

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2017 at 7pm

- 1) Welcome/ Introductions- Cindy Pickett
  - a) 14 people present
- 2) Review of Minutes- Shawna Stevens
  - a) Sheryl Soucy-Lubell moved to approve December 20, 2016 and January 17, 2017 minutes; Soji Howe seconded the motion; passed
- 3) Treasurer's Report- Cindy Pickett (filling in for Liz Truong)
  - a) Need to deposit bake sale money (Liz still has) and need to track down Round Table check
  - b) Website costs: \$575 for website for next 5 years (GoDaddy hosts). Website went down since subscription ran out, but Sheryl Soucy-Lubell was able to renew and revamp it.
- 4) Principal's Report- Jim Knight
  - a) Climate Committee- Completing several surveys to assess our school climate. Both teachers and parents involved. First meeting happened- ready to move forward.
  - b) Ms. Long is gone for the rest of the school year to care for a sick family member. Found a fully credentialed 4th grade teacher to take over.
  - c) Getting ready for the Montessori conference March 9-11. Five teachers going including Mr. Knight. A parent asked if they talk about teaching Montessori methods along with California state standards. Sally Palow responded that since it's a national conference, they have a more global perspective, but do have presentations for each state.
  - d) Mrs. Vazquez had her triplets! All healthy and heading home soon.
  - e) Teachers are submitting their intent to return statements right now. Amie Hansen moving from 4/5 to K/1 next year. She and Ms. Markley will be half-time. Want to find a full-time Montessori credentialed teacher for them to share. Internal postings have already led to interested parties. EdJoin will have a full-time 4/5 position listed soon. Will also post through American Montessori Society.
  - f) Interviewing art teacher applicants this week. Two lessons per class per month. Fully funded by PTA.
  - g) Interviewing PE teacher applicants this week. This will be a long-term sub until we know Mr. Lam's intentions.
  - h) Kindergarten registration window was extended until March 3. Received 36 applications on the first day. That number is a bit small, but registration window is still open. We're still advertising (ie, Davis Enterprise). We had 65 applicants 2 years ago, and 55 applicants last year.
- 5) President's Report- Cindy Pickett
  - a) Montessori materials: District-purchased materials stay with the classroom. Teacher-purchased materials stay with the teacher. Board discussed teachers providing wish lists, but we need a fund cushion for new teachers. A suggested idea was if an average Montessori classroom has 100 things, we should purchase 100 things and then each teacher could personalize. Remy Glovin said we don't have enough space to stock the classrooms as we want them. Cindy Pickett commented that the district should stock

each classroom; teachers shouldn't have to buy materials. Sally Palow responded that the District staffed the primary classrooms (the only classes at the time) 15 years ago. It took about \$24,000 to stock a classroom- probably about \$40,000 in today's dollars to do the same. MPAC helped to stock the intermediate grade classrooms. Needs are different for each class of kids. Soji Howe asked how much money should we provide a new teacher in a sparsely stocked classroom? Sally Palow and Remy Glovin agreed it would cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Remy Glovin said that you are required to make a lot of materials in the Montessori training program- those items obviously go with the teacher.

- b) SPAC meeting: District budget may be smaller next year. Expenses keep going up for standard items, but not getting more money to offset.
- 6) Webmaster Report- Sheryl Soucy-Lubell
- a) BirchLaneMontessori.org
  - b) Website will be under construction for a few weeks. If anyone has ideas, please let Cindy Pickett or Sheryl Soucy-Lubell know.
  - c) Let Sheryl know if there are any huge glaring errors. Will advertise the new site.
- 7) Outreach Report- Winnie Lee
- a) Outreach survey: Had about 20% response. There were some great testimonials we could use for the website.
- 8) Teacher's Report- All Teachers Present
- a) Remy Glovin- learning A New Zealand song. Class has a Planetarium field trip on March 2 and that will kick off the space unit. The class will study stars, constellations, and planets. This year's class very interested in space and planets.
  - b) Sally Palow- Sly Park was very snowy and fun for 6th graders. They traveled with the Willet 6th graders. 6th graders working on ratios, studying ancient India and making salt maps. 5th graders getting ready for Challenger space mission. 5th graders also doing cross stitch in the classroom for Colonial studies, and studying the battles of the Revolutionary War. They will build battles on poster board and have to present and write a report. Math Talks- different ways to solve math problems. Using pointillism to work on fractions, decimals, and percentages.
- 9) Vice President's Report- Craig Spence (ABSENT)
- 10) Other Business- Question re direct donation this year. Cindy said we haven't started a direct donation drive yet. We need to finalize our need amount, but open to suggestions. Remy Glovin suggested hiring someone (a skilled parent?) to repair broken materials to save money.
- 11) Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm