

Montessori Academy PTA meeting

April 6, 2017

Freddie Thomas Campus, library.

Regular monthly meeting.

Attending: Emma Krips (parent), Dorothie Aristor (parent), Marion Whitfield (sitting in for interim principal), Alisa Sciolino (Montessori Coordinator), Ignis Victor (parent), Alicia Evans (Healthi Kids coordinator), Sherphine Dailey (parent liaison), and Pia Moller (secretary).

- **Introductions**
- **Montessori discussion:** Alisa Sciolino asks for general input: what would parents like to see? Suggestions made:
 - A relaxation space for kids + introduction of relaxation techniques; guided meditation and calm down techniques
 - a Peace Table and methods of sensory calming.
 - More art & craft/creative exploits.
 - More outside time (some days kids don't get to go out).
 - More Montessori: concerns about the heavy emphasis on Common Core and how that detracts from the Montessori philosophy and practice. Hope that the new principal will be rooted in Montessori.
 - Parent Education night (which have been tried in the past with small showings, but there's hope this could change). Maybe pair parent education night with other event to attract more people. Maybe combine with Children Tech Parents night? Get the parents through the kids. Guide parents on how to support Montessori at home.
 - Need for more Montessori training opportunities for teachers (collaborate with private Montessori school in the area? Establish a training center (on the third floor of our building!)?
 - Alicia Evans suggests Math and Movement, which would require 15 or so volunteers and 1-2 teachers, combine math with sensorial experience & fun.
- **Approval of Minutes:** approval of March minutes:
- **Principal's Report** (interim principal Ramsperger is away; Marion Whitfield is mainly there to listen) No news on the construction plans for the building, except over the summer a foyer will be added to the other school in our building but it will not affect us (except lessen traffic near our entrance). No news in terms of the principal search.

- **Update from SBPT (school based planning team):** our school has had good attendance (94.6 %; we want to get over the 95% mark). All levels making adequate progress
- **Treasurer's report:** Approved (motion by _____ seconded by _____).
- **PTA recruitment of new officers:** we need to recruit more people and the Nominating committee will be chaired by PTA president Harriet Fisher. (create flyer to go out to parents)
- **PTA budget 2017-2018:** budget committee is established and will meet soon to create the budget and have it ready for presentation at the May PTA meeting (and to be voted on in June's PTA meeting). we need quorum (10) to pass it.
- **Events:** Spring Fling will this year take the form of a Masquerade Party on May 5 from 6-8 PM in cafeteria; Mrs Dailey is going to chair this event and organize music (DJ), decorations, and food—it will just be a fun night to get people involved. Coordinate with art teacher so children can make masks. We will have extra masks on hand. Pia and Emma volunteer to help set up.
- **Membership report:** n/a (Rosalind Walker was away).
- **Parent-Teacher share:** ReadyRosie.com (early education tool: <https://www.readyrosie.com/>) and Alicia Evans introduces us to her work and collaborations w Eat Smart and Play Works. Alicia also called to attention that last fall the Montessori Academy vegetable garden produced many vegetables that went to waste when school went on break. We need to make sure that doesn't happen again.

7: 40 Meeting adjourned

Pia Moller, PTA secretary