



# Montessori Learning Centre

Parent Teacher Association

## MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

LOCATION: ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING | 6:45pm

### In Attendance

*Parents:* Jennifer R., Cynthia D., Erin D., Jennifer W., Nicole K., Jenny B., Gary C., Reggie O., Jasmin O., Amelia N., Anderson N., Justin P., Jean Guy L., Dino D., Karen M., Martha G., Sebastien H., Adam M., Nana B., Nina D. (President)

*School:* Nicola Phillips (Principal)

### Introduction and History of the PTA

Nina (mom to Leo in the Junior Classroom and Margaret in Casa IV) welcomed everyone for attending online. Typically, the PTA would meet in person but given the present regulations around social distancing, PTA meetings will be held through Zoom for the near future.

The PTA is a group of volunteer parents and teachers that organize activities, events and generally support the school's efforts. The monthly meetings are a venue to share our experiences, ask questions about the Montessori environment, and bounce ideas on what we can do to enrich the students outside of academics. The PTA has focused largely in the past on fundraising activities and hosting much loved events like Sports Day or various family social gatherings.

Nicola shared that the PTA has been active 34 out of the 35 years the school has been open (which is very unique for a private school). The PTA began as way to support activities already going on in the school, but the fundraising events became so successful that the school no longer needed to fundraise for itself. The funds raised are used in that same calendar year to enrich the children's environment (from purchasing the rock wall and the playground equipment in the field, to holding free pizza lunches or providing the catering at family events). The items purchased with the funds raised are decided on mutually between the parents and the staff. The PTA also hosts events for parents to come together to build a network and community. They created the annual family swim day at the McLean Community Centre, Business Networking meetings, Saturday family night movies in the gym, and the event always in high demand – free babysitting during the Holiday Shopping Season! We always welcome new ideas of what activities the parents would like the PTA to host.

## **Goals for the 2020-2021 Academic Year**

Some time will be needed to reflect on how certain annual events can proceed safely this year given the restrictions we face from the pandemic.

Typically, the PTA membership dwindles down to 3-4 parents each year which limits the resources needed to expand the scope of our activities. We are hoping to retain a larger membership this year so that smaller committees can be created (a fundraising committee, a social committee, a community service committee and a teacher appreciation committee). There is no minimum requirement in terms of time or workload – participation can be as little or as much as each parent wants to contribute and can wax and wane throughout the year.

In the coming weeks, an online survey will be circulated to solicit feedback on the kinds of activities parents and teachers would like to have this year, as well as whom might be interested in joining the various proposed sub-committees.

The PTA will also start disseminating quarterly newsletters, as well as the monthly meeting minutes to keep all parents informed of our efforts and future plans.

This will be a year of adapting the PTA activities to life under COVID restrictions, while finding creative ways to continue to enrich our school and for our students to contribute in meaningful ways to the community.

In order to connect with the PTA, you can email [pta.mlcp@gmail.com](mailto:pta.mlcp@gmail.com)

You can find the facebook group either by searching MLCP PTA or using this address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1063685913683870/>

## **Suggestions from Parents During the Meeting**

1. Advertise the businesses owned by parents at MLCP. This information will be included in a future newsletter.
2. Solicit feedback regularly from Teachers on their needs. This will be achieved through a regular survey to staff.

## **Next Scheduled Meeting**

Wednesday October 21, 2020.

*With nothing further to discuss, the meeting ended at 7:17pm.*