

**Monona Grove Nursery School**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Monday, July 18, 2022**  
**7:00pm**

In attendance: Kathryn Mingione (President), Juli Huston (Teacher), Sue Carr (School Director), Sarah Hackett (Alumni Coordinator), Sara Brelie (Secretary), Chyna Benzine (Equipment and Inventory Coordinator), Nicole Smialek (Events Coordinator), Brooke Logan (Treasurer), Robin Smekal (Volunteer Coordinator), Elise Gokey (Member at Large), Maria Kegan (Advertising Coordinator), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Patrice Stadler (Teacher)

**1. Call to Order**

President Kathryn Mingione called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**2. Introductions** – welcome incoming board members!

Since this is the first meeting of the 2022-23 Board of Directors, Board Members introduced themselves.

**3. Routine Business**

a. Approval of Minutes from May

Sarah Hackett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Robin Smekal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report from the School Director

- i. Sue answered questions about enrollment numbers. There is a normal amount of movement in enrollment, with a few families withdrawing after the first month of tuition was due. Four families are not yet in ELV and Sue has not been able to contact them, so she is not sure about plans. There is currently no waiting list for preschool classes, but there is a waiting list for 4K spots.
- ii. Lunch Bunch is slowly filling. A promo letter will go out soon and numbers will likely go up then.
- iii. Sue has been unable to contact the t-shirt vendor MGNS has used in the past, She has found a new vendor so costs will be a little more and include setup fees that MGNS will not have to pay in the future.
- iv. Sue reminded everyone that August 10 is the deadline for things that need to go in folders for students and families.
- v. Parent meeting is scheduled for August 31, and it is currently being planned with the assumption it will be in person. Board Members are expected to attend the entire meeting.
- vi. Sue updated the Board that since the last meeting, the building has been re-keyed and the church is keeping track of who has keys.

- c. Financial Reports + Explanation of Budget
  - i. Sue went over the budget. She highlighted that some expenses last year were significantly over budget because of grant money that was not factored into the budget. It is unclear whether grant money will continue for the next school year.

#### 4. Roundtable Check-In

- a. Kathryn gave a fundraising report since the fundraising coordinators were both unable to be at the meeting. The Mallards game was a success. Families had fun, and MGNS made some money. The fundraising coordinators are working on information for parent folders. Right now they are planning to continue with restaurant fundraisers. They are open to new ideas, as well.
- b. Kathryn discussed Board survey results. One suggestion was to vote as issues are discussed instead of at the end of all discussion. Kathryn plans to incorporate that suggestion into future meeting agendas. Sue suggested that some votes should be confidential. Kathryn clarified that anyone can make a motion for a paper ballot vote at any time.

#### 5. Items for Discussion

- a. Parent survey results
  - i. Comments on COVID procedures  
Board Members noted that parents were consistently appreciative of Covid precautions taken by MGNS last year. There was more of a split in comments about how to move forward with masks and other Covid precautions. There were several negative comments about the orange sheets parents filled out daily last year, as well.
  - ii. Security - The survey went out when school security was in the news because of the school shooting in Uvalde, TX, and that was reflected in people's comments. A discussion was had about how to increase security and parents' confidence in security at the school. Sue clarified that all doors are locked at the church, not just the doors MGNS uses. The playground door does not lock with a key, so when kids are on the playground it is unlocked so that teachers and students have access to the bathroom. When no one is on the playground, that door is locked. Other building doors are locked at all times except during dropoff and pickup.  
Sue acknowledged that last year, a key was taped to the door in an envelope for MMSD support staff to use. Next year, any keys for MMSD staff will be in a lock box for increased security.
  - iii. Ideas for future - Members of the Board discussed comments about classroom names, parking lot accessibility and the path from the playground area to the parking lot. Sue also noted that a larger number of parents expressed an interest in full-day 4K this year than last year.
- b. August Parent Meeting - in person or via Zoom? (Proposed: in person)  
Sue gave an overview of what in-person parent meetings have looked like in the past. The last two years have been over zoom so many Board Members have never attended an in-person meeting. Each classroom meets individually in the classrooms and there is a large meeting for all parents in Fellowship Hall. Board Members

expressed concern about how crowded the whole school meeting in Fellowship Hall might be. Possible accommodations for parents who may be uncomfortable attending a large gathering were discussed.

- c. Meet, Greet, & Eat - in person or via Zoom? (Proposed: in person)  
Options for a safer in person event were discussed. It was decided that it would make more sense to discuss thoughts on mandatory masking before discussing the format of this event.
- d. Masking for upcoming school year - Required or Optional? (Proposed: optional) -  
Sue clarified that adults spending significant time in classrooms will continue to have a Covid vaccination requirement. Students will not have a Covid vaccination requirement at this time.

Board Members discussed mandatory versus optional masking. Teachers reported that most students do not mask properly even when masking is mandatory, and masks are off during snack times when kids spend the most time close together. Board Members discussed the fact that Covid is unpredictable and it is difficult to know what things will look like when school starts. Therefore, any decisions made at this meeting can change in the future. The possibility of following MMSD's masking decision was discussed. It was decided that MGNS should decide on a policy without deference to MMSD. Concerns were raised that parents who want their children to mask will have a harder time getting their children to mask if other children are unmasked, or that children whose parents want them to mask might feel more uncomfortable masking when other children are unmasked. Teachers reported this did not seem like a big issue when masks became optional on the playground last year.

- e. Positive COVID Test Protocol (COVID Flow Chart) - revisions needed?  
(Proposed: no changes to COVID flow chart)  
Sue shared that the reason for proposing keeping the flow chart mostly the same is that if we are loosening mask requirements, then it makes sense to remain conservative with quarantine and isolation times. Board Members noted that at a minimum, if masking is optional, the flow chart should be changed to reflect that teachers returning 5-9 days after a positive Covid test should be required to wear a mask until 10 days after diagnosis, consistent with CDC guidelines. Last year, the entire class was considered a close contact when anyone came to school while possibly contagious with Covid. A discussion was had about the definition of close contacts and the impact of Lunch Bunch attended by students from multiple classes on classrooms' ability to stay open when a single person in a class is diagnosed with Covid. Board Members expressed concern about closing down classrooms for five days, even for fully vaccinated students, any time there is a positive case in the classroom. A suggestion was made that instead of sending everyone home when a case occurs in the classroom, the classroom could remain open, with a mask requirement, for students and teachers who do not have symptoms. It was decided that the discussion will continue at the August meeting.

## **6. Items Up for Potential Vote**

- a. Parent Meeting - in person or via zoom?

Brooke made a motion to have the fall whole-school parent meeting in person, with a recording available to parents who prefer not to attend in person. Maria seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Meet, Greet & Eat - in person or via zoom?

Nicole made a motion to plan for an in-person Meet, Greet and Eat. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Masking optional for upcoming school year?

Nicole moved to make masks not mandatory for the coming school year, with the caveat that this could change. Elise seconded the motion. Sue suggested a ballot vote. The motion passed by paper ballot unanimously, with one abstention.

- d. Keep Positive COVID Test Protocol (COVID flow chart) the same? This vote was tabled for further discussion at the August meeting

## **7. Adjournment**

Kathryn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Brooke seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

*Next Meeting: Monday, August 15, 2022*