

Monona Grove Nursery School
Board of Directors - Special Meeting
Monday, January 31, 2022
8:00pm

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

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

Community Appearances: Jess Barber (parent), Jessica Gary (parent)

1. Call to Order

President Kathryn Mingione called the meeting to order at 8:03pm. She explained that this is a special Board Meeting where parents were invited by email to submit thoughts on the changes being discussed and/or attend the meeting to speak in person. Community members were invited to speak first. Jess Barber spoke in support of making some changes to help the school stay open to students more often. Written statements from parents and Board Members were assembled and distributed to Board Members for review prior to the meeting.

2. Items for Discussion

a. Proposed revisions of the COVID policy and return-to-school guidelines:

i. Quarantine time reduced from 10 days to 5 days from positive test result

The Board reviewed reasons for initially keeping the 10-day quarantine period: Most MGNS students are ineligible for vaccination based on their age, the school is play-based and does not attempt to keep students socially distant, and many students wear their masks imperfectly. CDC guidelines contemplate 5 days of quarantine after a positive test result followed by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask when around others. Teachers are all now wearing well-fitted KN-95 masks.

It was decided that students who test positive for COVID-19 will continue to be required to stay home from school the full 10 days. Teachers will be required to stay home for 5 days and can return on Day 6 if they have significantly reduced symptoms and a negative rapid test. Alternatively, teachers can return on Day 11 with significantly reduced symptoms and no test. They will continue wearing high quality masks around students.

ii. Quarantine time reduced from 10 days to 5 days for a close contact

Currently, all classrooms close for 10 days after a positive case in the classroom because all teachers and students are considered close contacts who have to remain at home for 10 days before coming back to school with a negative PCR test. A discussion occurred about the possibility of reducing the time at home for close contacts to 5 days, options for testing to return to school on Day 6, and options to return to school without testing. Parents who choose to keep children home are currently offered a virtual lesson plan and that will continue to be the case.

It was decided that close contacts (students and teachers) may return to school on Day 6 with a negative rapid test taken that day or a negative PCR taken on or after Day 5. Alternatively, families and children who prefer not to test may return on Day 11 without a test. Students and teachers always have to be without symptoms to return to school.

3. Items Up for Vote

a. Revisions to COVID Return-to-School Policy

i. President Kathryn Mingione moved to reduce quarantine for teachers who test positive from 10 days to 5 days if they have a negative rapid test result and significantly reduced symptoms. Alternatively, teachers may come back to work on Day 11 with significantly reduced symptoms. Students must continue to quarantine for 10 days after a positive test. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. President Kathryn Mingione moved to reduce quarantine time for close contacts from 10 days to 5 days with a negative rapid test result and significantly improved symptoms. The rapid test should be the morning of the return to school. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. President Kathryn Mingione made a motion to allow quarantine to begin the day of a positive rapid or PCR test. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Tuition Reduction

President Kathryn Mingione moved to accept the proposal to allow families to apply for a tuition reduction if the inability to attend MGNS in person due to COVID illness, close contact or school closure causes financial hardship. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

Vice President Beth Kernan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sarah Sarah Kopczyk, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:47pm.