

**Monona Grove Nursery School
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 18, 2023
7:00pm**

In attendance: Kathryn Mingione (President), Beth Kernan (Vice President), Juli Huston (Teacher), Sara Brelie (Secretary), Chyna Benzine (Alumni Coordinator), Sue Carr (School Director), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Brooke Logan (Treasurer), Maria Keegan (Advertising Coordinator), Nicole Smialek (Events Coordinator), Robin Smekal (Volunteer Coordinator), Denay Czerniecki (Fundraising Coordinator), Claire, Shurtz (Fundraising Coordinator), Claire Huntley-Schwartz (Equipment and Inventory Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

President Kathryn Mingione called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

2. Routine Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from August - Beth moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Claire and it passed unanimously.
- b. Report from the School Director
 - i. The Board discussed the hallway sale Sue is planning for October 9-13. MGNS has been going through everything in storage and there are some things that are no longer needed. Various suggestions were made, but the plan is to have an informal sale in the hallway of the school where items are all the same suggested price and parents take and pay for what they want/need. Donations are accepted, so long as all the proceeds go to the building.
 - ii. Sue noted that the copier in the office is from 2011 and has been having problems. It should be replaced, probably next time something goes wrong. It may be replaced between now and the next meeting. Treasurer Brooke Logan mentioned there are pockets of money this expense could reasonably come from.
 - iii. Sue gave a brief update that Christ the Solid Rock voted in favor of buying the building. In addition, Lex is moving to a new position and will no longer be working for LEUCC. Lex has been proactive about coordinating with Sue for how to handle the things he usually does in the building, including our point of contact as tenants.
 - iv. Sue reminded everyone that updates for the October newsletter are needed. Going forward, there will be no more fliers in brown bags, so everything that goes home to parents should be in the newsletter.
- c. Financial Reports

Treasurer Brooke Logan gave an overview of her report. There will be more info at the October Board meeting about current rates for investing the money that will become available from the current 9-month CD. A discussion was had about current interest rates on CDs and the possibility of investing sooner if there is a particularly good rate available.

3. Roundtable Check-In

- c. Fundraising Coordinator Claire Shurtz reported that Culvers is confirmed for a 10/24 dine-out night. There is also an upcoming ice cream night at Chocolate Shoppe.
- b. Volunteer Coordinator Robin Smekal reported that two families have not signed up yet signed up for fall volunteer duties. She has reached out. Options for reaching out and possible volunteer duties were discussed.
- c. Events Coordinator Nicole Smialek discussed plans for the upcoming Meet, Greet and Eat. Order forms have gone out, Glass Nickel has confirmed pricing, and enough parent volunteers have signed up so that teachers can focus on classrooms and the event. Based on feedback from last year, Nicole and Robin have discussed how the volunteers will check in with Nicole during and throughout shifts.
- d. Advertising Coordinator Maria Keegan reminded everyone that she has access to the Facebook page. Board members can contact Maria with event, fundraising and other reminders they want posted.
- e. Vice President Beth Kernan reported that she is working on parent meetings. The Board discussed timing and other logistics.

4. Items for Discussion

- a. Feedback on beginning of year items:
 - i. Parent meeting - The Board discussed the parent meeting from the beginning of the year. Robin mentioned that the classroom meeting seemed to cover mostly information that is also given in writing. A suggestion was made to possibly include parent helper training, more get-to-know-you activities, and/or tips from experienced parents in addition to the most important highlights from the written info. The possibility of having the whole school portion of the meeting just be for new families was also discussed.
 - ii. Orientation - Parent helper training was discussed. Brooke observed that the training and the job can be overwhelming for new families. The Board discussed ways to help families know that the point of helping parent duties is to spend time with the kids in the classroom. Completing as much of the work as possible is also important, but leaving some jobs undone is normal and ok. Different possibilities for making sure families receive that message were discussed.
 - iii. Driveway visits - Sue explained that driveway visits are difficult and time-consuming. They came about as part of the pandemic but they have stuck around because they were well-loved. Not all kids are excited by them, and there are now many other ways to connect with teachers. The consensus was that the driveway visits are fun and special, but they also involve long days, lots of time and effort from teachers. Alternatives like meeting teachers at a playground were discussed.
- b. Update on CTSR vote from Sunday, September 10
 - i. Christ the SOlid Rock's congregation voted 60-3 to buy the building. Sue does not yet know when CTSR will become MGNS's landlord, and future rent beyond 2025 has not been discussed. There has been communication about the door to separate the school from the rest of the building, but no decision has been made.
- c. Zoom Story Times this November- February?
 - i. The Board discussed winter Zoom story times and decided not to continue them this year.

5. **Adjournment** - Beth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robin, and it passed unanimously. President Kathryn Mingione adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.