



MONTESSORI
House for Children

DATE Tuesday, Feb 14, 2017

TIME: 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Elementary Building/

MINUTE #6

MEETING CREATED BY: Parents Association of Volunteers

TYPE OF MEETING: Monthly Update

FACILITATOR: Grace Young Baechle

MINUTE TAKER: Antonieta Cádiz

TIMEKEEPER: Grace Young Baechle

START TIME: 5:00 PM

ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Grace Young Baechle Barbara Nelson
Hanna Ottosson Antonieta Cadiz
Dipa Brahmbhatt

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Call to Order & Minute Approval

TIME ALLOCATED: 1 min

PRESENTED BY: Grace Young Baechle

2. Volunteer Committees

TIME ALLOCATED: 10 min

PRESENTED BY: Grace Young Baechle, Dipa Brahmbhatt

1. Volunteer Committee update:

Eco Action Team: March 28 and April 22 will be family planting days.

The Prairie Conservatory has recommended a list of native plants for our 6 gardens.

Eco School is working with students to put together a list of plants for each garden for parents to purchase and plant. Dipa will add the documentation to the National Wildlife Eco-School website.

Barbara informed us that 2 grants were awarded for the "Field of Dreams": \$500 from The Great Grow Out, and \$500 from the Ursula Thrush Peace Seed Grant (through American Montessori Society).

3. New Business

TIME ALLOCATED: 30 min

PRESENTED BY: Grace Young Baechle, Barbara Nelson.

Discussions:

1. Reinforce concept of peace, diversity and unity

It is important to remind parents that the school values internationalism. We will spread the message of peace in our community, and reinforce these concepts to give a sense of comfort.

Some ideas:

i. Get plastic printed signs of peace and line them along the driveway.

ii. Make a community blanket or quilt. Families can create their own square of fabric where they can decorate and share their (international) background. They can create the work at home and we can unite everything at school.

Possible workshop on sewing.

Barbara will ask grandparent, Sandra Allen, who is an expert in quilting to see if she is interested in leading parents in a community effort.

Estimate 50 patches, 10 square inches each.

Once finished we can hang it at school Barbara will speak with Margie, her sister, about sewing activities for parents, and putting the quilt together.

As we do the activity at home with our kids, we can talk to them about peace, diversity and unity.

Antonieta will draft a diplomatic message for parents to reinforce these ideas.

iii. Buttons of origin

Miss Juana's daughter (Faith) has started a button business, and she will can make buttons for parents. Examples are messages of peace, unity, or country of origin, statehood, etc. on buttons.

We can ask all parents to wear them especially at the international picnic.

Barbara will communicate this to parents in this week's newsblast.

iv. Put peace and unity messages on rocks, and use them to decorate school gardens, similar to Willow Fork Park. It can be done as part of the Eco-School project and at the international picnic.

Dipa will investigate on necessary materials to write on rocks.

2. International Picnic, April 7

a. *Remarks:*

I. Expanding International picnic to include an International Fair to celebrate diversity.

Families to have their own booths. Their statehood or culture or country of origin to be represented in their booths.

Separate different continents in different classrooms in the Elementary building. Families can bring their international food, costumes, pictures, artwork, etc that highlight and celebrate their roots.

Grace to send an email to ask for continent (and country) chairs to help each continent organize themselves.

3. Parent coffee

a. *Remarks:*

I. On March 9. We will not have a special presentation, just a time for parents to gather and talk.

4. Teacher appreciation May 1-5

a. *Remarks:*

I. We will host teachers' breakfast on Monday, May 1st, and lunch on Friday, May 5th. Parent volunteers to bring food.

li. We will send a sign up genius of the menu items to bring.

4. Old Business

TIME ALLOCATED: 10 min

PRESENTED BY: Grace Young Baechle, Hanna Ottosson.

1. Wrap up:

I. *Science Fair*: 38 students presented their projects. A new record high!

ii. Parent Coffee: 5 attendees. Xiao Mao-Clark, parent, provided a Family Financial Planning talk. It was very informative, and gave an overview on estate planning foundations. Of interest, the attendees valued the guidance on guardianship (it needs to be separate from the will); what happens to your children in case the parents pass away. Barbara will follow up with Xiao to ask if her contact person (estate attorney) can write a brief summary, and we can share information with the parents.

lii. Pancake breakfast: Around 50 people attended. It was very successful and families appeared to have a good time.

5. Treasurer's report

TIME ALLOCATED: 4 min

PRESENTED BY: Not present

2. Treasurer's Report

Remarks:

1. INCOME for the Friendship Fundraiser (**teacher organized**): \$490
2. INCOME year to date: \$8712.44
3. Expenses for Science Fair only: \$126.18
4. Expenses for Pancake Day only: \$98.54
5. Expenses year to date: \$379.77
6. Net Income (Income minus Expenses) total for the MEFI Fund. \$8,332.23

6. News and announcements

TIME ALLOCATED: 5 min

PRESENTED BY: Hanna Ottosson

a. *Remarks:*

I. More information on what the children are learning in elementary school would be of interest. The Montessori method is very different than traditional school, so it would be useful to understand and visualize (perhaps more photographs) of the work.

Barbara will add a similar "Montessori Journey" or "Watch Me Work" for Elementary school, and add to next year's calendar. Replicate parent education activities that the school currently does in EC in Elementary to help parents understand what kids are doing.

END TIME: 6:00PM

APPROVAL: Grace Young Baechle_____