

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2010, 7PM

The two previous MPAC meetings were canceled. The March MPAC coincided with the Montessori Kindergarten information night and the April MPAC meeting was canceled because most of the MPAC executive board were unable to attend.

- I. **Introductions and Previous Meeting Minutes:** The meeting started at 7:01 with introductions all around. 11 attending. All reviewed the February minutes and they were approved unanimously.

- II. **SPAC (Superintendent and Parent Advisory Committee):** Holly was not present, but Emily reported for her.
 - The Davis Schools Foundation (DSF) raised \$1.4 million in donations, which will allow DJUSD to hold primary classes to 25 students and intermediate to 32. For additional information go to <https://www.davisschoolsfoundation.org/>
 - The 2010-2011 school calendar will be voted on soon. The unions for both the teachers and classified have agreed to 5 furlough days for next school year.
 - The June 3rd School Board meeting will recognize 50 retirees from this year.
 - Some (51) pink slips will be rescinded based on DSF funds, but many teachers will still get final notices (this week) due to the legality of that.
 - No final number yet on the number of teachers that will lose their jobs this year. Governor's revise looks positive (no further cuts) but has not yet been approved.
 - The district is funding another survey about a ballot measure to add to/replace measures Q & W that sunset in 2012. Most agree that DSF is not a long-term solution.
 - The superintendent is recommending that PTAs/PTOs hold money in reserve and not fund any big projects for now (to cover lost site funds).

- III. **PTA update from Nicki.**
 - The Spring Fling was a big success and made approx \$36,000.
 - There is a new PTA board composed of mostly new people.
 - The volunteer appreciation reception is scheduled for June 9, 1:45-2:30.

IV. Teachers Reports:

Teresa Almeida: Teresa's class started a unit on the Human Body this month. The students made a grape theme tablecloth for the Spring Fling auction. They used painted grape leaves and thumbprints to make grape bunches. Several of the students will be performing in the talent show later this week. They will be having an Explorit field trip on Thursday.

Lakshmi Aradhya: Lakshmi's students wrapped up their fish reports this week. They made a fish themed quilt for the Spring Fling auction. They got a UCD Art's Bridge Grant had have had an art teacher in the class working with the students on several projects. They have a parent coach who had been teaching several new games. She is working on assessments. There is one more field trip and the class will be doing a picnic in the park on June 9.

Sarah Grabar: Sarah's class has had a great time with Read Around The World. Her class made a world map made by all the students. She has two upcoming field trips to Explorit and the UC Davis Children's Garden (with Peggy's class). During the Olympics, Sarah found out that two grandparents were Olympians. A grandfather had gotten a gold medal at the Mexico City games in 1966 and has worked on the Olympic committee. Also, a grandmother got the first women's gold medal for Great Britain. Both came to class for a show and tell with their medals.

Peggy Seidel: Peggy's class will be going to the UC Davis Children's Garden soon. The Yolo Bypass wetlands field trip was the best ever. The docents were great with the children and had hands on activities. They used nets to collect things from the ponds and then examine them. Her class entered two contests—The Yolo County Art Ag Contest and the Water Resources Contest. The same child from her class won first prize in both contests! The awards for the Art Ag contest were given at an evening presentation and the whole class got an ice cream party in class. Her students are sewing a world map for the Yolo County Fair. Some of her students are performing in the talent show this week. The biggest news is that Peggy is retiring at the end of the year. She is sad that she won't be able to teach the younger siblings of her students, but feels like the time is right for her.

V. Principal's Report: Kathy Tyzzer

- Kindergarten registration was successful and we will be having 32 new kindergartners in the fall, enough for two K-1 classes. Montessori enrolment will be holding steady and we will be keeping seven classes for the fall: two K-1, three 2-3 (possibly one 1-2-3), and two 4-5-6.
- We have to replace one Montessori teacher because of Peggy's retirement and are hoping to rehire Sarah Grabar.
- The layoff notices for the Montessori teachers (other than Sarah) have been rescinded. Because of retirements, the district may be hiring some teachers.
- The 2010-2011 school year will be 175 days long (short 5 furlough days) and will start August 25.
- STAR testing is finished.
- May 21 is the talent show at 9 and 10.
- In August to announce classes, Birch Lane will have a registration afternoon where parents fill out school registration forms and get their class assignment.

VI. Officer and Committee Reports:

Emily—President Report

- We have a new website. Check it out. <http://birchlanemontessori.org/>
- Montessori End of the Year Picnic in the Park, May 26, 5:30-whenever.
- Montessori Back to School Picnic scheduled for September 15.
- We will be having elections at our September meeting to fill the board positions. Please look at our website <http://birchlanemontessori.org/mpac.html> to see if there is a large or small position you would like to fill for next year.
- We will be preparing Montessori information materials for the back to school registration day.

Lisa—Treasurer—We have \$2,170.51 minus the amount for the outstanding t-shirts (approx \$25).

A brief discussion of the money raised two ideas of ways to spend the money: 1) fund teacher's attendance at professional conferences, and 2) help the new Montessori teacher buy supplies for the class in the fall.

Julia—T-shirts. Screaming Squeegee did not print two of our shirts. We have waited a month and hopefully they will be ready next week.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10.