



## Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

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*Date | September 28 | 7:05PM  
Location Zoom- Steves Elementary  
Meeting called to order by Jacqueline Ip*

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### In Attendance

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Jacqueline Ip (Chair, McKinney parent), Daphne Yen (Treasurer, Steves parent), Aliaa Elkhashab (Secretary, Steves parent), Lydia Liu (Webmaster, Steves parent), Sonja Starke (Webmaster/ Garden City RAM-PAC Liaison, Garden City parent), Winnie Ng (Fundraising, Steves parent), Rika Motohashi (Member at Large, Steves parent), Fiona Yuen (Member at Large, Steves parent), Doris Lin (Member at Large, Steves parent), Ivy Ho (McKinney RAM-PAC Liaison, McKinney parent) Parayag (Steves parent), Lisa Galbraith (Steves RAM-PAC Liaison, Steves parent), Stanley Meng (Garden City parent), Mike Gray (McKinney parent), Lian Cao (McKinney parent), Joyce Wu (McKinney parent), Jackson Lo (McKinney parent), Judy Assoon (McKinney parent), Fiona Xia (McKinney parent), Pei-I Yeh (Steves parent) and Ping Zhang.

### School Administrators

Mr. Gordon Fit, Principal, Steves Elementary School.

Welcome and chair introduces RAM members

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### Principal's Report

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Mr. Fit attended on behalf of 3 Montessori Schools and reported the following:

- Busy start-up for the 3 schools, but mostly smooth.
- McKinney and Steves are in different stages of seismic upgrade.
- Steves students who spent 2 years at Grauer moved back to Steves this school year. Nice to see us all back together.
- Richmond Montessori schools are working diligently to streamline the core foundation for Montessori in a public-school program. Despite being an established philosophy there are many ways to interpret it.
- We have been working hard on having a prepared environment and RAM has been instrumental in funding the materials and furniture needed.
- Teachers also worked hard to have an environmental that looks prepared - a calm and organized space.
- KG is a major life transition into the school system and it's going really well.



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### Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

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Last meeting's minutes circulated through Zoom chat and approved.

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### Adoption of Agenda

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Agenda circulated through Zoom chat and accepted.

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### RAM Reports

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#### Chair Report

- All attendance introduced themselves and their school.
- A brief introduction about RAM program and its role. Introduced the role of the committee in raising funds and purchasing unique materials/ equipment.
- RAM support teachers in their learning, workshops and training through RAM Bursaries.

#### Treasurer Report and Budget Discussion

- Daphne reviewed financial reports.
- Total Income: \$3k.
- Balance Sheet Total Assets \$41K.
- 2021-2022 Budget Expenses \$13k

#### Jacqueline:

- Our membership and donations drastically reduced during the last 2 years due to COVID 19. Previously, we were looking between 11k to 15K.
- To ensure RAM sustainability, we have had to decrease the RAM funds from \$5,000 to \$3,000 per school for the current school year.
- Accordingly, we had a significant deficit and we had a rollover from previous years.
- The next meeting, there will be the early bird draw for the \$50 Gift Certificate in November.



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### Open Issues and New Business

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#### Website updates

- The updated Bursaries for Montessori teachers will be sent to the social media team to post it on the website.

#### PAC updates

- Ivy: McKinney is working on the seismic upgrade and their next major renovation is the gym. They want to resume the food program.
- Lisa: Steves were discussing various fundraising options and will attempt to avoid timing conflicts with RAM.

#### Call for Volunteers

- There are key roles becoming available. With succession planning, we need to make sure we prepare for upcoming retirements including:
  - Chair
  - Treasurer
- Jacqueline briefly explained the role of those 2 positions as well as will provide a job description for all the roles and will be posted on RAM website.

#### Parent Education Night

- As previously discussed, RAM wants to host parent Education night via Zoom. The Zoom meeting will consist of various breakout rooms. In each room there will be 6-10 parents, a RAM member as well as a teacher presenting. Each presentation is about 20min. Parents will keep rotating between rooms after each presentation.
- Not yet decided on the topic, we are looking for something interesting as Math Centric.
- Mr. Fit:
  - I see a prominent need for educating parents on the basics of the Montessori philosophy.
  - A good time to have review of the foundation information, including the multi-grade classroom, and how materials help students, with facilitation of the teacher and to acquire the understanding to support the students.
  - The Provincial Association is hosting a virtual parent information night on Oct 21.
  - -Jacqueline: RAM can promote this night as a primer and get feedback from participants on what more they would like to know regarding the program in Richmond.



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- Rika: Is there FAQ for new families who would like to know more about the Montessori program?
- Mr. Fitt: It's a work in progress to come out as one program across the 22 Divisions in Richmond. We are trying to come-up with agreed upon Montessori pillars within the public-school program and make information readily available.

### Bursaries

- No Bursary application

### Fundraising Campaign Recap:

- FlipGive is a click through website or App. It works for both directly purchased merchandise or gift cards. Its an ongoing campaign. Join our team on [FlipGive!](#) Or download the app and enter code: YQDJ7F. This is an ongoing fundraiser.
- Mabel's Labels is another ongoing fundraising opportunity. 20% of the return goes to RAM. Make sure to click sponsor a group and search for "Richmond Montessori". It would be greatly beneficial if you can share it with your network. [Mabel's Labels.](#) This is an ongoing fundraiser.
- Lydia proposed:
  - Beard papa promoted to October 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> at a cost of \$18 per box
  - Paint night our virtual art class to be potentially held on November with a min of 15 families.
- Winne:
  - Waffles are scheduled in the end of February with pickup March 15<sup>th</sup>
  - We can use the google forms to make it easier for processing orders.
- Sonja
  - TruEarth fundraising: laundry strips (Sonja to follow up on their fundraising options)
- Jacqueline
  - A Shredding event in the community 'Shred-a-thons'. It is usually 4 hrs in a weekend. Cost is \$550 for the 4hrs. Accordingly we need a min 28 boxes to shred at \$20 per box.

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### Next Meeting

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Motion to adjourn was made at 8:38 PM and was passed unanimously.