

**Monona Grove Nursery School**  
**Regular Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 17th, 2025**

**In attendance:** Maria Keegan (President), Nicole Blattner (Vice President), Haley Clark (Member at Large), Brooke Logan (Treasurer), Lindsay Baer (Advertising Coordinator), Jordan Skoda (Fundraising Coordinator), Sarah Thompson (Fundraising Coordinator), Kathryn Mingione (Teacher), Bailey Leon (Events Coordinator), Veronica Willsey (Volunteer Coordinator), Chyna Benzine (Alumni Coordinator), Jessica Murphy (Member at Large), Sarah Osowski (Purchaser), Sue Carr (Director), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Rebekah Herman (Teacher), Sarah Firchow (Teacher)

**1. Call to Order** - President Maria Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

**2. Routine Business**

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Veronica made a motion to approve the minutes. Nicole seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Report from School Director - Sue gave an update.
  - i. Meetings with the police officers went well and we are moving ahead with their recommendations.
  - ii. Sue had a walk through with a local Lt. who felt that overall the school was prepared and safe.
  - iii. Staff and Board members are invited to an active shooter training. Training needs at least 15 participants- teachers and staff will be attending and additional spots will be open to Board Members and families.
  - iv. In January and February there will be a panel for Kindergarten, DLI. Currently Isthmus Montessori and Wingra School offer DLI. Sue is considering inviting both schools to host an open house, and Maria suggested making the open house like a booth where families could visit different representatives. Bailey L suggested having a homeschool representative on site for the open house as well.
  - v. Last summer, Sue trained with Positive Solutions. It's 6 scripted classes, 1.5 hours for parents. Sue suggested it for MGNS families to help with parenting strategies. Nicole asked if this could be part of the parent meetings in the early spring and if so, would it be in addition to or in place of the meetings. Sue said she could provide 1-2 of the sessions as a parent meeting and then potentially offer additional sessions for those interested. Nicole also asked about childcare options for parent meetings. MGNS has provided childcare in the past, but hasn't recently. Sue said the notion is to provide childcare with Juli and Jodi providing care. Additional details need to be arranged regarding cost, ages of children and dates and times.
  - vi. Sue mentioned the cubbies and a thank you to Sarah T for securing additional cubby storage. Sarah T suggested spreading out the cubbies, but teachers were concerned about tracking down articles of

clothing; the current system makes it easy for the teachers to locate all articles of clothing. Bailey suggested moving the cubbies to where the rainsuits are, to open up the middle more. Sue suggested moving the cubbies back to back like locker style, but concerns amongst Board members about how crowded the space is when dropping off their kids.

- c. Financial Reports - Treasurer Brooke Logan gave an update.
  - i. As of Thursday, 11/13 we are 37.5% the way through the year. In line with what to expect.
  - ii. Brooke also briefly discussed how MMSD pays us in three installments. MGNS received our first one a few weeks ago and will get two more. Brooke noted we don't know how much the MMSD contributions will increase yet.
  - iii. The financial report also does not account for child care grants. We are still getting the grants.
  - iv. Classroom supplies percentage is off- the amounts are correct but the percentages are just off.
  - v. If Sue or Brooke writes a check to a Board member, please just be sure to cash it as soon as possible.
  - vi. Roll and Stroll payments go through Venmo, they are categorized as Capital Campaign funds.

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

- a. President Maria is planning to host another wine and cheese holiday party. Sign up for dates and times went around during the meeting. Spouses and partners are welcome to attend, but please no kids.'
- b. Vice President Nicole B. reported that she has received some names for possible trainers for upcoming Parent Meetings, but encouraged anyone who knows a trainer or topic to let her know. So far Veronica has suggested a family nutritionist as a potential trainer in addition to potential training provided by Sue. Nicole and Sue will continue to meet and discuss plans for training.
- c. Fundraising Coordinators Jordan Skoda and Sarah Thompson reminded everyone of Chipotle night on 12/16. A previous fundraiser at Waypoint made \$500. Waypoint also wants to do another night in the spring. Fundraising also reminded Board members to think of businesses or ideas for Spring Fling.
- d. Events Coordinator Bailey Leon offered to assist with Feast Day.
- e. Treasurer Brooke noted that MGNS had to get an extension to file taxes. With the government shutdown we couldn't update our address, but we have all the correct information now and will file in April.
- f. Alumni Coordinator Chyna is drafting opening words for alumni email in preparation for the holidays. Her plan is to talk about the capital campaign, start the school year, thank those who have donated time, and pictures of the school/playground. Send out on 1st of December with a possible push for Giving Tuesday. The goal is to try and get 30 more people signed up for recurring gifts of \$10 a month or more.

g. Member at Large Haley has been assisting with donations and will continue to do so.

