

DAVIS MONTESSORI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Birch Lane Montessori Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC)
Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020 – 7:00 PM

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, 4⁵/₆
Darren Wong, K/1
Amanda Garza, K/1

Others: Jeff Lee
Ying Axt
Belinda Whitsett
Laura Whitsett
Patricia Mueller-Moule
Roberto Sequeira

7:03 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Sheryl Soucy-Lubell

- 1) Welcome/Introductions
 - a. Ying Axt, new to Davis and a potential Montessori parent, wants to enroll her child, who attended Montessori preschool.
 - b. Patricia Mueller-Moule wanted to know more about how enrollment is going.
- 2) Sheryl mentioned that it's nice to focus on positives right now. Feel free to drop a positive note to your teachers or friends or family. We are all struggling and it's hard for all of us. Nice to hear words of encouragement and support!
- 3) Cara shared the meeting minutes from 9-15-20, and after review, Melanie made a motion to approve the minutes, and Sheryl seconded. Minutes voted on and passed.
- 4) Jim.
 - a. School enrollment is usually at 585-590, last week we were sitting at 550-ish. There is space in every Montessori classroom. If you know anyone interested in enrolling, have them contact the school office and fill out an application.

- b. Site Council. Jeff Lee, in attendance at tonight's meeting, was just voted into the Site Council. Thank you, Jeff! We appreciate the work that the community puts in. Every elementary school has a site council, with participants from different interest groups from the school community.
 - c. County is still in the Red Tier, with a small uptick in cases. Until things change significantly, we will remain on course with re-entry to in-person school. So far, some kids have been coming in for assessments only. If things go well, we would move on to the next group (Special Day Class), and see how it goes.
 - d. Ying asked about how Montessori education works in a Canvas environment. Jim mentioned that Montessori and online teaching does not go hand-in-hand. Both Remy Glovin and Amanda Garza gave examples of how primary and intermediate teachers are attempting to provide a rich curriculum for the kids in an online format. (For example, asking kids to go outside to locate plants and match them with botany worksheets.) In primary, parents pick up materials every other week (unless they want to print worksheets themselves), because the younger students need the hands-on materials.
 - e. Jim mentioned that as a parent, if you have any concerns with your child's education, you should absolutely feel free to contact your teacher. We are all working together to make this work.
- 5) **President's Report.** Sheryl. Governance anybody?
- 6) **Vice President's Report.** Brian. Sent home donation forms in the last material pick-up. Looking into doing some kind of Poker Tournament where there is no money exchanged (since that involves legal requirements). Play for bragging rights? Get sponsors? Open to any other ideas, let me know!
- 7) **Treasurer's Report.** Leila. Not much change.
- 8) **Teacher Reports.**
- a. Remy Glovin. Field trip! Even though it was on a screen, it was presented well, pared down for the kids, it was fun. Kicked off a space unit in the classroom. About to start a two-week lesson on elections and government.
 - b. Darren. Gave a summary of what the kids are learning in various subjects, always happy to hear feedback from parents, positive and negative. It's all helpful.
 - c. Amanda. In botany, the kids are learning the parts of a pumpkin and pumpkin plants, next month leaves. In math, hanging beads and Envision. There is a lot of work for the kids to do. Parts of a reptile. Land forms. Sheryl mentioned that she is impressed how much collaboration is happening among the teachers.
- 9) **Public Comment/Announcements?**
- a. Jeff asked what the MPAC fundraising goals are. Leila shared the DMEF budget and talked about the last few years being high years for fundraising, and how much of our projected spending isn't actually used. The need to fundraise may not be that great right now, but we'll see!
 - b. Remy. Because of the configuration of the 4/5/6, once we are back in-person, we will need another science teacher, which the district is going

to provide, but now classroom supply funding is in question. Discussion of whether funding from PTA or MPAC would be appropriate for this. Discussion of education funding and how it is being allocated, whether our Montessori program is fully supported by the district. Discussion of an executive meeting between PTA and MPAC.

- 10) Adjournment. Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Roberto seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.