



# Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

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*Date Nov 14, 2023 | 7:07PM*

*Location Zoom- Garden City*

*Meeting called to order by Jacqueline Ip*

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## In Attendance

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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), Lisa Galbraith (Member at Large, Steves parent), Aisa Tonix (Garden City parent), Jacob Lukas (Garden City parent), and Anna Seto (Garden City parent).

## School Administrators

Ms. May Wong, Principal, Garden City Elementary School.

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## Adoption of Agenda

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Agenda circulated through Zoom chat and accepted.

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## Principal's Report

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Ms. May Wong attended on behalf of 3 Montessori Schools and reported the following:

- Montessori schools are in the process of deciding on their spending/ purchases; spending to be distributed between different grades; deadline January 30th.
- The school district is revisiting the Montessori program bringing some highlights on Montessori program strength, challenges and opportunities. All stakeholders were involved including:
  - Parent focus group on October 25th;
  - School principles to meet on November 23rd;
  - Some students in the Montessori program participated;
  - Teachers participated in May of last school year.
  - Data to be collected by the school district to address those 3 questions.
- One of the challenges is Montessori program trained staffing, especially that UBC doesn't have a cohort of Montessori graduates as they've done in the past. Additionally Montessori coursework is very expensive. Another challenge is parents understanding of the Montessori program and what it entails.



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## Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

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Last meeting's minutes to be circulated during the next RAM meeting.

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## RAM Reports

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### Chair Report

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Chair introduced RAM - Richmond Association for Montessori
  - Parent group who are supporters of the Montessori program of the 3 Montessori Schools.
  - RAM is funded by Membership and Donations; families whose kids attend Montessori programs. We work with the schools and the admin team trying to make the most of our subsidies to support the classroom materials and furniture.
  - RAM has subsidized each year \$5,000 per school (currently at a reduced \$3,000 due to pandemic and lower fundraising) that goes towards Montessori materials and supplies, Montessori specific classroom furnishings, teacher training and education, Montessori parent night, and students' scholarship etc.
- Ivy, co-chair, included that there was a meeting with Nancy Brennan on October 30th regarding the Montessori program addressing questions on how to improve the program. There will be a survey sent out to parents directly from the school district some time in November.

### Treasurer Report and Budget Discussion

- Jacqueline reviewed financial reports.
- Total Operating Income: \$3k.
- Balance Sheet Total Assets \$47K.

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## Open Issues and New Business

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### Fundraising

- 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



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be greatly beneficial if you can share it with your network. Mabel's Labels. This is an ongoing fundraiser.

- 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.
- Fiona proposed a frozen candy idea to be included to RAM fundraising campaigns. The company is Yum Ice; they are offering 7 of their famous flavours; RAM receives 20% of sales; no minimum sales required. Could be a great Christmas present. Fiona to pick-up the order from Vancouver. Follow-up on turn around and prices. Approved to give this fundraiser a try.

### Membership Annual Dues and Cash Drive:

- Membership drive was launched approximately a month ago. Membership fees are \$75; any amount above that is eligible for tax receipt. Donations of \$200 or more are eligible for tax receipt of the full donation amount. RAM fees can be paid by cheque, RAM e-transfer or online using EventBrite.
- A reminder will be sent out to families for membership dues.
- There will be an early bird draw for all dues and donations made before December 31st. Draw will take place at an upcoming 2024 RAM meeting to win a Gift certificate.

### Bursaries

- No Bursary applications received from Montessori teachers.

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### Next Meeting

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- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:09 PM and was passed unanimously.