

**New Westminster Montessori Society
Annual General Meeting Minutes**

January 27, 2016 (6:45 start)

I Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- 1) Nov minutes approved by Jacque, seconded by Satinder
- 2) Agenda approved by Claudine, seconded by Shauna

II Agenda Items

- 1) Treasurer Report – Financial Statement 2015
 - a. Donations down from last year, currently \$5,600
 - i. Balance in 2015 was -\$11,080
 - b. Discussion of GIC will be postponed until next meeting
 - c. Clarification about classroom funding from the society: each teacher provided with \$1,000 to supply the classrooms with Montessori materials or provide educational opportunities
 - d. No other questions or issues brought up from those present.
- 2) Purchaser Report
 - a. All classrooms provided with \$1,000 except with Mrs. Armstrong who didn't purchase equipment
- 3) Election of officers
 - a. Satinder for **Treasurer**, nominated by Jacque, seconded by Catherine
 - b. Claudine for **Secretary**, nominated by Ross, seconded by Amanda
 - c. Ross for **President**, nominated by Jacque, seconded by Shauna
 - d. Catherine **Vice President**, nominated by Jacque, seconded by Melissa
 - e. Natasha Gudelj nominated for **Purchaser**, seconded by Ross
 - f. Kristin Sedore (not present) nominated as website designer, seconded by Satinder
 - g. Members at large: Meghan Clark, Monique Huynh, Kathy Lange, Alex Almarza, Faye (Jo) Luk will become members at large
 - h. Long-time members stepping down: Jacque Killawee, Amanada Van Garderen, Melissa Haffner

AGM Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

**New Westminster Montessori Society
Meeting Minutes**

January 27, 2016 (7:10 start)

Members in attendance: Jacque, Claudine, Ross, Shauna, Catherine, Satinder, Amanda, Melissa

I Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- 1) Approved (see above)

II Guests

Sara Fox was invited to discuss the proposed expansion of the Montessori program in New Westminster to the new Fraser River Middle School starting in 2016/2017.

- Sara has been involved for more than 18 years in Montessori: teacher, parent, New Westminster Montessori Society member
- Montessori currently offered in elementary schools up to Grade 5 on the east side, and Grade 6 on the west side (but changing to 5 next year)
- With new Fraser River Middle School (FRMS) opening next year, there is an opportunity now to continue Montessori model into this middle school
- The west side teachers have a proposal put forth to SD40 (Belinda Scott, Pat Duncan and others) to continue the Montessori program into FRMS
- Sara commented that the new Province-wide curriculum reflects much of the methodology used in Montessori education
- The proposal to expand the Montessori program into FRMS was submitted as a new program. However, the west side teachers were informed by Pat Duncan it is not a new program but an 'expansion' of the existing program. As a result School Board Trustee approval is not required
- In order to move forward with proposal, parent interest must be measured in the form of an expression of interest letter. We understand this letter was sent (via principals) to all grade 5-7 students currently, or previously, in the Montessori program.
- Timeline for the expression of interest is tight due to SD40 staffing deadlines; new Montessori teacher needs to be hired at same time as other FRMS teachers
- The proposal called for 1-2 Montessori mixed grade 6-8 classes. Students would be with Montessori teacher for core courses: math, science, socials, and language arts. Elective classes would still be taken with regular stream students.
- A concern was expressed by Pat Duncan about the ability to maintain the program with 30 students. Question were asked about minimum number of students needed for a typical middle school class
- Sara believed that 30 students from the current grade 5-7 students would need to express interest to run the program

- Questions were asked about whether children can join Montessori at a later grade. Sara believes an independent learner could adapt easily at any age. She feels it may be challenging for children who want more structure and direction
- Currently there are 25 Grade 5 and 6 students at Tweeds and approximately 25 Grade 5 students at McBride
- The FRMS model would be mostly project based so minimal extra funding from the New Westminster Montessori Society would be required to start the classroom
- Questions were asked about whether a student who had been out of the Montessori program in Grade 7 would benefit from going back into Grade 8 Montessori. Sara feels it would be worth it because students can work ahead of their grade level as needed. This could help prepare students for IB program in high school
- Questions were asked about what parents can do to move this forward now. Answer: email Pat Duncan pduncan@sd40.ca and Belinda Scott bscott@sd.40.ca
- The Society will send email request that all former parents and current parents express interest in middle school model
- Question was asked if it would be beneficial for president to go to the press to discuss the new model. Decided to wait on this at this time

II Action Items

- A) Ross to draft email to Pat Duncan & Belinda Scott regarding Society support for FRMS proposal. Will send to members to approve
- B) Kristen to update Facebook and website about middle school proposal
- C) Ross to send out email to all parents on current mailing list copy of expression of interest letter requesting response to Pat Duncan & Belinda Scott
- D) Board pictures to be taken early next year
- G) Satinder to cut cheque for Mrs. Wong's smartboard stand, smartboard and Mrs. Seens shelving
- H) Ms. Seens wants funding for Albanesi math program. This hasn't been approved by the board and, as donations are down this year, unlikely

III Agenda Topic

- 1) Fundraising
 - a. Ross to contact DFS Canada to set up cookie fundraiser
 - b. If members have ideas for fundraising, they are encouraged to propose them to the Society and proceed if approved

IV New Items

- 1) Shauna and Ross talked to the Westside teachers in December. Was a positive meeting. Discussed an idea to have a Montessori information night.
- 2) Montessori Advisory meeting – Claudine to attend

- 3) Receipts submitted from Ms. Seens and Mrs. Wong for storage containers
- 4) Uncashed donations for two parents: Kristin Sedore & Dana Couples. Idea to set up e-transfer for parents to donate online.
- 5) Idea to send out newsletter in February to remind parents of the society's role, how parents can be involved, and where the funding goes
- 6) Additional box of materials from Ms. Seen - Ross will go through to see if they would be worth keeping

Meeting adjourned 8:50