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

- a. Discuss future plans for Lunch Bunch and Summer Camps
  - i. Teachers do not have Lunch Bunch in their contracts this year. We would have to find someone who wants to commit. We could do it next year when we rewrite contracts to reflect Lunch Bunch.
  - ii. Sue suggested piloting Lunch Bunch this year to only 4K as they need the practice before going into Kindergarten. Other issues besides staffing is where to do Lunch Bunch. Sue suggested classrooms or outside.
  - iii. If Lunch Bunch opens up this year, it would be in the spring and only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Next year it would open full time for preschool and 4K students.
  - iv. Summer camp is being proposed as a 1-2 week camp, during the last 2 weeks of June. Heavily leaning towards the camp being outdoors and only open to current families. Bailey L. offered to assist with camp.
- b. Discuss 2026-27 Tuition Rates
  - i. Brooke discussed the top 3 sources of income are: Preschool and private paying 4k (\$148,000), MMSD payments (\$140,000) projecting about 4% increase, and Toddler Time (\$25,000).
  - ii. The closest comp in the area is Aldo Leopold. Aldo Leopold offers a 3 year old, 2 hour program for \$200/month- closest comp. It's advertised as a bridge program to prepare for preschool.
  - iii. The proposed Toddler Time plan comes out to about \$18 a day, and the proposed preschool tuition increase would be an extra \$12,000. It's on track with past tuition increases.
  - iv. Sue discussed the Get Kids Ready program. It will allow any childcare center to offer 4 year old education. They don't require a licensed teacher which would save MGNS money because licensing a teacher is expensive and hard to find licensed teachers. Right now, it is written into the budget as an ongoing operating expense. Other positives include wraparound care, as that is a huge draw for families.
- c. Capital Campaign
  - i. New meeting time: Mondays at 7pm via Zoom
  - ii. Financial Update - Sue will update the Board on the City of Madison Community Development. It is a fully forgivable loan and just requires a sign that shows the city of Madison is helping to finance the project. The loan is \$80,000 and our current debt is at \$84,000.
- d. Other updates/Ways to Help
  - i. We are rolling out a Papa Johns Pizza Card code: MGNS2010 fundraiser in Dec.
  - ii. Bingo event for Jan. 24 and working on donor wall planning. More to come!
  - iii. Looking for connections of current or alumni families to grant opportunities through Baker Tilly and Ascendium -Sue has a list in ELV of employment of parents.
- e. Giving Tuesday/Champion of Play- Board members please interact/share our social

media posts, acknowledge school displays and spread the word. Looking for 30 more people to sign up. Currently have 10 champions of play members.

- f. Discuss a potential phase 2 construction
  - i. Sue spoke on the plans from last summer. Initial plans had a smaller kitchen and a hall from the cubby room to the bathrooms, but we are looking to get an estimate for what to do in that area. Sue mentioned she ideally wants all MGNS families to enter through the main purple door. Threshold will charge to draw up plans.
  - ii. Additional discussion about using phase 2 funds to build a vestibule in the toddler time room. Some concerns were made that it wouldn't feel cohesive with the Preschool classes. Other concerns were made about spending additional money for a potential phase 2.
  - iii. Potential timeline for Phase 2: summer construction.

## 5. Items Up for Vote

- a. Set tuition rates for 2025-26.
  - i. Proposed numbers from Sue and Brooke are: \$405/per 2-day Preschool (8% increase), \$510/per 3-day Preschool (10% increase), and \$625/per 4 day (19% increase). Veronica makes a motion to approve the increase in tuition rates to reflect proposed numbers. Sarah T. seconds, and 1 abstains. Motion carries.
  - ii. Toddler Time proposed numbers are: Mondays (\$630), Tuesdays (\$685), Wednesdays (\$685), Thursdays (\$665), and Fridays (\$650). Veronica makes a motion to approve the increase in tuition rates for Toddler Time to reflect proposed numbers. Bailey seconds. Motion carries.
- b. Vote to proceed with planning for phase 2 construction.
  - i. Sue spoke on the plans from last summer. Jordan makes a motion to get a quote from Threshold for Phase 2. Brooke seconds and 2 abstain. Motion carries.

**6. Adjournment:** Kathryn makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Sarah O. seconds and the motion carries.

Next Meeting December 15th, 2025