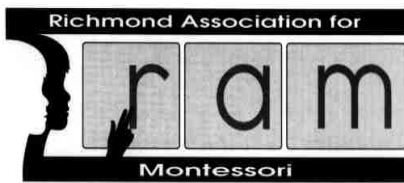


- Location:** Garden City Elementary School on Thursday January 28th, 2016
- Present:** Yolanda Domingo (Co-Chair), Danny Yee (Co-Chair), Kanny Chow (Treasurer), Tina Lau (Fundraising), Natasha Mavis (Fundraising), Faye Huang (Webmaster), Jacqueline Ip (Social Media), Justine Ross (Steves RAM Liaison), Alana Yee, Ally Medweth, Alberto Uy
- Principals:** Diane Steele – Principal (Garden City), Liz Taylor – Principal (Steves), Allan Osadchy – Principal (McKinney)
- Welcome:** Co-Chair Yolanda called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introductions were made.
- Minutes:** The minutes from the November 25th meeting were passed around, reviewed, and approved (**moved by Yolanda, seconded by Danny, and approved and carried**).
- Administration:** Diane, speaking on behalf of all school administrators mentioned the following notable items:
- The format for the Grade 4 and 7 Foundation Skills Assessment will be changing in format for future years.
 - Schools in Richmond will be closing due to declining enrolment. An announcement will be made in October or November.
 - Ms. Sherry Elwood is the new Richmond School Superintendent.
 - Richmond School District and the schools have a new website, which has been favourably received.
- Treasurer:** Kanny mentioned that not much has happened since the last meeting. There have been a few further donations that have come through, with the totals as of the meeting being \$12,995 for the three schools. This resulted in a net income of \$12,600 for the year, although Kanny added that bursaries totalling \$300 have not been included in the numbers and will be corrected.
- Chairs:** Yolanda mentioned that she attended the Kindergarten Information night and that there was plenty of interest. She will also be witnessing via webcast the draw to get into the Montessori program on February 2.
- A parent has offered to develop a Mission Statement for RAM. A discussion ensued to determine whether RAM needs a Mission Statement, where it was decided that RAM does not at this time, but the parent is invited to attend future meetings to discuss further.
- Fundraising:** Natasha reported that this year's Pub Night has been set for March 5th at the Buck And Ear pub. Tickets have been set at \$20 each and are good for a burger and beverage. It is intended that the Pub Night is open to everyone, including parents of Neighbourhood students. After discussion, it was agreed that advertising for the Pub Night can be put up around the schools, as long as it is clear that the fundraising is for RAM.



Featured Discussions:

Bursaries Two applications were discussed and approved (moved by Natasha, seconded by Yolanda, and approved and carried):

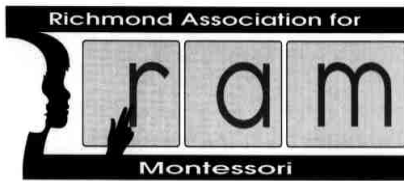
- By Monica Sood, \$600 for the first portion of the VSB/Vancouver Board of Education Montessori Credential Program; and
- By Kirsty Gourlay, \$666.65 for registration for the American Montessori Society conference later this year

Bursary revamp Given that RAM does not have to significantly fund class materials, it was suggested that the bursary application process can be revamped. An arrangement for deadlines was suggested. As well, for items such as courses or professional development, RAM can give a portion of the expenses, with the remainder given if they finish and show commitment to stay in Richmond. Given that overall there are not a lot of teachers, RAM would be able to keep track of the each applicant. A pre-approval arrangement has therefore been suggested. The revamping arrangement will be further discussed before the next RAM meeting, although a review is needed for items such as the VSB tuition structure to determine the amount the RAM bursary should cover.

Use of Funds A call to all RAM families to decide how to spend the RAM funds was made via a newsletter. Unfortunately, only a handful of suggestions were received. A discussion amongst members present at the meeting ensued, where it was decided that the following items are the desired focus for the funds, and in the following priority:

1. *Teacher Collaboration* –These may include collaboration with other Montessori teacher (within or outside of SD38) and costs for teachers on call.
2. *Supplementary materials and classroom needs* – This may be in the form of materials not covered by the School Board or equipment that classrooms could use in conjunction with the materials (note: this does not include immovable items such as wall-mounted shelves, as these are covered by school facilities and maintenance)
3. *Teacher Training* – This includes an increase in the bursary amount allocated to each school, as well as Montessori related guest speakers

A motion to approve this priority list was made by Faye, seconded by Ally, and approved and carried.



Given these priorities, it is intended that the Montessori teachers will be asked what they need or want, and that in turn will determine what to spend the money on. It is also decided that an additional \$15,000 (\$5,000 for each school) will be set aside for this purpose. However, it was noted that no budget was made for this year. As such, **Kanny will compose a budget for the year based on the donations to-date and the expected expenditures for the year**, including the \$15,000 for additional funding.

A motion to have \$15,000 in additional funding by RAM as made by Yolanda and seconded by Danny, and was approved and carried.

Next Meeting: April 14 at Steves

Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.