

**Monona Grove Nursery School
Regular Board of Directors Meeting
March 16th 2026, 7pm**

In attendance (all via Zoom due to snow): Maria Keegan (President), Sue Carr (School Director), Brooke Logan (Treasurer), Jessica Murphy (Member at Large), Jodi Schmitt (Teacher), Juli Huston (Teacher), Kathryn Mingione (Teacher), Lindsay Baer (Advertising Coordinator), Nicole Blattner (Vice President), Bailey Leon (Events Coordinator), Haley Clark (Member at Large), Jordan Skoda (Fundraising Coordinator), Sarah Osowski (Purchaser), Veronica Willsey (Volunteer Coordinator)

1. Call to Order - President Maria Keegan called the meeting to order.

2. Routine Business

- a. No minutes to approve from the strategic planning session held in place of the February meeting
- b. Report from School Director
 - i. Madison Forward (professional soccer) is looking into doing a fundraiser.
 - ii. Madison Police Department's active-shooter training was planned for today, but had to be rescheduled.
 - iii. MGNS is currently going through the city accreditation process- it's been three years.
- c. Financial Reports - Treasurer Brooke Logan reported that we have paid off our bridge loan using the City of Madison forgivable loan. We still have a substantial amount we can take out from the bridge loan, as well. Sue highlighted that when we look at the 'What money is where?' document, it shows a strong financial situation while we contemplate Phase 2 construction.
- d. Roundtable Check-In
 - i. Nicole - both parent meetings went well and were well-liked. Parent attendance overall was less this year, likely because the wording about being required to attend one meeting has been softened.
 - ii. Haley and Maria reminded Board Members that the Move and Groove Dance Party is this Friday. Many Board members are helping, signups are going well, with 26 families and 80 people currently signed up. Many have pre-ordered food.
 - iii. Sue thanked Lindsay - the yard sign extravaganza went well this year, and we are also Brava Raves and Faves best preschool in Madison!

3. Items for Discussion

- a. Spring Fling Planning Discussion
 - i. Bailey reported that signups for the pancake breakfast will be a google form. A flier is ready to be printed this week for students' bags, and the form includes a QR code for signing up. Veronica will check on number of parent volunteers.

- i. Juli suggested opening classrooms for the first hour and keeping the playground open all morning. That way someone can take alumni families to see rooms during the second hour if there are some people in attendance who want to see class spaces..
 - ii. Discussion of whether to invite alumni - After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to push or advertise heavily to alumni, but they will be allowed to sign up. The main concern about inviting alumni is space. The room is smaller than past years, plus there needs to be a dance space for the David Landau performance.
 - iii. Discussion of opening classrooms or not during performance. Sue suggested accommodating kids who need quiet, but not actively keeping the classrooms open during the David Landau performance. So kids and families will be allowed to use the space, but not encouraged to.
 - iv. Sue mentioned that fliers should be ready Wednesday to go into bags so that all classes can get them before spring break.
 - v. There is usually an alumni reachout about the auction - Sue suggested that should be about the auction, not pancakes, and that it could be sent via constant contact.
- b. Strategic Planning Board Restructure Summary & Next Steps
- i. Nicole & Sue shared ways that MGNS plans to restructure the board for next year
 1. The plan is to have 3 fundraising coordinators and 2 event coordinators next year, and Sue and Nicole are already talking to people who are interested. Current board members, particularly in those positions, will be invited to discuss how to rebalance responsibilities.
 - a. Both Jordan and Bailey spoke in favor of adding people for those roles. Bailey mentioned it might be helpful having a clear leader and follower for planning individual events.
 2. There is continued discussion of new ways of fundraising
 3. Nicole and Sue are also talking about rebalancing some roles - for example, the facilities role could include renting space for events during non-school hours
 - a. The advertising coordinator will become Communication and Community Outreach Coordinator
 - b. There will be additional responsibilities for the alumni role: donor appreciation, donor maintenance are likely.
 - c. Parent meetings will be optional and run by staff - Sue explained that these meetings can be awkward for VPs to coordinate because they typically do not work in early childhood education like staff do.
 - i. Sarah O asked about turnout for parent meetings if they are not mandatory - the hope is to offer things well in advance

and let people know so that people do come. The Board discussed the value of the meetings as a community event. Haley noted that she appreciated childcare being available.

- ii. Sue is working hard to fill 14-15 Board roles to help next year's Board.

c. Strategic Planning Monetizing Next Steps

- i. Maria helped facilitate a discussion of suggested events

1. One area of consensus from the strategic planning session was playground rental.
2. Kathryn suggested if Saturday at School goes away, staff time devoted to that could shift to Super Saturdays
3. Sue mentioned for MGNS events, staff has to be MGNS, in ratio, etc. So there is a balance of making money and paying people enough to be worth it, staying in ratio, etc. Student teachers do not count for ratios. There is a lot of interest for summer camps, but have to have teachers who want to do it and all students have to have all their paperwork
 - a. There is no licensing issue if parents are present with children.
 - b. Sue suggested rather than making free 4K 5 days/week, MGNS could offer enrichment classes on Mondays that parents would pay for. Maria suggested maybe surveying parents to see what they are interested in. Sue suggested trying a month with an enrichment topic.
 - i. Several parents expressed an interest in enrichment classes.
 - ii. Sue suggested putting it on the agenda for October - there is some interest in doing themes for a month at a time
 - iii. Bailey mentioned that working parents plan out childcare for Mondays in advance, so it could be challenging for them to change gears if they do not know enrichment Mondays are a possibility. Maria suggested a carefully worded question on the end of year survey to hint at the possibility of Monday enrichment, and Sue agreed that would be a good idea
 - iv. Playground rental has to be approved by LELC and insurance, and bathrooms indoors must be available. There would need to be an agreement as to how facilities must be left. Rentals could be run by a Board member
 1. Sue said it would be helpful to know what would be reasonable to charge for offering a playground and a bathroom - Sarah O volunteered to look into this.

She will plan to be ready to discuss at next Board meeting

- v. Parent night out - running this would be a bit more complicated. It would have to be staffed and there would have to be documentation for all students who are dropped off.
 - 1. Sue says this is likely more difficult for staff because it would be more like babysitting. Sue also pointed out MGNS pays staff really well, so a parent night out might not be economically worth the effort.
 - 2. A Board Member asked if it would be useful to train more Board Members as subs - Sue noted that substitute training is an investment and should only be for people who have the time and inclination to actually sub. Bailey suggested the possibility of training people with some of these summer camp and/or parent night out options in mind.
- d. Discuss suggested Lunch Bunch tuition rates
 - i. Brooke discussed possible tuition increases for Lunch Bunch- the yearly rate is calculated so that it can be charged monthly like tuition through ELV,

4. Items Up for Vote

- a. Vote on Lunch Bunch Tuition Rates - Sue moved to adopt the 'little bit bigger' proposed increase to \$340/year/day of lunch bunch. Veronica seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

5. Adjournment - Nicole made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sarah O seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. President Maria Keegan adjourned the meeting at 9:02pm