



Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

*Date | January 28, 2020 | 7:05 PM
Location Steves Elementary School
Meeting called to order by Jacqueline Ip*

In Attendance

Jacqueline Ip- McKinney (Chair, McKinney parent), Rika Motohashi (Co-Chair, Steves parent), Daphne Yen (Treasurer, Steves parent), and Doris Lin (Member-at-large, Steves parent), Sonya Starke (Garden City parent), David Chu (McKinney parent), Genalyne Ang (Garden City parent).

School Administrators

Mr. G. Fitt, Principal, Steves Elementary School

Welcome and Round Table Introductions

- Run through meeting agenda

Principal's Report

- Steves at Grauer – very successful move, the Montessori staff brought in a Montessori consultant staff (Patricia Patrick from Coquitlam) to look at the prepared environment, what to do with the space and how to design the rooms, cleared clutter – they looked at what's important in a Montessori school
- There are 21 divisions across the district and they are working towards having one message when parents ask what Montessori is and how Montessori and BC Curriculum are balanced and implemented in the classrooms
- Any person coming to these divisions should see these components of Montessori (ex. Uninterrupted work period/cycle, prepared environment, etc) – but logistics are tricky in collective agreement (ex. Breaks)
- Working towards an articulation, one collective agreement, that everyone is on board, that someone could easily understand and tell those interested in the Montessori program
- Our three schools in the same program should align through discussion and dialogues
- The district is meeting this Thursday to look at the Montessori program across the district; agreeing and dialoguing what Montessori classrooms look like – already had one last year
- When students can articulate what Montessori is, that is what we want



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Adoption of Agenda

Agenda circulated and accepted.

RAM Reports

Chair Report

- Fundraising and Cash Infusion – school district took over Montessori spending, \$3600 materials + \$1400 insurance of materials – so each school has \$5000 per year. For about 2 years, we didn't have very much we were looking to spend, that was the time we decided to up our spending in the classrooms and bursaries for faculty members.
- How long can we continue the cash infusion now that we're finally caught up? We should think about this for the next meeting and look at how each school is spending and whether it needs to be trimmed.

Treasurer Report

- Daphne Yen gave us an update on RAM financial status.
- Budget is at \$12K and our donation was \$10K.
- Finally got the invoice from Garden City from last year- ready to issue cheque.

Old Business

Parent Education Night

- Garden City teachers are opened for afternoons, not evenings
- Steves teachers are taxed with school movement, tough to lead the sessions
- Perhaps if McKinney hosts, some Steves teachers would join

2019/2020 Subsidy Spending update by school

- Still thinking about how to best use the money (Steves)
- Garden City has spent it, just waiting for the invoices
- McKinney to be updated

Clip 'n Climb Fundraiser – February 23rd

- Event is closed to public, from 5pm-6pm – one hour climbing period
- \$23/person for the one hour
- 35 slots, will move up if we fill the slots



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- Low maintenance fundraiser – they get charged and RAM gets \$11.50 per ticket
- Parents should stay to help their child - recommended 1 adult to 4 kids

Other Ongoing Fundraisers:

- Mabel's Labels – Go to their website and click on "Support a Fundraiser" and type RAM. We should put another reminder on school websites, notices
- Flip Give – for online shopping – Indigo has 17% cashback right now. \$100 gift card gives \$17 back. 3% back for Amazon. There are other retailers so take a look!
- We should coordinate with the schools to have messages from RAM sent (Rika to coordinate with Steves to remind parents of fundraisers monthly)
- Flip Give also has a referral link if you have large groups that needs to fundraise

Scholarship Program

- Rika Motohashi to contact Dave Partridge – liason among high schools. Phone number: 668-6000 ext. 1547, email dpatridge@sd38.bc.ca
- Piggy backing on what other scholarships are out there – RAM's Grade 12 scholarship: Applicants are required to write about how Montessori has helped in their education
- \$500 student scholarship.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Meeting's minutes circulated and approved.

New Business

Teacher Bursary Program

- To do this fairly, so that all teachers had a chance, RAM has a tier system for the first year of their continuing education, \$1000 max, then \$1200 next year, and \$1500 the following year.
- Preapproval is for reimbursement of \$300 right away, and at the last meeting of the year (AGM), execs will see how many applicants there are to determine how much is left in the pool to be topped up
- The goal is to subsidize for one year of schooling, once. Cannot apply for two school years if one year's course spans over two school years.



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New Bursary Application:

- Application 1
 - Masters in Montessori – 1 year length course, 3 terms long, \$2800 per term. First term is January. The program ends by the end of this year – hoping to be reimbursed for both terms
- Application 2 (same applicant as 1):
 - Centre for Advanced Studies for Montessori: Building a network for Elementary Montessori coaches \$500
- Application 3
 - Detail of application same as application 2

We should revisit the guidelines of our calendar year – because right now, these three applications cannot touch the pool of bursaries for 2019-2020, they would be looked at in September at the earliest for the 2020-2021 pool. How do we reword the guidelines so that we are able to cover the fiscal year and this year's applications also? What about changing the calendar year from June to June? A lot of workshops happen during the school year. May to May (June 1st to May 31st) might work better in order to close our books before the summer. We will look at cleaning the dates up to be able to approve some of these bursary applications.

RAM decisions from tonight:

- Application 2: \$500 workshop to be absorbed in the subsidy for the school.
- Application 1: preapproved for \$300 now and then \$700 at the AGM for Masters program.
- Application 3: preapproved for \$300 now and then \$200 at the AGM for workshop.

Volunteering for RAM

- Share among parent group volunteering for RAM
- We chat electronically, not as needed to be visible at schools (great for working parents who may not do drop offs or pick ups)
- Spread the word to make sure we have people ready to jump in for executive roles when needed
- Rally enough people for the AGM as we need to make sure we have representatives from all three schools

Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:54PM and was passed unanimously.