



Richmond Association for Montessori Meeting Minutes

Date Nov 19, 2024 | 7:03PM

Location Zoom- Steves Elementary

Meeting called to order by Jacqueline Ip

In Attendance

Jacqueline Ip (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), Karina Ho (Steves RAM-PAC Liaison, Steves parent) and Tina Leung (McKinney parent).

School Administrators:

Ms Rachel Corneil, Principal, Steves Elementary

Ms. Gallit Zvi, Principal, McKinney Elementary

Adoption of Agenda

Agenda circulated through Zoom chat and accepted.

Principal's Report

Ms Corneil reported the following:

- The three Montessori schools are at different stages due to variations in staffing and available resources.
- Montessori teachers are planning their RAM subsidy spending efficiently.
- Montessori-trained teachers who are highly immersed in Montessori philosophy are considered for teaching roles with the understanding they will eventually obtain their BC teaching certificates.
- Once a school confirms a position needs to be filled, the district assists in sourcing qualified candidates.

Ms Gallit Zvi reported the following

- Efforts are focused on mentorship and training the new teachers, retired Montessori teachers modeling and team-teaching to support the new teachers.
- Albanesi math materials were purchased to enhance the Montessori program.



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Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

AGM and last meeting's minutes were circulated and accepted.

RAM Reports

Chair Report

- Jacqueline welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Chair introduced RAM - Richmond Association for Montessori
 - RAM (Richmond Association for Montessori) is a group of parents dedicated to supporting the Montessori program at three schools in the district: Steves, Garden City, and McKinney.
 - RAM is funded by membership fees and donations from families whose children are enrolled in the Montessori programs. RAM works collaboratively with schools and the administration to maximize the impact of subsidies to support the classroom materials and furniture.
 - Historically, RAM subsidized \$5,000 per school annually, currently reduced to \$3,000 due to pandemic recoveries and lower membership / donations levels. Funds raised go towards Montessori materials and supplies, Montessori specific classroom furnishings, teacher training and education, Montessori parent night, and students' scholarship etc.
 - RAM doesn't interfere with staffing or how the class is conducted, etc.

Treasurer Report and Budget Discussion

- Jacqueline reviewed financial reports.
- Total Assets 39K.
- 2024/25 Budget: Estimated income 8K and estimated expenses 13K.
- Balance Sheet Total Assets \$46K.

Open Issues and New Business

Fundraising

- Members are encouraged to support these campaigns during the holiday season. Ongoing fundraising campaign include:
 - 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



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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. Please use the Montessori website for orders.
- First Aid Kit Fundraiser has been postponed to early 2025 for better planning and execution. Purchase and order forms will be distributed, and payments will be accepted at that time.
- We are open to exploring new fundraising ideas and strive to coordinate efforts to avoid overlapping with the School PAC's initiatives

Membership and Cash Drive:

- Membership forms will be ready for distribution in the next week or two.
- This year, the plan is to use Zeffy, a platform that allows for free credit card processing. Previously, Eventbrite was used for credit card payments but incurred small fees.
- Early bird draw is on January 14th for the Gift card.

Bursaries

- No bursary applications.
- Will update the RAM website with the new bursary application.

Next Meeting

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