

Monona Grove Nursery School
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, August 16, 2021
7:00pm

In attendance: Sue Carr (School Director), Lynn Witte (Member at Large), Kathryn Mingione (President), Juli Huston (Teacher), Sara Brelie (Secretary), Chyna Benzine (Equipment and Inventory Coordinator), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Nicole Smialek (Events Coordinator), Erin Drewes (Teacher), Clint Cecil (Fundraising Coordinator), Aimee Wendt (Fundraising Coordinator), Kate Brown (Teacher)

1. Call to Order

- A. President Kathryn Mingione called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Routine Business

- A. Approval of Minutes for August Meeting
 - i. Lynn Witte moved to approve the minutes. Clint Cecil seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- B. Report from the School Director
 - i. Sue summarized her report.
 - a. 12 openings to fill.
 - b. Sue has 2-3 tours this coming week and she encouraged board members to help get the message out that there are openings and ways of doing so.
 - ii. Sue shared that she had included the Public Health Madison and Dane County Fall 2021 Guidance for Dane County Child Care Programs literature.
 - iii. Sue shared that Lex has offered to split the \$5,000.00 cost to repave the parking lot and repaint the lines in the parking lot. This would also include repairing a spot by the MGNS door.
 - a. Timeline for this project is unknown, but it is unlikely to be done prior to the start of the school year.
 - b. The decision was made that this project should be completed, but that it would first need to be run by Amanda Rudningen (Treasurer) in the coming week.
 - iv. Sue summarized the 2020-21 Parents Survey Results part 2.
 - a. Overall the feedback was good. There was feedback of wanting a summer session, a comment about the lack of diversity within the school and a comment about a new family not feeling welcome due to not understanding the lingo of the different class levels and names.
 - b. There was a discussion about how diversity and antiracism work have both been discussed in the past. The teachers are participating in a book club around these topics and this work will continue during teacher meetings throughout the school year.
 - c. Chyna Benzine asked why the summer program ended and what the format of it was. Sue Carr shared that it was a 3–4-week camp with each week having a different theme and that it ended because it was difficult to find staff for a summertime program, but that it may be an option in the future.

d. Nicole Smialek brought up the idea of having a parent ambassador or buddy for each class, that new parents could communicate with if they desired. It was decided that Kathryn Mingione, Chyna Benzine, Nicole Smialek and Erin Drewes would work on creating an ambassador program for the coming school year.

C. Financials

- i. Treasurer Amanda Rudningen was not present and President Kathryn Mingione shared the financial report.
 - a. Treasurer Amanda Rudningen will send out further notes tomorrow via email. There are no current concerns and the cash on hand is strong.

3. Rountable Check-In

A. Kathryn encouraged board members to possibly wear their MGNS t-shirts and introduce themselves and share their board position at the upcoming parent orientation Zoom meetings.

B. Fundraising

- i. Fundraising Coordinator Aimee Wendt shared that both Chipotle and Culver's dine-in nights were confirmed.
 - a. Chipotle night will be on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 from 5-9 pm. More information will be distributed closer to the date.
 - b. Culver's night will be on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 from 5-8 pm. It was discussed that in prior years this night was more involved with multiple volunteers being needed. Kathryn Mingione and Chyna Benzine both volunteered to work the night and it was discussed that 4 volunteers will still be needed.
 - c. Director Sue Carr asked if Clint Cecil and Aimee Wendt could add dates to the Google calendar and if they would be able to make posts on the MGNS Facebook page. It was decided they could do both.
 - d. Aimee Wendt shared there would be upcoming Facebook posts for both Oliver's Labels and Butter Braids.

C. Equipment and Inventory Coordinator check-in

- i. Equipment and Inventory Coordinator Chyna Benzine shared that she plans to go to the playground next week to determine what needs to be done there. She then questioned if the AC unit needs to be installed in the fall or if it could wait until the spring. After a discussion on the matter it was decided that it would be installed for the fall semester.

D. Meet, Greet & Eat

- i. Events Coordinator Nicole Smialek summarized what had been discussed in the last meeting, but that since then it was decided that this event will need to be virtual and the board agreed with this decision.
- ii. Nicole Smialek discussed that this event would entail a Zoom meeting for each class.
 - a. Possibly 45-60 minutes in length.
 - b. Teachers could be in the classroom while participating in the Zoom meeting.
 - c. There will be a facilitator for the meeting and the details of that person will be determined.
 - d. The Board discussed the eating portion of this event and it was decided that this would be eliminated in order to simplify the event.

- e. The date of this event will be Saturday, October 2, 2021. The time of the event is still being determined.
- f. Nicole Smialek shared that she will continue to work on planning the logistics of this event and possibly a flyer.

4. Items for Discussion

- A. Google Suite
 - i. New teacher emails are all working and all teachers are working via the MGNS Google workspace.
 - ii. Some board members also have an email set up for them and were encouraged to use those when communicating with other individuals in the community.
 - iii. Everyone was encouraged to continue to look at and update, as needed, files in the shared board Google drive.
 - iv. There was a discussion as to whether the School Director, Sue Carr, or the board Secretary should be the administrator of the email suite. It was decided that Sue Carr would hold that position.
- B. Masking outdoors while at school
 - i. It was discussed that there were two recent emails from parents of MGNS students. One email was in defense of not masking children and staff outdoors and one was in favor of masking children and adults while outdoors.
 - ii. Discussion occurred around whether or not children and staff should be masked while outdoors at school.
 - iii. It was decided a vote would be taken later in the meeting.
- C. Helping parents in the classroom to start the year
 - i. An email from a parent that has a child with an IEP and will need support staff was discussed.
 - ii. It was decided that Sue Carr, School Director, would make sure the support staff was vaccinated as to follow the policy set forth by the MGNS board at the May meeting.
 - iii. Discussion occurred around whether or not there should be helping parents in the classroom.
 - iv. It was decided a vote on the matter would be held later in the meeting.

5. Items up for vote

- A. The motion of will we require masking outdoors for the 2021-22 school year was moved by President Kathryn Mingione. The motion failed, with 2 in favor of wearing masks outdoors and 10 against wearing masks outdoors, by a show of hand vote.
- B. The motion of will we have helping parents to start the 2021-22 school year was moved by President Kathryn Mingione. The motion failed, with 0 in favor of having helping parents in classroom and 12 against having helping parents in the classroom, by a show of hand vote.

6. Adjournment

- A. President Mingione adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

