

**Monona Grove Nursery School
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2021
7:00pm**

***For COVID-19 safety, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom.*

In attendance: Sue Carr (School Director), Lynn Witte (Member at Large), Kathryn Mingione (President), Sara Brelie (Secretary), Chyna Benzine (Equipment and Inventory Coordinator), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Nicole Smialek (Events Coordinator), Erin Drewes (Teacher), Aimee Wendt (Fundraising Coordinator), Dawn Van Horn (Teacher), Juli Huston (Teacher), Sarah Firchow (Teacher), Patrice Stadler (Teacher), Beth Kernan (Vice President), Laura McGuire (Volunteer Coordinator), Sarah Kopczyk (Alumni Coordinator), Kate Brown (Teacher)

Community Appearance: Erin Liljegren (parent)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Community Appearances

- a. Erin Liljegren – concern: advance notice to parents of other adults/events in building
 - i. Erin expressed that she was surprised to see members of the community at the school for a blood drive a couple of weeks ago. She has general safety concerns, as well as concerns about COVID safety. She hopes to learn more about when the school and church share the hallway and what safety precautions are in place. She would support having doors and gates to the school locked at all times when community members are present in the building.
 - ii. A general discussion occurred about what types of events involving members of the community take place in the church. There are two churches that share the building, as well as another school in the basement and a third school on weekends. During non-COVID times, there are various meetings and other events involving community members that sometimes occur during school hours. MGNS and the church maintain their separate entrances and have their own security systems for their respective entrances. However, some events use the kitchen and/or Fellowship Hall. The church pastors and others who work in the building have background checks like the teachers do, but this is a building that is used by many people for many reasons,
 - iii. Sue generally gets notified about events that affect use of the shared parking

lot, such as some funerals. Funerals on school days in non-COVID times generally involve a luncheon in Fellowship Hall that is prepared in the kitchen.

- iv. Suggestions were made including notifying parents of known events in the newsletter and/or via text through the ELV app. A Board member could be in charge of communicating with the church about events during school hours.
- v. The decision was made to add this to the November agenda for further discussion.
- vi. The Board thanked Erin for bringing her concerns to the Board.

3. Routine Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from September Meeting
 - i. Beth made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by Laura, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
- b. Report from the School Director
 - i. The Board thanked Nicole for organizing a fun and successful virtual Meet, Greet & Showcase
 - ii. There were no questions for Sue about the Director's report
- c. Financials
 - i. Treasurer Amanda was unable to attend the meeting but had no concerns. Sue volunteered to answer any questions from the Board about financials. No questions were asked.

4. Roundtable Check-In

- a. Fundraising Coordinator Aimee gave an overview of fall fundraising.
 - i. Butter braid sale - 473 total butter braids sold, which brought in just over \$2600 for the school,
 - ii. This week is the Chipotle dine-out. A flier went out last week in brown bags last week, and Aimee has posted on Facebook and will continue to do so because Facebook posts seem to be helpful.
 - iii. Fired Up Pottery is in November. Aimee will have that info for the next newsletter, as well as info in brown bags.
 - iv. Culvers night is November 9.
 - v. The Jellyfish Jaunt is underway. Aimee plans to post a few times and ask for likes and/or comments from people who have logged miles. Her family plans to donate a Target gift card as a prize in addition to the Glass Nickel pizza gift certificates that have already been donated. First place will receive a Target gift card, and Glass Nickel gift certificates will go out to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place mile loggers. Sue will order medals after logging sheets are turned in so that she knows how many to order. Prizes and medals will go into brown bags when they are ready, within a couple of weeks after forms are due.
- b. School Director Sue brought up parent meetings for the spring semester
 - i. In a non-COVID year, there are two parent meetings with two different parenting topics. Parents must attend one meeting, and they can attend both. This year, teachers have expressed an interest in at least one meeting discussing

basic parenting strategies like 1-2-3 Magic or Love and Logic. Organizing these meetings is part of the VP job description.

5. Items for Discussion

- a. Helping parents in the second semester - current thoughts?
 - I. There was a general consensus that parents would like to get back in the classroom and teachers would love their help, However, not much has changed since the Board decided not to allow volunteers. Until preschool children can be vaccinated and/or case numbers go down, there is no reason to change the policy.
 - Ii. The decision was made that the Board will continue to consider allowing volunteers back into classrooms at future meetings. The Board is open to deciding to allow volunteers at the beginning or in the middle of the spring semester as circumstances allow.
- b. Addition of 4th day of Toddler Time for spring semester
 - I. Sue and Patrice explained that the current Dane Co. order requiring masks for children 2 and up has been difficult for some 2-yr-olds in toddler time. Some children have dropped since the beginning of this year for that reason. It is not clear whether there will be enough interest to fill a fourth day of toddler time.
 - Ii. The decision was made to keep three days for now and add a fourth if there is increased interest in the future.
- c. Zoom Story Times - Schedule for November
 - I. Kathryn and Nicole have discussed holding the first story time on November 12. Nicole will coordinate the story times and Kathryn has volunteered to lead the first one. The possibility of changing the start time to earlier or having different start times different months was discussed. Teacher involvement was also discussed.
 - Ii. The decision was made to keep the start times consistent at 7pm. Kathryn will lead the first one and Teacher Erin volunteered to help out with that one. Teachers will not be required or asked to volunteer, but they are welcome to. Nicole will send out a sign-up to get volunteers for the rest of the story times.

6. Items Up for Vote

- a. President Kathryn Mingione reports there are no items up for vote.

7. Adjournment

- a. Beth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chyna and approved unanimously. Kathryn adjourned the meeting at 8:09pm.