

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2009, 7PM

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I. **Introductions:** The meeting started at 7:00 with introductions all around. 21 attending.

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II. **Previous Meeting Minutes:** All attending reviewed the October's Minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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**III. Teachers Reports:**

Sally Palow and Carole Hughes: Sally presented the update for both of their classes. This is conference week and they are both energized and tired; things are going well. This Thursday will be the Poetry Slam at 6:30. The student will read their own and published poetry while wearing black berets. They have a their field trip to the Tall Ship this Thursday and Friday which will coordinate with their unit on Explorers. She thanked MPAC for the materials that have been ordered. They have just completed the first quarterly articulation meeting and found that the Birch Lane Montessori kids are adjusting well to Junior High.

Peggy Seidel: Peggy is using the new report card format pilot, which has had glitches. She had a Fall Festival with Sarah's class, which was a very nice day. The students shook cream to make butter. Next month she will have her traditional Winter Sing.

Thereza Almeida: Thereza is having a wonderful time with the Active Board. She is doing a unit on fossils and dinosaurs and was able to pull up great images on the Active Board. The visuals are great and the students love it. "Thank you for the Active Board."

Lakshmi Aradhya: Lakshmi's class has salmon eggs. They will raise them till December 14<sup>th</sup>, when they will take them to Discovery Park to release them. Tomorrow they are having their Heritage Feast.

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**IV. Principal's Report:** Kathy Tyzzer

- The Montessori Plan went to the School Board on October 29 and was approved.
- We have ordered \$1300 of the Montessori materials for the 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- All classes are full and stable.
- Some of the teachers have been using Zangle, a new student information system with a new report card component. There were a few glitches that frustrated the teachers. The District has a Zangle Implementation Team (ZIT) who is troubleshooting the problems and will provide more staff training.
- The classes are celebrating various holidays.
- The sickness rate has leveled off.

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## V. Officer Reports:

Emily Ault—Co-President.

- The Un-fundraiser has raised \$3035 with 29 families contributing to date.
- On Wednesday 11/18, we are having a Round Table fundraiser from 5:00-9:00 for Takeout, delivery, and dine-in. We get 20%.
- Our Imax fundraiser will be 1/21/10 at 6:30, movie is not known yet.
- We are doing a Davis Diamonds fundraiser on either 2/13 or 2/14. Details to follow.
- We will be doing an event at the Varsity and Jamba Juice in 2010.

PTA/MPAC discussion:

MPAC requested PTA to post a notice for the Un-fundraiser in the school-wide newsletter. At the last minute it was pulled per Kathy Tyzzer's request, without notification of MPAC. This opened up discussion about MPAC's relationship with the PTA. The PTA and MPAC boards met on 10/15 to discuss this. Everyone realized that MPAC should not be a standing committee under the PTA. PTA rules require the board and body vote on all expenditures. MPAC does not want our actions subject to PTA vote. Also, PTA is not allowed to hold money for other groups. Therefore, MPAC will dissolve our status with PTA and use the Birch Lane School account to hold our money. We will explore other options. Katherine said that the Davis School's Music Foundation is a 501c3 group, and there are others at Davis High School. Emily suggested we have our money held at the District level. Someone suggested we look into non-profit status, but this will be very time consuming. Kathy Tyzzer said that MPAC is different from other District programs because we fundraise and others do not.

Katherine Heck—Communications. Manish Park is looking at getting an MPAC webpage for \$5 per month. Kathy Tyzzer thinks the account must be hosted by the District and suggested Katherine contact Bob Kehr.

Jen Boschee-Danzer—Co-President

- The Master Plan was approved for 5 years with a 5/0 vote at the School Board meeting.
- Jen is soliciting people for grant writing or to help with establishing our non-profit status.
- Kathy Tyzzer says we can use the school's supplies to make copies.
- We are looking for someone to post signs announcing the MPAC meetings.

Julia Huddleson—Secretary and Parent Education Committee

- Julia presented three options for the Montessori T-shirts. There was discussion about which design worked best. It was decided that Jen and Julia meet to select the best option.
- No news on the Parent Education Committee

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### Open discussion:

- Newsletter—Someone suggested we have a Montessori corner in the newsletter, but that the Montessori dates be integrated with the general school calendar.
- Fund raising ideas- someone brought bags that would make a good fundraiser. They have several designs and sizes.
- Someone else suggested selling candy bars with the school logo on it.
- Julia made a motion to have MPC (Montessori Parent Committee) dissolved as a PTA standing committee and Board member. Jim seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20.