

Location: Manoah Steves Elementary on Thursday January 29th, 2015

Present: Yolanda Domingo & Danny Yee (Co-Chairs), Kanny Chow (Treasurer), Graham Barlow (Secretary), Ally Medweth, Sheila Lau, Tina Lau, Natasha Mavis, Kushal Samy, Cassandra Chang, JFaye Huang, April Tanzler, Nick Bower, Angie Wilson, Justine Ross, Karen Lin, Bonnie & Gagan Jagpal, Maria Cervantes, Denny Ma, Deborah Hansson

Principals: Allan Osadchy – (McKinney), Liz Taylor (Steves), Karen Lynn (VP – Garden City)

Welcome: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and introductions were made.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved (moved by Ally and seconded by Natasha)

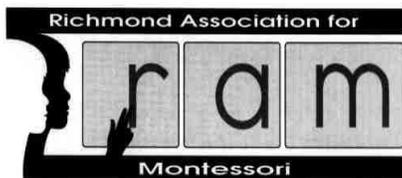
Chair: All positions were filled at the last meeting and everyone has been very busy.

Treasurer Kanny mentioned that donations are coming in.

- As of the early bird date we received \$15 650 with approximately \$18 900 received to date.
- 2013-14 actual budget– We had less income but spent less than planned. This was due to unclaimed bursary funds and a missing shipment which was meant for Garden City School.
- There was discussion of funding amounts (per person and yearly total) for bursaries, teacher education and conference funding.
- Insurance for the Montessori materials purchased by RAM (and prepaid through to August 2015) is not required and could be cancelled for partial refund. This is due to the materials being covered by each school's insurance, in a similar fashion to how purchases made by a school's PAC are covered. The amount allocated for purchasing insurance this year won't be required and could be spent on something else.

Chair Danny explained that the RAM executive (Danny, Yolanda and Graham) had recently met with the principals of the three Richmond Montessori schools and the Assistant Superintendent (Lynn Archer) and Secretary-Treasurer (Mark De Mello) from the Richmond School Board.

At this meeting the School Board representatives informed us that the School Board would start funding the Montessori program in the Richmond public schools. Apparently the School Board was unaware that they were not funding the program until Lynn became aware of this. Lynn and Mark pointed out that the School Board already funds other programs in the public schools such as French Immersion. Funding will be at a similar level to what RAM has been providing. Mark also pointed out that RAM doesn't need to purchase insurance as the current school insurance funded by the School Board covers the Montessori materials in the schools (and in fact has always done so). School Board funding of the Program will start in September 2015 but we are already covered by the insurance.



This policy change generated a lot of discussion. It seems that the role of RAM will be changing from working very hard to maintain core funding to being able to enhance the Montessori experience.

The amended budget (subject to certain edits and changes to be made by Kanny) was accepted unanimously (moved by Danny and seconded by Yolanda).

Fundraising There are 117 families with children in the Montessori program and to date we have raised \$18 650. Our goal for this year is \$25 000. The next fundraiser is the pub night on February 23rd. There will be a raffle and 50:50 draw at the pub night.

Purchasing Sheila will connect with the new purchasers and then we can let the schools know to order materials. We will get a refund on the missing materials which were ordered for Garden City but never received.

Additional Kirstie Gourlay has offered to host an info session for parents (especially about the multi-age groupings/split classes). This will be a stand alone night and will probably take place at McKinney. We will get child minding and will probably try to include the parents of next year's kindergarten students.

Administrators Liz Taylor reported that:

- Everyone is happy to be back after the strike.
- Grades 4-7 are doing skills assessments.
- Basketball has started.
- All schools are gardening and composting. Garden City has received 4 grants towards their garden project.
- The new curriculum (which will be in use by 2016-2017) is an integrated system and is very fluid and in line with Montessori philosophy and Aboriginal First Nations learning.
- The new schedule, in which teachers get 100 minutes per week preparation time, will start after Spring Break.
- Student led conferences will be coming in the spring.

Additional Ally stated that Tammy Ross will be in touch with the volunteer coordinators (Tina and Bonnie). All members of the executive need to provide their address, email and telephone number to Tammy as these have to be reported as RAM is a non profit. Our mailbox location is now out of business and we will likely start using one of the schools as our mailing address rather than paying for another address.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2015 (at McKinney)

Adjournment: 9 p.m.