

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)
MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2017 at 7pm

- 1) Welcome/ Introductions- Cindy Pickett
 - a) 9 people present
- 2) Secretary's Report- Shawna Stevens
 - a) Postponed until February 2017 meeting.
- 3) Principal's Report- Jim Knight
 - a) A new co-teacher was hired for Ms. Hansen's class- Emma Barker. They are working for 2 weeks together and then will each teach ½ of the week. Ms. Barker just finished her teaching credential, but she's not Montessori certified.
 - b) Ms. Almeida is slated to return in 2 ½ weeks. Her class will transition to secondary lunch on the 90th day. Mrs. Yu will have conferences with parents because they missed their conferences. There are concerns regarding the pile up of work that will be waiting for Ms. Almeida when she returns. MPAC will offer support to help her transition back into teaching.
 - c) Kinder tours are Jan 30, 31th, and Feb 2nd at 9:00am. Tours will be 45 minutes and tour 4 classrooms. There is room for about 10 parents to attend each tour. Kinder Registration is Feb 15. Registration window for all choice programs will be different this year; they will be open longer and allow parents some flexibility. Mr. Knight does not know what the window is.
 - d) Jan. 19 is Family Literacy night.
 - e) Jan. 23-28 is Sly Park for 6th graders
- 4) Treasurer's Report- Cindy Pickett (filling in for Liz Truong)
 - a) Current balance of MPAC account: \$3,857.72
 - b) Round Table pizza night and bake sale earnings still pending.
 - c) Eight teachers have not spent their \$200 materials allowance yet. They may want to wait until the Montessori conference in March for material ideas.
 - d) Clarification on why some teachers have spent more money than other teachers (ie, McBride and Villalobos for example). Next year we will try to be more specific about what constitutes materials. A parent suggested teachers showing parents what they bought at the monthly MPAC meeting. Maybe we can make a video to post on Facebook showing the new supplies and how they are used. Craig Spence will check with teachers about this.
 - e) In the fall we were thinking we would need to fundraise for the Montessori conference, but now there is not a need.
 - f) Four teachers and Jim Knight are going. Lakshmi Aradhya has a conflict with her master program and will not be able to attend. Cindy Pickett will post information to parents on Facebook about the conference.
 - g) We ordered 58 T-shirts and 38 were purchased. We will sell T-shirts at Picnic in the Park in May, at the Round Table fundraiser, and at the Open House in April.

- 5) Teacher's Reports
 - a) Ms. Palow (5/6): Topics: Probability, graphing trendlines, central tendency, greatest common multiples and least common factor. Language arts is focusing on academic vocabulary and writing process. Sly Park for 6th graders.
 - b) Ms. Aradhya (5/6): Autobiographies; students very excited about Sly Park
 - c) Ms. Glovin (2/3): Topics: North America, class made dream catchers, finishing state reports and Native American reports. Money: working on adding and struggling with subtraction of money. 3rd grade is working on fractions and least common denominator. Started study on Oceania, Australian art and animal study. Thursdays we will check on Julep by following post from Guide Dogs. Field Trip planned for March 2 at the Planetarium.
- 6) Vice-President's Report- Craig Spence
 - a) In April, have MPAC meeting reports from the teachers who attended the conference and also use social media to highlight conference talking points. Maybe have a demo night educating people about the Montessori Program. Maybe try not to blend the meeting, but have a 6:00pm demo with childcare available.
- 7) President's Report- Cindy Pickett
 - a) Have heard feedback from parents worrying about the sustainability of the Montessori Program. As a program, we are not planning for problems and are just reacting to them. Looking at opportunities and planning for threats to the program. We need to set guidelines so if X happens, then Y is enacted. There are road blocks when teachers, parents and principal want/need different things.
 - b) Suggestion from Jim Knight is to have Montessori student teacher working in the classrooms. We should encourage Shingle Springs Montessori Program students to come and student teach in the classrooms. A parent suggested establishing an MPAC scholarship to student teachers who help in the classroom or student teach. Currently, student teachers are placed by teachers asking for student teachers. Jim Knight can ask UCD teacher program about teachers who are interested. Also suggested having a Montessori teacher training here in Davis.
 - c) Outreach: Cindy Pickett connected with Winnie Lee, the MPAC Outreach Coordinator, about outreach and it seems like we won't have that information ready before registration. Parents suggested really pushing the flyers and trying to get them out before registration. Why should we do outreach? It's important to keep the program from becoming in-bred and to increase diversity, and to also clear up misconceptions about the Montessori program. Sheryl has been helping with the brochure and all are updated and ready for printing.
- 8) Other Business
 - a) Can recess be changed for kids on behavior modification? Response: the intent is not to punish or threaten, but to help them be successful. It is to help kids make better choices by limiting their options.
 - b) We are advertising for a long term credentialed sub for PE teacher.
 - c) Soji Howe, the MPAC Historian, will focus on taking pictures in the classrooms.
- 9) Meeting adjourned 8:26pm