

DAVIS MONTESSORI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Birch Lane Montessori Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021, 7-8 pm via Zoom

In attendance (via Zoom):

President: Sheryl Soucy-Lubell
Vice President: Brian Pakpour
Treasurer: Leila Hartley
Secretary: Cara Baker
Outreach Director: **Vacant**
Historian: Melanie Vida
Principal: Jim Knight

Teachers: Remy Glovin
Eliza Sater
Darren Wong

Others: Patricia Mueller-Moule
Jeff Lee
Carly Maurano

7:05 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Sheryl.

- a. Welcome/Introductions, 5 min.
- b. Review of Minutes – Cara Baker, 5 min. Sheryl made a motion to approve the minutes; Remy seconded.
- c. Principal's Report – Jim Knight, 10 min.
 - a. **Kinder Information Night update.** We had a fun meeting with potential kinder families. A handful of families could not log on, and Jim held a second meeting the following day for them, to make sure their personal questions were answered.
 - b. **Staffing update.** Sally Palow is retiring; when there is a staff vacancy it is district policy to float the opportunity internally and Darren Wong (current K1 teacher) applied and was approved by the Board of Education to move into Sally's position.

- i. The job listing for Darren's K1 position will be posted once enrollment numbers have been finalized, sometime after March 18. There are currently 10 Montessori kinder students registered.
 - 1. Woodland Montessori is closing, which is leading to inquiries about all grades within our program. This may also be beneficial with regard to teacher recruitment and possible materials.
- c. **Return to Campus.** High possibility of a return to campus in the hybrid model in late April. Discussion of the possible complication with the Montessori program to create a successful hybrid model, what with the different grade levels and teachers cross-teaching students from both classrooms in their co-teaching cohort.
 - i. **Montessori materials for hybrid and Darren.** Teachers may need material assistance with mats during a hybrid model. Additionally, Darren may need materials to fill out his new 4/5/6 classroom. He is in conversation with Sally to potentially use some of her materials; there may be more to gather together from other teachers.
- d. President's Report – Sheryl Soucy-Lubell, 10 min.
 - a. **2021-2022 MPAC board vacancies.** Our president, treasurer and historian are all at the end of their terms this year. We've also been operating without an outreach coordinator, which would be wonderful to have. If you have an interest, reach out to us privately (or now in the meeting). Patricia Mueller-Moule expressed an interest in either the treasurer or outreach coordinator position.
 - b. **Superintendent Advisory Committee.** Going to these meetings is a good experience to see all the thought and effort that goes into the happenings in the school district, including the upper grades.
 - c. Teachers, please let us know if you need assistance in figuring out the logistics of the hybrid model. We are here to help!
- e. Vice President's Report – Brian Pakpour, 5 min.
 - a. **Fundraising.** Not much going on with fundraising this year, which is the primary role of VP. Discussion of possible low-key fundraising efforts to do this year. Does MPAC need to fundraise right now?
- f. Treasurer's Report – Leila Hartley, 5 min.
 - a. Last year was a banner year for fundraising. Right now we have about \$14,000 in the bank. We've made a little over \$1,000 in direct donations, and we've spent about \$1,700 for this year. Sheryl mentioned that the only

expenses during this period were Facebook ads before kindergarten registration.

- b. Sheryl mentioned that historically the MPAC budget was about \$5,000. We probably won't need to worry about fundraising this year.
- g. Teachers' Reports – Any teachers present, 10 min.
 - a. **Remy**. Virtual field trips coming up! Also a DaVinci and Holmes orientation/presentation for the 6th graders. Virtual Sly Park will be happening in April. The current 5th graders have already been signed up for next year!
 - b. **Eliza**. The students make her so happy! Things are going well. Her class has been able to complete a lot of the great lessons virtually. Collaborated with another 2/3 teacher Kathy Barnes to make digital versions of the cards that go with the great lessons. With learning online, it's frequently eye-opening to see the differences in the kids' learning without the physical materials in the classroom. Feeling grateful for getting a vaccine!
 - c. **Darren**. Thank you to Darren for creating the video for Kinder Information Night. Some parents are still requesting access to viewing it, which is good. Starting assessments. It's been fun to see how the kids are individually relating to distance learning. Having a good time.
- h. Announcements, 5 min.
 - a. **Site Council budget**. Sheryl asked Jeff Lee and Jim Knight about the Site Council. In April, they will be discussing/creating next year's budget. Jeff mentioned that, related to the site council budget discussion, it would be good to support the Birch Lane library since the book fairs aren't happening in person, and most of the library's budget comes from the fairs.
- i. Public Comments, 5 min.
 - a. **Sally retirement**. MPAC wants to be involved in putting together a fun send-off for her! Remy mentioned that she had the idea to reach out to past students (as well as recent and current students) to put together a written ode/poem/letter to her, since she was always so involved with the poetry slam. Perhaps also a car parade at school? After spring break we can start putting everything together, once she has told her current students about her retirement and has had a chance to talk to her families during conference week.
- j. Adjourn. Sheryl made a motion to adjourn. Mel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Notes: