

Monona Grove Nursery School
Regular Board of Directors Meeting
January 12th 2026

Maria Keegan (President), Nicole Blattner (Vice President), Juli Huston (teacher), Dawn Van Horn (Teacher), Sarah Thompson (Fundraising Coordinator), Jordan Skoda (Fundraising Coordinator), Bailey Leon (Events), Lindsay Baer (Advertising Coordinator), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Patrice Stadler (Teacher), Sue Carr (School Director), Chyna Benzine (Alumni Coordinator), Veronica Willsey (Volunteer Coordinator), Jessica Murphy (Member at Large), Sarah Osowski (Purchaser), Sarah Firchow (Teacher)

Via Zoom: Haley Clark (Member at Large), Sara Brelie (Secretary)

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

2. **Routine Business**

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Sue made a motion to approve the minutes. Jordan seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- b. Report from School Director - Sue gave an update
 - i. Capital Campaign suggestions: winter market as a fundraiser idea from Haley.
 - ii. Get Kids Ready discussion: Sue says we need to wait until February to see who has signed up in our area to participate in Get Kids Ready. Sue said when she talked to MMSD contacts, they said it would be good for rural communities. As long as we are sticking with 4K in Madison, there is no way around it.
 - iii. Yard Signs: week of January 26th. Sue thinks we have extra from last year but might not have wires. Still push people to sign up- we can always order more. Sue made note that a lot of people have signed up for yard signs.
 - iv. Lunch Bunch not filling up yet. Sarah O. thinks some people missed the link in the newsletter, but Sue confirmed that it also went out in the weekly wrap-up. Bailey mentioned we may not be getting sign ups because of previous commitments. Tuesdays and Thursdays have 13 kids signed up and Wednesdays have 7. Dawn is going to push Wednesdays in the weekly wrap up, but we might consider moving Wednesday sign-ups to Tuesday or Thursday.
 - v. Bingo RSVP: 50 people signed up. Not necessary to RSVP. Kathryn and Lindsay getting word out to the community- public event. Some people from the congregation are coming. Numbers are looking good but looking for volunteers specifically the concessions point person. We are also in need of a person to sell bingo cards to people when they arrive. Sue offered to assist.
 - vi. Looking for an assistant to the caller to help with Bingo numbers. Veronica volunteered to assist. Opinion on using Venmo to pay- Sue is ok with using that. Will we accept venmo for concessions? - Yes. Prizes are getting full- grand prize is going to be cash.

3. Roundtable Check-In

- a. Vice President Nicole is working with a few trainers to narrow down Parent Meetings and set up dates. She has been working with a registered dietician who came recommended by Veronica, her name is Sammie. Sammie specializes in intuitive eating and has worked with children and families. She can tailor her course to helping families with picky eaters, learning how to trust their bodies, and helping parents manage stress at meal time. Definitely feels in our wheelhouse and something many of us have struggled with at one point or another. Parent Meetings are currently TBD on dates, but we are looking at early March at this point. Nicole is also working with Sue and Maria on Board recruitment and plans for next year. A survey will go out tomorrow morning about future Board plans for next year.
- b. President Maria is ending her presidency after this school year; Nicole will take over and we are looking to fill the Vice President role.
- c. Volunteer Coordinator Veronica noted that the Google form needs to be edited and she is going to continue to fix it. Veronica noted she received too many slots for the sandbox duties and only 3 slots for play doh. She is going to edit and contact parents to rearrange. She noted she is missing 2 play doh duties for the end of the year.
- d. Advertising Coordinator Lindsay gave a reminder about the upcoming Yard Signs. Lindsay also gave a reminder to vote on Brava for MGNS.
- e. Fundraising Coordinators Jordan Skoda and Sarah Thompson provided updates on Spring Fling reach-outs: 420 businesses. They reached out to 300 businesses and have received 32 donations so far. Any suggestions for business or items, reach out to fundraising. Collectivo fundraiser going around now. The code is in the newsletter and going to be posted online tomorrow.
- f. Member at Large Jessica Murphy noted that Sue, Kathryn and Jessica had a meeting with Zebradog; a meeting to discuss where to put the donor wall. She noted this is something new to showcase larger donors. The place that made most sense was the cubby room, in the middle of the wall where the cabinet was. Designed to utilize blocks we have. Patchwork of squares on thin shelves or glue them together and put them on and paint wall purple. Section to recognize larger donors and a section for smaller donations. Would require some kind of budget. The Zebradog representative is going back to her team to figure out how to help us. Estimated total cost is \$5,000-\$7,000, with a minimum of \$5,000. The Donor Wall team talked about a label decal that would be clear with each person's name that you'd adhere to a block. All details TBD. The block wall started at our 60th anniversary and wanted to continue that.
- g. Teacher Kathryn gave a reminder on the Brava voting page to not only support MGNS but also to support other people and businesses that have helped us (Lake Ridge Bank and the cleaning company that donated to the Musky).
- h. Teacher Sarah noted it was nice to meet some people for the donor event.

