

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2017 at 7:04pm

- 1) Welcome/ Introduction
 - a) 10 people present
- 2) Review of Minutes- Shawna Stevens
 - a) Amanda McNicholas moved to approve the October 17, 2017 minutes; Sheryl Soucy-Lubell seconded the motion; motion passed.
- 3) Treasurer's Report-Amanda McNicholas
 - a) Donations still coming in; have received another \$250 dollars in the last 2 weeks.
 - b) Teachers have been putting in requests for materials; have spent about \$2800 on seven classrooms. Three teachers have still not used their funds: Palow, Sadler, and Hansen.
 - c) \$1500 in reserves, so have approximately \$2700 to spend for the year. Some of those funds are remaining materials grants for classrooms, or are earmarked to be used for professional development and parent education night.
 - d) Math coach may be interested in Montessori training or materials. An MPAC representative will contact her to see if she has interest; Eliza Sater has offered to contact her.
 - e) There might be upcoming outreach expenses that will need to come out of reserve of admin supplies.
- 4) Teacher's Reports
 - a) Marissa McBride (2/3): Students enjoying new time line of life provided by MPAC.
 - b) Lakshmi Aradhya (5/6): 6th graders are using the hands on equation materials.
 - c) Eliza Sater (2/3): 2nd great lesson- timeline of life. Great lesson to give- takes a lot of time. Learning about Paleozoic and Cenozoic. There are books and cards that go with the timeline. Small groups will make posters of the different eras and representative organisms. Kids are really excited about it. Will do the 3rd great lesson in January. Rich material; working to incorporate benchmarks. Class went to watch the play Aladdin- inspired them to make a genie for their class scarecrow.
- 5) Montessori Materials Demonstration- Eliza Sater
 - a) Checkerboard Demo
- 6) President's Report- Sheryl Soucy-Lubell
 - a) December 19, 2017 MPAC meeting is a special meeting. Superintendent Dr. Bowes wants to give a state of the district presentation at the MPAC meeting. There will be a 30 minute PowerPoint followed by a question and answer session with attendees. MPAC also has a list of questions that are follow up to our September district meeting.
 - b) Parent asked if other schools have a VP. Eliza Sater answered that it depends on the size of the campus and the particular needs of the campus. Birch Lane would be a prime candidate for such a position because our dual program campus (traditional and Montessori)
 - c) Outreach- Kinder Montessori info night is February 8. Kinder registration will be February 15. Not sure if it's a single registration day or a registration window. We typically send brochures/fliers to preschools, present at preschool kinder information

nights, and table at last two January Saturday Farmer's Markets. This year we will try to send out fliers with T-K folders and provide a stronger presence on social media. Parents should let MPAC know if the information is accessible and adequate for outreach. Parent suggested we should play up the differentiation aspects of the Montessori program, while another suggested to mention how it aligns closely with Common Core. Also need to work on more diversity outreach.

- d) 11/16/17- Study Session on Budget and Facilities Bond at the School Board Meeting.
- 7) Vice President's Report- Cindy Pickett (ABSENT- presented by MPAC President)
 - a) Raised more than \$5,000
 - b) Working on a community building event; Round Table is no longer doing fundraisers. Looking at holding an event at a brewery as that seems to be a popular option.
- 8) Other Business: none
- 9) Adjourned at 7:56pm