

**Monona Grove Nursery School
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2021
7:00pm**

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

In attendance: Sue Carr (School Director), Kathryn Mingione (President), Sara Brelie (Secretary), Lynn Witte (Member at Large), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Chyna Benzine (Equipment and Inventory Coordinator), Nicole Smialek (Events Coordinator), 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), Amanda Rudningen (Treasurer), Clint Cecil (Fundraising Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

President Kathryn Mingione called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Old Business

- a. Statement re: Notifying parents about public events taking place in the areas used by MGNS. The following language will be added to the MGNS Handbook:
 - i. **Current language in handbook:** The Monona Grove Nursery School, Inc. (MGNS) was started in the spring of 1958 as a result of a neighborhood meeting (playgroup) of interested mothers who thought that for their needs, a participating nursery school was best. It was decided early on to strive to meet all standards set forth by the State Department of Public Welfare for nursery schools, in order to obtain licensing by that agency. Because of these efforts, MGNS was granted a license during its first year of operation! **To be added following previous:** Soon after that we moved into Lake Edge United Church of Christ, where we rent space. We enjoy a great partnership with LEUCC as well as their partner church, Christ the Solid Rock. As renters, we are lucky to have our wonderful classrooms and playground to ourselves while sharing some of the common spaces with the various other activities in the church. We make every effort to notify parents if public/church-sponsored events will occur during MGNS school hours.
 - ii. The revised statement was discussed. No concerns were noted, and it was decided that it will be added to the Handbook.

3. Routine Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from November Meeting
 - i. Vice President Beth Kernan moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Member at Large Lynn Witte, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Report from the School Director

- i. Laura McGuire asked about the outdoor masking policy, which is set to change so that children will play outdoors unmasked beginning January 3. She mentioned that MMSD has not announced plans to change their outdoor masking requirement.
 - ii. The outdoor masking requirement was discussed. Teachers noted that masks come off more frequently when the kids are also dealing with hats in cold weather. In January, the three-year-old classes will start on the playground, unmasked, and then come inside and mask right away. The plan is to allow parents to ask their children to wear masks outdoors. Teachers will assist children with masks as necessary but will not be responsible for enforcing individual parents' requests to have their children masked.
 - iii. School Director Sue Carr noted that the Sankofa school program mentioned in her report has already started, so there have been some additional people in the parking lot. The school does not share space with MGNS. It was not in the December newsletter because Sue had thought it was starting in January. It will be in the January newsletter.
- c. Financials
- i. Treasurer Amanda Rudningen summarized her report. She had no concerns, and she noted that the school has a small profit at the end of 2021.

4. Roundtable Check-In

a. 2022 Timeline & Tasks

- i. Yard sale extravaganza - This is coming up soon after break. A few Board members will need to help distribute signs. It would be good to share info on social media for those who are comfortable. Sue says we have plenty of signs.
- ii. Sarah Kopczyk suggested adding Board recruitment to the list of Spring tasks Kathryn made.
- iii. Culvers night is tomorrow. Fundraising Coordinator Aimee Wendt stated that she did a Facebook post tonight and will do one again tomorrow. It would be helpful for people to like and share these posts.
- iv. Kathryn highlighted that the Spring Fling auction is huge and can be started now with a group effort to reach out to businesses. It is scheduled for April 9, and it can be either in-person or virtual as needed. Aimee is updating spreadsheets. There are about 143 companies we send a letter to and another 43-46 we make requests to. She will send her spreadsheet out when it is ready so that Board members can share some of that work.
- v. Alumni Coordinator Sarah Kopczyk sent an email update last week from her alumni@mgns account. All Board members should have received the email, but it went to some people's spam folders.
- vi. Fundraising Coordinator Aimee mentioned that MGNS made around 300 dollars from the Fired Up Pottery fundraiser. Sue has not yet received the check, so Aimee will send a reminder email.

5. New Business/Items for Discussion

- a. Yard sign extravaganza
 - i. This was already discussed during the Roundtable Check-in. Sue added to the previous discussion that the idea is for all the signs to go out at the same time. MGNS Board members and families can recruit friends, neighbors, etc. People can take pictures with their signs and post to social media to be entered into a drawing for pizza party
- b. Return of helping parents in the spring semester - proposed start date change
 - i. Kathryn explained that teachers feel more comfortable with later start. A motion to change the start date to January 31, 2022 was discussed and passed unanimously.
- c. Requirement of COVID vaccine for all kids and parents in 2022-23?
 - i. Kathryn explained that if a vaccine requirement is possible next year it should be noted on enrollment forms, which means the Board needs to discuss this issue and vote on it in January.
 - ii. Currently we only require state mandated vaccines, and we cannot know what will happen with that. Any requirement would be unlikely to apply to Toddler Time since those students do not currently submit paperwork for other vaccines.
- d. Return to in-person board meetings in 2022?
 - i. Several Board members expressed an interest in returning to in-person meetings for the Board and for staff. The general consensus was that better discussions occur in person and people would like to return to that. A quick return to virtual meetings is always possible as necessary. The decision was made to plan to meet in person January 10, 2022.
- e. Kathryn mentioned that there are a couple of spring meetings Sue will have to miss if they remain scheduled on Monday nights. Kathryn will send an email with some alternatives.
- f. Vice President Beth Kernan reported that she has sent out a couple of emails about possible parent meetings and Sue has also put out some feelers.

7. Adjournment

President Kathryn Mingione adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.