



# Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

---

*Date Jan 16, 2024 | 7:04PM*

*Location Zoom- McKinney Elementary*

*Meeting called to order by Jacqueline Ip*

---

## In Attendance

---

Jacqueline Ip (Chair, McKinney parent), Ivy Ho (Co-Chair, McKinney parent), Aliaa Elkhashab (Secretary, Steves parent), Jaimee Manlutac (Webmaster/ Garden City RAM-PAC Liaison, Garden City parent), Fiona Yuen (Member at Large, Steves parent), Winnie Ng (Member at Large, Steves parent), Deborah Sze (Steves RAM-PAC Liaison, Steves Parent) and Kinness Law Wai Kin.

## School Administrators:

Mr. Gordon Fitt, Principal, McKinney Elementary School.

Ms Monika Sood, Vice-Principal, McKinney Elementary School.

---

## Adoption of Agenda

---

Agenda circulated through Zoom chat and accepted.

---

## Principal's Report

---

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

- After years of consultation, and in working with Nancy Brennan and Assistant Superintendent Chris Stanger, we have made significant gains in discussing Montessori issues.
- One of our Montessori teachers at McKinney, has become a teacher consultant, working at our district resource centre to gather Montessori resources. She is working with the teachers at all sites to help organize materials and help with ordering materials. She is also working on a mini conference for Montessori teachers in the district coming up in Spring.
- Schools are currently challenged with teachers' retirement, there is a need to hire teachers with Montessori training.
- The Provincial Montessori Association Day took place in November. The teachers in our district were quite involved; the event was attended by a guest speaker from the US. Thanks to parents and student volunteers! Overall it was a huge success.



# Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

---

## Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

---

Meeting minutes from November were circulated through Zoom chat and accepted.

---

## RAM Reports

---

### Chair Report

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Chair introduced RAM - Richmond Association for Montessori
  - Run by volunteer parents group whose children attend the Montessori program in one of the 3 Montessori Schools.
  - RAM is funded by Membership and Donations from families whose kids attend the Montessori program. Funds are used to support the classroom materials and furniture, teacher training and education, Montessori parent night, and students' scholarship etc.
- The district parent survey was sent out to Montessori school parents. Please complete the survey and provide your feedback by January 19th.

### Treasurer Report and Budget Discussion

- Jacqueline to defer the report to the next RAM meeting but to lack of activities.

---

## Open Issues and New Business

---

### Fundraising

- Yum Ice fundraiser was a success! Although we missed Garden City School (email wasn't sent out on time) RAM proceeds were \$330.
  - Potential interest to redo this fundraising campaign again before Easter, potentially mid February.
  - Fiona to follow-up on time frame and flavours with Lunar/ Easter specials.
- Potential end-of-year campaign; Silly Lilly Pencils which generates 20% commission.
- Ongoing fundraising campaign: Mabel's Labels. 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.



## Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

- FlipGive is a click through website or App. It works for both directly purchased merchandise or gift cards. It's an ongoing campaign. Join our team on FlipGive! Or download the app and enter code: YQDJ7F. This is an ongoing fundraiser.
- TruEarth laundry strips and accessories is ongoing. RAM gets 20% of sales. Free shipping.

### Membership Annual Dues and Cash Drive

- Currently, Membership fees and Donations total \$3430; less than previous year.
- Early bird draw for all dues and donations made before December 31st, will be deferred to the next RAM meeting. Draw to win a Gift certificate.

### Bursaries

- No Bursary applications received from Montessori teachers.
- Mr Fitt to remind teachers/ admin in all 3 schools about the bursaries.

---

### Next Meeting

---

- Motion to adjourn was made at 7:42 PM and was passed unanimously.