  - c. How many intermediate students are there? 80 students in 4/5/6
  - d. Do we have t-shirts for sale? Yes, we still have some stock from prior years. Cara will work on creating an inventory and an order sheet.
  - e. Workplans: change weekly, give them a framework; depending on the student, we aren't requiring everyone to complete the same amount of work. With the intermediate students, they are more in charge of their learning and time.
  - f. Work times: most job times are about 30-45 minutes, and there are transition times between activities. During job times, students are able to focus intently.

- g. Reading groups: Liza: 4 days a week, a reading para comes into our class so we can form small groups to work on reading. The small groups use leveled readers.
  - h. Peers from different grades working together: within the classroom, the different grade levels are working together daily. No Buddy Classes at this time.
  - i. Quarantine due to exposure to COVID is an excused absence.
  - j. Do teachers need any help with extra materials for manipulatives? Remy: Teachers are currently conducting an inventory of their classrooms as well as the storage closet in Room 1, and at that time we will know what we need, if anything.
  - k. iReady and OLSTAT: No overlap, and plenty of time for both.
  - l. How do you use the iReady scores? Remy: iReady scores are used to help with forming small groups.
9. Adjourn.
- a. Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12; Cara seconded.