- i. Teacher Jodi thanked the board for the holiday gift.

4. Items for Discussion

a. Capital Campaign (10 min) -

i. Leadership Update: Capital Campaign will be focusing more on events moving forward. The campaign team is dividing up tasks and moving meetings to once a month. Kathryn is stepping away from the Capital Campaign after Bingo, but will still be helping when she can. Honing in on messaging - yes to lots of events, but everyone can pick and choose events that are right for you. Continue to focus on that messaging. Expectation is not that they participate in everything.

ii. Other updates/Ways to Help:

- a. Continue to share and attend events where possible
- b. Prize donations for bingo events
- c. Sign up for baking for our Move & Groove Bake Sale: sign-up going around. Items will need to be prepacked. You don't need to attend to be a baking volunteer. Lindsay asked about getting some prepacked goods, yes to have options. DJ family dance party/bake sale. 3/20 5-7pm
- d. Self-care crafting event - made for caregivers. Taryn Cates, art therapist to lead. Adults only. TBD on date, but possibly looking at 5/2. Going to host in MGNS space to utilize natural light.

b. Phase 2 Discussion (40 min) -

The board will read and review proposed plans from Threshold:

- i. Original plan: bathroom going where the kitchen is. Revised plan includes taking the whole hall out. It is easier and cheaper to not go through the kitchen and bathrooms and build a different hallway.
- ii. Plans include clearing out what is now the library, adding a door into the 4k room, along with the door from the cubby room. We would not have a library which is used for speech, however only one person from Starfish class is doing speech at the moment.
- iii. Sue suggested moving the speech room to her office as a half-wall library is not an ideal space for speech.
- iv. The Phase 2 plans also noted a reduction of 6 ft in width in main space. No adjustment happening in the bathroom area. This will need two teachers, one at each door to monitor bathrooms. Juli and Kate agreed that they would make it work. Chyna suggested adding an angled dome mirror to the ceiling to keep an eye on the blind spot.
- v. Sue said all 3 classes have space to add bookcases to their classrooms to accommodate the library.

- vi. Maria mentioned donor event people who are toddler time families commented on the 4k space/main entrance- many toddler time families haven't seen our new space because of the separation of the toddler time doors. In future plans, toddler time families can utilize either hallway or going right up the stairs to the preschool hall.

- b. We will discuss as a large group the pros and cons of moving forward with Threshold:
 - i. Sarah O. asked if we are worried about taking on an additional loan when we have existing debt. Some are concerned about the Capital Campaign and not taking on any debt and utilizing the loan we have.
 - ii. Brooke is in agreement with taking on the project since we currently have the bridge loan and now is the time to act, rather than try to do this at a later date.
 - iii. Bailey asked about not putting in windows in the hallway to save money, since the preschool hallway doesn't have windows, but the preschool hallway has windows at the end of the hallway and has taller ceilings. Threshold came in under budget overall and understand the building and plans and it is easy for them to come up with a new plan. Another part of the window situation is it's not inviting for toddler time families if there is no natural light.
 - iv. Chyna suggested going back to Threshold to ask how much we could save if we took out windows.
 - v. Brooke is suggesting taking the city loan to pay for Threshold and not use it to pay down the current amount owed. Right now paying \$502 in interest, she suggested paying \$1,000. The City Loan is forgivable as long as we are still here for 5 years; current lease is for 10 years.
 - vi. Sue suggested revisiting our lease terms before the 5 or 10 year mark.
 - vii. Kathryn spoke on how it makes fiscal sense to take action now with our bridge loan and rising construction costs. Kathryn also mentioned not having to burden future Boards with having to make these decisions in the future. Sue also mentioned safety concerns with the current setup for toddler time families coming in through the church right now as it's not securely locked.
 - viii. Brooke suggested only doing the fundraisers that are currently planned and not adding more to our plates.

5. Items Up for Vote

- a. Vote on moving forward with Phase 2 construction: Veronica makes a motion to approve moving forward with Phase 2 construction. Kathryn seconds it. 17 Yea, 3 Nay. Motion carries.
- b. Increase registration fees for preschool classrooms: Maria makes a motion to increase the registration fee for preschool to \$100. Bailey seconds it. Motion carries.
- c. Vote to have a staggered start for preschool and 4K: Chyna moves to table the discussion for a staggered start for preschool and 4k. Veronica seconds. Motion carries.

6. **Adjournment:** Maria moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. Sarah T. seconds. Motion carries.

Next Meeting: February 16th 2025