

**Monona Grove Nursery School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, January 23, 2023  
7:00pm**

**In attendance:** Kathryn Mingione (President), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Sue Carr (School Director), Beth Kernan (Vice President), Clint Cecil (Fundraising Coordinator), Denay Czerniecki (Fundraising Coordinator), Juli Huston (Teacher), Nicole Smialek (Events Coordinator), Maria Keegan (Advertising Coordinator), Robin Smekal (Volunteer Coordinator), Chyna Benzine (Equipment and Inventory Coordinator), Brooke Logan (Treasurer), Sarah Hackett (Alumni Coordinator), Elise Gokey (Member at Large)

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Routine Business**

- a. Approval of Minutes from December

No changes or corrections were proposed. Beth made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Robin, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report from the School Director

Sue reported that based on money received so far, the ice skating event cost more than the money collected from families. Families had a lot of fun at the event.

Sue mentioned that there had not been a lot of interest in events proposed related to kindergarten transition and financial planning. A suggestion was made to include QR code for the newsletter now that a paper copy goes home in brown bags. That way parents reading a paper copy can quickly and easily get to an electronic copy with links. There was also a discussion about MGNS camps for the summer. It may make sense to start planning soon because summer camp registration for many camps begins in a couple of weeks.

- c. Financial Reports - Treasurer Brooke Logan reported that there is nothing concerning in the budgeted versus actual expenses - we are about 60% of the way through the year. There were no questions from Board Members about financial reports.

Brooke noted that the biggest item for discussion in the draft budget for fiscal year 2024 is the proposed increase in rent. She also noted that some numbers in the draft budget will look low compared to this year's budget because we have been spending more in some areas due to grant money.

In the current draft budget, Brooke included the proposed rent increase. She left blank lines for salaries and payroll tax, which will be discussed at the upcoming closed session. Brooke also increased some of the fundraising goals for next year based on successful fundraising this year, but she still kept estimates conservative.

Kathryn reported that we will be looking at a closed session before the February meeting to fill in some of the blanks in the proposed budget.

### **3. Roundtable Check-In**

- a. Brainstorm re: marketing + Yard Sign Extravaganza - Advertising Coordinator Maria Keegan asked for ideas for advertising to the community as we get ready for enrollment. Elise mentioned that she posted something on an Eastmorland website and she is trying to post something at Woodmans. Other suggestions included coffee shop and library bulletin boards. Sue mentioned that there used to be a list of places MGNS would put up posters back when that was a primary way to advertise. She will get the list to Maria.
- b. Volunteer Coordinator Robin Smekal reported that all parenting volunteer spots are filled.
- c. Vice President Beth Kernan reported that the second parenting meeting, titled 'They Won't Listen, Now What?', has been scheduled for Wednesday March 1.
- d. Fundraising Coordinator Clint Cecil reported that Ians has May 10 open for a dine-out night. Fundraising Coordinator Denay Czerniecki has also scheduled a dine-out night at Qdoba in March. Clint reported that many sources he has consulted suggest kicking off a silent auction 1-2 weeks before an event. For the Spring Fling, that would mean Friday, March 31 if we did approximately two weeks. Silent auction donations are coming in, and some have been substantial.
- e. There was a discussion of a possible school google calendar parents could easily add to their own calendars, with events for families and deadlines. Sea Otters currently have one that Board Members who are parents in that class have found useful. This could be done for the whole school next year.
- f. Events Planner Nicole Smialek reported on the planning for the Spring Fling. This year will be the first in-person Spring Fling since 2019 - entertainment is booked (David Landau). There was a discussion of what to serve for breakfast at the event. Donuts were popular last year, but pancakes are inexpensive\ to make and have worked well in the past for in-person events. The decision was made to serve pancakes, heat and serve sausage, water, coffee and fruit. Teachers can work in the kitchen during the event. There will be paper covering tables and crayons for coloring. There will also be a raffle, and auction items will be set up in the hallway. Kathryn clarified that there is money budgeted to buy things for the raffle, but people can also donate items. MGNS will also include some playground time, plus a spring and a fall parking spot for the auction. Each class will also have something for sale in the auction.
- g. Alumni Coordinator Sarah Hackett asked if MGNS wants to invite alumni to the Spring Fling. The event is generally crowded, so the decision was made not to invite alumni. Alumni can bid online in the auction, which ends at 9pm on the 15th. Sarah will send out an email inviting alumni to participate in the bidding.

### **4. Items for Discussion**

- a. Enrollment - Sue reported that enrollment packets went out this past week in brown bags. Board members can enroll at any time. The Yard Sign Extravaganza is going strong.
- b. Update on lease and meetings with LEUCC - Kathryn reported that the meeting on January 14 meeting was good. The church's main message was that the rent we

currently pay does not cover the church's costs. The church also expressed openness to a more traditional landlord-tenant relationship outlined in any new leases. A discussion was had about the possibility of prepaying the first year's proposed increase in rent. The Board also discussed the possibility of agreeing to the increase in rent for one year, while keeping the rest of the leases unchanged until next year. Brooke reported she is comfortable with the increase for the first year. It gets harder to agree to the later years, in part because we have no control over reimbursement amounts from MMSD. The need to form a subcommittee to look at options for the future was also discussed.

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

- a. Proposal from LEUCC to change lease terms for FY 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 2024)  
After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made. The motion initially passed, but was then struck. Kathryn moved to strike the original motion. Elise seconded the motion to strike, and it passed unanimously. The decision was made that: (1) Secretary Sara Brelie will draft a possible motion and circulate it via email before the next meeting, (2) Kathryn will email contacts at LEUCC to ask for a draft of a possible lease for FY 2024 to be considered at the next meeting, (3) Sarah Hackett, Chyna Benzine and Robin Smekal are interested in being on a subcommittee to look at options for the future.

## **6. Adjournment**

Maria moved to adjourn the meeting. Maria's motion was seconded by Clint, and it passed unanimously. President Kathryn Mingione adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 20, 2023