Helena Public Montessori Parents, Inc.

*Join us as we support and advocate for public Montessori education*

**HPMP Meeting notes**

**Monday, November 4, 2013**

**5:30-6:30 pm**

**Broadwater Elementary School**

Attendees: Co-President Erin Turner, Co-President Perri May, Secretary Erin Lanigan, Treasurer Heather Nicholson, Broadwater Principal Sue Sweeney, Central Principal Vanessa Nasset, Central Lower Elementary Teacher Elizabeth Kenney, Smith Representative Tiffany Lyden, Sally Hicks, Ali Bovingdon, Future of Montessori Representative Diana Hammer, Alana Listoe, Lisa Dwyer.

Co-President Perri began the meeting at 5:33 pm.

Welcome/Introductions

Perri opened the meeting with introductions. Secretary Erin Lanigan circulated the sign-in sheet.

Secretary’s Report

Secretary Erin Lanigan reported thank-yous had been sent and more there are more to be sent after the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Current balance is **$4203.14**. $650 was in our PayPal account that was previously unaccounted. There has been a temporary hold-up on the teacher materials requests.

Principals’ Report

Vanessa Nasset had e-mailed teachers to be able to provide some information about what was going on in their classrooms, and Libby Kenney had some things to share at the meeting.

Libby said that they made their Original Works creations with shaving cream, food coloring and sharpie about something that was important to them. She said it was a good idea to get together with other teachers ahead of the project date in order to come up with ideas. This year, Libby’s classroom is creating a tree for the Festival of Trees. Other classrooms are also “getting into the swing of things,” are busy with Original Works and are grateful for their materials requests being fulfilled. When Libby told her class they would be getting new materials, clapping and crying ensued.

Vanessa also had her son show us the classjump.com site for her son’s classroom. This is a place for parents to see what their children are doing in their classrooms through pictures and links.

Vanessa also acknowledged that Sue Sweeney received the “Let’s Talk About Great Teachers” award from the Helena Education Foundation.

Vanessa also reported that there are no funds available from New Professionalism for teacher training, but there is interest.

Old Business

Heather Nicholson reported that purchasing the materials for the classrooms ended up being more difficult because there were requests from five different websites and lots of shipping costs. Going forward, we are going to ask teachers to include their item numbers in their request to make sure the exact item wanted is purchased. This year, the deadline for the requests fell on the same night as the meeting, and resulted in missing a request that was sent before the deadline, but not received. It is already stated that we have ten days to make decisions about the materials request, therefore next time there is an issue of time, we will wait to make decisions as necessary. The additional request was from Shannon Callaghan and Katy Wright for constructive triangles, beads, square root boards, grammar, + & - snake game materials, and metal insets. Alana moved to order the additional materials, and Tiffany seconded.

Original Works 2013-2014

We will be putting the Original Works information into the calendar for next year so that they do not come up at the last minute. Erin Lanigan volunteered to coordinate Original Works for the Montessori classrooms next year. A discussion was started about the idea of creating a school-wide Original Works event that HPMP would coordinate. Parent Councils will need to be asked about this idea.

The Spring Thing Updates

This kid-centered event needs volunteers and a final budget. There will be a meeting held for committees to begin coordinating. Health department limitations need to be looked into. Erin Turner and Perri May are the co-chairs for the event. Amy Heuiser is the venue chair. Erin Turner is the Band coordinator/volunteer chair. Perri May is the sponsorship chair. We still need volunteers for add-ons and concessions, marketing (e-mail), and ticket sales. Vanessa will coordinate with music teachers, and Alana with the IR. Parents could potentially donate food for the event. Our fundraising goal up for discussion is $5000.

Karaoke Night

Jim at the Staggering Ox would “not be opposed” to a karaoke night in late January. A final date is still in the works. There are many ideas about how to best go about charging for the event.

Future of Montessori Report

The Future of Montessori seems to have lost momentum when the levy didn’t pass. The principals and superintendent are meeting on November 11. The hope is to expand public Montessori into other public schools and middle schools. The District asked for a report of how much money HPMP has donated over the course of the program, and the total is approximately $250,000. Over the last two years we have donated $30,000 for teacher training, and raised almost $9,000. There is still discussion occurring about if there should be a lottery “switchup,” such as an opt-out program starting at Central. When applicable, placements are offered to 4th and 5th graders, but it is not as common. It was discussed that any changes should come hand in hand with expansion. The expansion barriers are money and space. We need solid commitment from the district for grant writing. It’s no longer whether or not to expand, but when and where. The district funds every class at the same level, and to start a Montessori classroom, $20,000 are needed for materials. A dream expressed would be to have a pool of Montessori-trained teachers to step into the district. Partnering with Carroll College would be great.

Lobsters!

Erin Turner sent one e-mail and one reminder e-mail. 180 lobsters were ordered this year in comparison to 655 last year. This year, they were picked up from the airport and delivered to the Lewis and Clark Brewery, where purchasers will pick them up Saturday morning from 11-12:30. Erin turner received a thank-you call from the Mediterranean Grill for not having to cook lobsters. Only 3 people voiced complaints. The outcome overall was happy, and approximately $1400 was raised.

**The next meeting will be Monday, December 2 at 5:30 pm at Broadwater School.**

**Helena Public Montessori Parents, Inc. (HPMP)** [www.helenamontessori.org](http://www.helenamontessori.org)

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