

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2009, 7PM

I. **Introductions:** The meeting started at 7:06 with introductions all around.

II. **Previous Meeting Minutes:** All attending reviewed the September's Minutes. The minutes were accepted after a few typographical errors were identified.

III. Teachers Reports:

Thereza Almeida: She completed all her Montessori classes for her Montessori training and was able to take classes in many interesting topics. She is excited about implementing this in the classroom, especially in Language Arts.

Lakshmi Aradhya: Her class took their first fieldtrip to the Mondavi Center via the bus. They are having a grandparent tea on Friday. She has gotten the Active Board and the kids are very excited about it. She is working on the first Power Point presentation using the Active Board.

Bonnie Walther: They had a good Academic Team Meeting today, which was very collaborative. They worked on ways to integrate the new math adoption into the Montessori class.

Peggy Seidel: Her parent volunteers are now helping out in the class and getting into the routine. Puzzle maps are very big right now as well as metal inserts. She is going to have a fall festival with Sarah Graybar's class. They had an evening potluck too. Peggy mentioned that there is a Maria Montessori webpage on Facebook that has lots of useful Montessori information.

Carole Hughes and Sally Palow: They have been working very closely together on the curriculum for their 4th-6th grade classes and had lots to say about the activities in their rooms so far this year. They have been working on poetry and are planning a Poetry Slam, which will be in the MPR on 11/19, where the students will read original and published poetry. The students have learned to use a protractor and a straw to map areas and have mapped the classroom and playground. Carole and Sally teamed up with Mrs. Scott on a field trip to visit the Miwok village at Point Reyes. The students used their mapping skills to map the village. For Social Studies, they are starting a unit on Ancient Egypt and mummified a chicken in class this week. Their upcoming field trips are to the King Tut exhibit in San Francisco and to the Mondavi Center via bus.

IV. Principal's Report: Kathy Tyzzer

Mrs. Tyzzer said things are going well and everyone is excited about the new Active Boards.

There has been an increased level of students absent from school, many due to the flu. Everyone is getting better after about a week and there have been no hospitalizations of any Birch Lane students.

Teachers are working very hard this year learning three new systems: the new math program, new report cards, and new information system.

Pam Mari, Director of Student Services, visited Peggy's K/1 class and enjoyed seeing Montessori in action. She thought students from the Montessori program would be well suited for the DaVinci program.

The updated Montessori Plan is going to the DJUSD School Board on 10/29 for approval.

V. Officer Reports:

Katherine Heck—Communications. There are 110 families on the listserve. The Communications committee has not met yet.

Julia Huddleson—Secretary and Parent Education Committee. The Parent Ed Committee met tonight and is planning for two evening events for late-winter and spring. The first one is to show the different Montessori manipulatives and how the students use them. We are hoping to do this in February so we can inform parents and invite local preschools whose students are looking for Kindergartens. The second event will be a speaker to talk about child development in the Montessori context.

Susan Monheit—Treasurer. We have \$1616.74 available for spending.

VI. Finances:

The meeting turned to discuss finances before continuing with the Officer Reports. We received a request from Carole Hughes and Sally Palow for \$1298.16 to pay for 4th-6th grade Montessori classroom manipulatives.

The Birch Lane Montessori program was initially established as a K-3 program and materials were purchased for these grades. Since then it had expanded to include one 4-6th grade class. This year because of increased demand we have two 4-6th grade classes, but no extra funding from the District for materials. Over the summer, Carole and Sally inventoried their classroom materials, compared this with a minimally supplied Montessori intermediate class, and came up with a list of needed materials. The cost for these materials is over \$10,000. Kathy proposed working on a three-year plan to acquire the materials with funding coming from MPAC (Montessori Parent Advisory Committee) and from Site funds. Carole and Sally requested \$1298.16 to pay for the remaining Language Arts materials and about \$2000 of the Site funds will pay for math materials.

There was extensive discussion of the needed materials, hard work by the teachers to make many of their own materials, and suggestions to have a direct donation fundraiser.

Motion: Jen moved to pay \$1300 for the 4th-6th grade Language Arts Montessori materials. Katherine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously yes.

VII. Officer Reports continued:

Emily Ault—Co-President and Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising committee met this evening at 6:30 and discussed ways to raise money. The ideas include:

- Emily is organizing the IMACs movie fundraiser, likely the third week of January. She is also working on a Jog-a-Thon/Walk-A-Thon for the school that we organize and split the proceeds with the PTA.
- Georgie is looking into food fundraisers possibly using Round Table, Habit Burger, or Jamba Juice.
- Diane is working on a local movie theater fundraiser.
- Susan is working on a Konditori fundraiser.
- Julia is working on T-Shirts. She called Screaming Squeegee and Ink Monkey and got estimates. Screaming Squeegee appeared to have better prices of \$6.25 versus \$6.80 plus \$15 set up fee for Ink Monkey. We want to sell the T-shirts for \$10.00 to make a small amount of profit on each shirt

Motion: Katherine made a motion to authorize spending up to \$300 for T-shirt up-front costs and Jen seconded it. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Jen Boschee-Danzer—Co-President and Outreach. There is the School Board meeting on 11/29 to discuss the Montessori Plan. The actual time will be announced in a few days. If you are going to attend the meeting, please wear your red Montessori t-shirt or another red shirt. You can go to the School Board's website to check the agenda and the time for the Montessori Plan. <http://www.djUSD.net/district/boe/agendas>

The Outreach Committee has not met yet. Jen is planning for a Picnic Day Parade entry for the BL Montessori. She is also looking for grant money to pay for classroom materials and getting a regular section of the newsletter for the Montessori Program.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31.

Future Agenda Items:

Principal Report
Teachers Report
Officer and Committee Reports

MONTESSORI DATES TO REMEMBER

October 29, 7 pm	School Board meeting to discuss the updated Montessori Plan
November 17th, at 7pm	Montessori Parent Advisory Committee Meeting, <u>all invited</u>
November 19	Poetry Grand Slam presented by the 4 th -6 th grade students