

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

Location: Garden City Elementary School on Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Present: Danny Yee (Chair), Yolanda Domingo (Vice Chair), Kanny Chow (Treasurer / RAM liaison Garden City), April Tanzler (Secretary), Tina Lau (Fundraising), Faye Huang (Webmaster), Ruby Sidhu, Bu Zun, Miranda Xiao, Joey Lam, Ken Dale, Renee Fernandez, Wendy Lo, Zach Zhang, Lil-Huang Tam, Cathy Chen, Tammy Ross, Kushal Samy, Liz Chen, Claire Yang.

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

Demonstration: Ms.Gourlay of McKinney brought a Biomap of North America, a Montessori material, to show those in attendance.

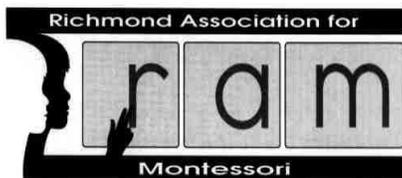
Welcome: Danny Yee called the meeting to order at 7pm and introductions were made.

Administration: Diane Steele reported on behalf of the school administrators:

- Montessori and neighbourhood programs, students were “mixed” at beginning of school year during class placement.
- Outdoor Education at two schools has occurred.
- Using Portal.
- New curriculum- implementation day approaching, this will be a provincial day.
- McKinney, Garden City and Steves all have Montessori student teachers.
- Parent/ teacher conferences approaching.

Chair: Danny welcomed the new administrators and parents of new Montessori students on behalf of RAM (Richmond Association for Montessori). Introduction to RAM was provided. RAM had a small executive meeting at the beginning of September. It was noted by the Chair that last year was a “learning” year due to monies being allocated differently as the school district is now providing money to each school for materials.

Treasurer: Kanny provided a copy of the RAM 2016 – 17 proposed budget to the group. A brief explanation of membership was given. The format of the budget sheet has changed and is now easier



to read. RAM executive members have proposed a conservative budget for the 2016/2017 school year. An explanation of the allocation of funds was given. Last year \$4500 from the school district was given to each school for Montessori materials. RAM funds will not be allocated to materials until the school district funding is used first. Bursary's for teachers will be capped at \$300/ teacher and will be subject to an application process. Kanny explained that in the past only a handful of teachers were using these funds and that this would ensure a fair chance to all teachers to apply for the bursaries. This proposal generated a discussion amongst the group in attendance.

Discussion:

- It was pointed out that there is \$35, 569.17 in the chequing/savings account as well as \$22, 226.88 in the term deposit and that the proposed budget was too conservative given these amounts.
- The group was in agreement to revisit the proposed 2016-17 budget.
- A suggestion was made to look at creating a 3 year plan for allocation of funds which would include a contingency fund.

Motion: To revise the 2016-17 Proposed Budget as follows: To increase the total monies to each school to \$5,000 from \$ 2, 500, separate from the bursaries, for a total of \$ 15,000 with the deadline for application for bursaries to be December 9, 2016. The bursary amount is raised to \$5400 (\$300 per teacher).(Moved by Danny and seconded by Kushal, approved, motion carried).

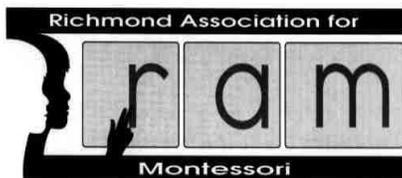
- Still money left over from 2015/2016 funds for McKinney and Steves. Braunwyn presented a RAM Funding Proposal from Steves Montessori Teachers for \$3,660.

Motion: To approve RAM Funding Proposal from Steves Montessori Teachers in the amount of \$3,660. (Moved by Kushal and seconded by Tina, approved, motion carried).

- Additional ideas were to revisit the vision of RAM as we are in a transition period; look into what the criteria is for maintaining membership as we are a registered charity and to get feedback from the 3 schools as to what the teachers would want funds for.

Action points:

- RAM will create a 3 year budget plan to present at the next RAM meeting to members and to school administrators.
- School administrators will share feedback from their Montessori teachers about what they need/ wish for when it comes to allocation of RAM funds.
- RAM/ PAC liaison position is still vacant for McKinney.



Minutes: The minutes from the May 26, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved. (Moved by Danny, seconded by Kanny, motion carried).

Fundraising: Tina gave an explanation of the fundraising events that RAM organizes (annual membership cash drive with Early Bird draw and Pub Night). RAM newsletter to go out with the membership / donation cash drive sheet.

No reports from the RAM/ PAC Liaisons.

Additional business: Tammy Ross has been holding the minute's binder for RAM (AGM minutes) for many years and filing the annual report which keeps RAM registered as a Charitable Society. It is \$25.00/ year to file the report. She is now resigning from this position as her child is in Grade 7. Yolanda Domingo has volunteered to be the holder of the minutes and file the annual report.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2016 at Manoah Steves Elementary School

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.