

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)
MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2017 at 7pm

Montessori Parent Information Night was held from 6-7pm, before the MPAC meeting. Teachers shared what they learned at the March 2017 meeting of the American Montessori Society conference they attended in San Diego.

- 1) Welcome/Introductions- Cindy Pickett
 - a) 15 people present
- 2) Review of Minutes- Shawna Stevens
 - a) Jim Knight moved to approve February 21, 2017 minutes: Sheryl Soucy-Lubell seconded the motion; passed
- 3) Treasurer's Report- Cindy Pickett (filling in for Liz Truong)
 - a) DMEF Budget Summary: expenditures are mainly Montessori materials
 - b) Parent asked about grants and if we would consider trying to apply for more to supplement the Montessori program. Also asked to report on alternative sources of funding at our meetings, such as grants that teachers have received and are using for class projects.
- 4) Principal's Report- Jim Knight
 - a) Montessori teaching positions update: Interviewed many candidates for 4/5 position. Potential hire is a Montessori-credentialed teacher. We will have at least one fully Montessori-credentialed teacher in every classroom. Vasquez, Hansen, and Markley will be the K/1 teachers with a full-time teacher split between Markley and Hansen. Applicants for these positions have come from other states; it was a broad-based applicant pool.
- 5) President's Report- Cindy Pickett:
 - a) Looking for new MPAC officers for next year. Need a new President and a new Treasurer.
 - b) Donation drive: Craig Spence is working on donation drive letter.
 - c) District updates: At the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting, concerns were raised about the uncertainty with next year's budget. Contractual obligations will continue to rise while state funds continue to shrink. Investigating ways to reduce the gap.
 - d) Fundraising: Need new ideas for supporting the program. Maybe set up an endowment for DMEF that produces a set amount to fund materials every year; a more sustainable model.
- 6) Other Business:

Parent asked if the teachers had any feedback for the parents in attendance of what the teachers really want for the future of the program. Sally Palow (5/6): Based on her prior teaching experience, she really wants to advocate for a separate Montessori campus. Montessori teaching pedagogy really benefits children in the achievement gap. We also really need to advertise the program more and follow up by expanding the program. Lakshmi Aradhya (5/6): A separate campus that allows us to expand the program would

also allow us to focus on the Montessori teaching methods. We would of course also follow the District mandates. We really need a 2-3 hour work period instead of it being interrupted by science, PE, joint recesses, etc. We're tied to the District schedule and the needs of the whole campus.

Kinder registration: Kinder is full. 36 students applied, one declined, all kids got a spot. Program is full and everyone got in. Unusual year as far as our outreach activities. District-wide the kinder numbers were down, probably because of the schedule shift of info nights and registration.

7) Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm