

Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes—to be approved at next RAM Meeting

Location: Manoah Steves Elementary School on Thursday, November 17th, 2016

Present: Danny Yee (Chair), Kanny Chow (Treasurer/RAM liaison Garden City), April Tanzler (Secretary), Tina Lau (Fundraising), Justine Ross (RAM liaison Steves), Jody Natsuhara, Natasha Mavis, Renee Fernandez, Ms. Samra.

School Administrators: Harley Rollins- Vice Principal (McKinney), Susan Roy- Principal (McKinney), Diane Steele- Principal (Garden City), Braunwyn Thompson- Vice Principal (Steves), Gregory Walters- Principal (Steves).

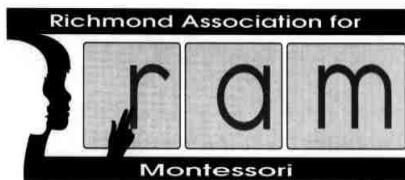
Demonstration: Ms. Dawn Lessoway, Montessori teacher at Steves expressed thanks to RAM for collaboration time and what this means in the context of the new curriculum. She showed the new “time line” material and also the “checkerboard” which has been in use for a long time and continues to be a valuable material in her classroom.

Welcome: Danny Yee called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introductions were made.

Administration:

- Gregory Walters (Steves)- non-instructional day tomorrow. Montessori teachers will be collaborating at one school together regarding the new curriculum.
- Susan Roy (McKinney)- will be at information night tomorrow at 7pm at General Currie school. Ms. Gourlay and Danny Yee will be at information night. Looking at scaling down the amount of administrators who attend the information night. Currently accepting Kindergarten applications until Jan 11, 2017 at 4pm.

Chair: The Society Act was reviewed and it does not affect RAM. The contingency fund has been reviewed by Jacqueline. Membership donation forms are late due to delays with translation.



Treasurer:

- New budget reviewed.
- Contingency fund of approximately \$30,000 as it covers the 3 Montessori schools.

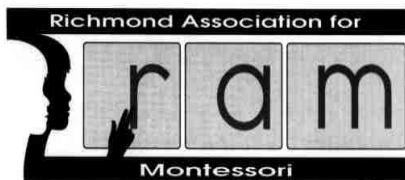
Motion: To approve the 2016/2017 Budget as presented. (Moved by Danny and seconded by Justine, approved, motion carried).

- Conference reimbursement applications are due December 9, 2016. Form can be found on RAM website and proof of purchase needs to accompany the form.
- Up to the schools to decide conference vs. collaboration.
- Monies will be used from the school district first for materials before using RAM funds.
- A suggestion was made to remove line items from the budget.
- No applications have been received for bursaries or conferences for RAM to review at this meeting.
- \$4500.00 has been allotted per school for Montessori materials from the Richmond school district.

Motion: To approve the April 2016 RAM Meeting Minutes. (Moved by Kanny, seconded by Natasha, approved, motion carried). To approve the September 28, 2016 RAM Meeting Minutes. (Moved by Danny, seconded by Kanny, approved, motion carried).

Fundraising: A family from McKinney won the Early Bird Draw (\$150.00 Costco Card) for the Membership drive. Generated to date- McKinney \$4950.00 with 37 families, \$3,400.00 with 25 families and Garden City \$1450.00 with 12 families. Tax receipt will be issued if funds received before the school winter break, however, membership donations can be made all year around. A suggestion was made that a membership donation reminder go out in all the school in the Spring. Danny has a sponsor for next year's Early Bird Draw and has access to a free legal translator for RAM notices.

RAM /PAC liaisons:



- Justine (Steves)- Welcome Back BBQ took place in September 2016. Had a Friday movie night prior to Halloween. Winter Wonderland skate coming up. Fundraisers underway (Purdy's and QSP), also doing an online all year around earthquake kit fundraiser through Life472.com which offers 10% cash back or 20% off in product for the school.
- McKinney: Purdy's and cookie fundraiser underway. Also doing movie nights. Planning Spring Carnival and a Bollywood Dance.
- Garden City: Had a movie night, pizza days are on Fridays. There has been a change in communication at the school, no emails to parents.

Additional business: Ms. Samra, staff from Garden City had some ideas to reduce shipping costs when ordering new materials that are incurred:

- To work on collaborating orders with other schools.
- To look into a shipping account, and to check to see if RAM could use the school district shipping account and then reimburse the school district.
- To have a purchasing contact from RAM to facilitate collaboration with orders from the three Montessori schools.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 26th, 2017 at McKinney Elementary School

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.