



Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

*Date | November 29, 2018 | 7:03PM
Location Manoa Steves Elementary School
Meeting called to order by Jacqueline Ip*

In Attendance

Rachelle Barretto (Treasurer and Steves parent), Jacqueline Ip (Co-Chair and Social Media and McKinney parent), Justine Ross (Steves parent and PAC liaison), Rika Motohashi (Steves parent) and Kushal Samy (Secretary and McKinney parent), Lin Zhu (Steves parent), Jennifer Platter (McKinney Parent and PAC liaison)

School Administrator

Mr. Gordon Filt, Principal, Manoa Steves Elementary School

Meeting was called to order by Jacqueline and she introduced special guest Kirsty Gourlay, teacher from McKinney.

She told us about her history with Montessori. Both her kids went to Montessori and she went from being a high school teacher to Montessori elementary school teacher because she firmly believes in the philosophy. She was even once the President of RAM.

Kirsty was in attendance to thank RAM for providing her and Dawn (teacher from Steves) the opportunity to attend the Montessori Coaching Training conference held by the Nation Center for Montessori in the Public Sector. She briefly explained what was learned at the conference and how her and Dawn hope to apply the information here in Richmond.

Kirsty was asked if she could also provide us with recap of Junior Great books. This is a summary

- For development of reading skills
 - Stories are from around the world
 - Designed to provoke evidence based discussions
 - Students are asked to answer questions about the story with supporting evidence
-
-

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes from Oct 19. Moved by Jacqueline Ip, motion carried.

Principal's Report

Principal Gordon Filt presented the following

- Administrators are working with Liz Taylor and Lynn Archer who share responsibility for Montessori at district level, to examine how Montessori fits with the new curriculum.
- Admin and teachers have been involved in discussions among themselves as well as getting input from students to ensure that There is consistency within the program across the district

RAM Reports

Treasurer Report

- Refer to financial handout provided at meeting
- Proposed budget currently sits at a deficit
- Scholarship funds are not allocated but will be added for \$500. Funds to come from Bursary line for now since we don't usually maximize that line but we can finalize this after all bursary applications are in.
- Casino account will be closed as it has sat at a zero balance for years
- TOCs for Kirsty and Dawns observation days are under currently earmarked under the collaboration, additional materials however if there are funds available under bursaries after the application deadline then those costs can be moved.
- In order to maximize the broad allocated budget for Montessori Supplies, schools should first charge supply items to the school board allocated budgets then utilize the \$5K that RAM budgets for each school.
- Rachelle to make changes that were discussed

Open Issues and New Business

The following positions are still not filled and open:

- Garden City Fundraising Committee
- McKinney Fundraising Committee
- Garden City PAC Liaison

Form for Extraordinary expenses was reviewed and Jacqueline will make some final edits and label it as Form B before it is circulated. The Bursary Application will also need to be relabeled as a Form A.

Possible dates were discussed for Montessori Math Night to reach out to new and existing Montessori parents. We will pick a date during the week of April 23-26 or April 8-12

- McKinney to host with help from all 3 schools
- As in the past older students will be asked to help demonstrate how the materials are used

Fundraiser idea

Jacqueline suggested World of Kidtropolis, for a Kids Night Out. Children between the ages of 6-12 can be dropped off and will have access to the play area and be fed pizza.

For \$700 we will rent the entire place for up to 100 kids and will sell tickets for \$20. We only need 35 kids to break even and everything on top is profit.

Everyone in attendance supported the idea.

Jacqueline will look into available dates on a Thursday in February

Rachelle will enquire with our bank to see if we can accept email transfers for ticket sales.

A Scholarship program will be developed for graduates who were enrolled in the Montessori program in Richmond. Danny is going to look at how the McKinney scholarship program is administered and will work with Kushal to develop ours. We hope to award our first scholarship to a 2019 graduate.

Membership cash drive has been very successful. To date we have 102 donations totaling \$12,110. We had 97 early bird entries and conducted a live draw. The Chow family from Garden City won a \$150 Costco GC. Rachelle to confirm winner details and Danny to deliver the prize.

Deadline to transition RAM to the new Societies Act was November 2018 and Rachelle filed.

It had been suggested that council create Montessori promotional material or guide for parents who are thinking of sending their child to Montessori (Feb 2018 RAM Meeting). Susan Roy had suggested that for this type of material, RAM should coordinate with School District.

- Lesa Schulz is working on updating one with the rest of the Montessori administrators
- Tabled until next meeting

April Tanzler had suggested that the RAM Executive needs to look at revising the mandate of RAM given the new changes over the last few years (October 2017 RAM Meeting)

- Tabled until next meeting

Next Meetings

Feb 7, 2019 at 7:00PM - McKinney

Apr 11, 2019 at 7:00PM - Garden City

Jun 6, 2019 at 7:00PM - Steves (AGM)

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:45PM and was passed unanimously.