

Minutes

Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance Board Meeting

December 11, 2019 - 4:30 pm

MG21 Conference Room, 5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI. 53716

MG21 Governance Board meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 4:30

Board Members Present: Tom Stolper, Phil McDade, Steve Halverson, Sue Carr, Denise Peterson, Tom Howe

MG21 Staff: Rebecca Fox Blair, Jon Rouse, Melissa Hahn

A. Call to Order Called to order at 4:31 by Board President Denise Peterson

B. Declaration of Public Notice—Duly Posted

C. Approval of November 2019 Governance Board Minutes Moved by Tom Stolper, seconded by Phil McDade, passed unanimously

D. Correspondence and Announcements

E. Reports

1. Staff Member: Alex Mentele of the Middle Campus Shared details on the students' development of a prairie restoration project.
2. President's Report—
 - Met with Dan Olson to discuss the creation of the policy that outlines how students who are not meeting with success at MG21 can be moved to another institution that more closely aligns with their needs. RFB suggested that the handbook (top of page 6) has language to support the writing of this policy; Tom Stolper suggested that we write such a policy as clearly as possible. RFB noted that there is also language at the top of page 13 related to placement and removal.
 - Denise shared that Dan raised the issue of a possible police and fire building to be sited west of MG21. Tom Stolper shared information related to the placement of a public safety building (police and fire) in the back of Nichols and he advocated with the mayor to insure that enough land remained for MG21 to continue its outdoor learning activities. No construction would likely start before 2022. He encouraged that the MG21 Board be involved with advocating for and articulating what the school needs (the available land belongs to the school district and would be sold to the city). Phil, in speaking with a member of MGSD board, noted that the Board member felt that it was wholly appropriate for us as a Board to weigh in on the needs of MG21 and its students.
3. MG21 Monthly Report
 - RFB noted that the all-school meal where everyone was involved was important to building a stronger culture and was a meaningful success.
4. Financial Report-RFB It was noted that some furniture has been charged improperly, and RFB will follow-up on this.

H. Business

1. Discussion: Staffing update Melissa shared that they have interviewed one person for the lunch duty position; there has been little interest in this position owing to the lack of hours and

timing in the middle of the day.

2. Middle Campus Update

- Sue shared her insights about visiting the middle campus, and Denise did as well. Denise raised her concern about whether the 15:1 ratio is appropriate for Middle School staffing, especially when there are many difficult needs to meet. Denise also raised how MG21 will need to create messaging to address public concerns about this year in the middle school.
- Phil raised the issue about how we can learn more about prospective students prior to their admittance.
- GDS staff now has a better understanding of what's expected and what the nature of the middle school expectations are.
- Tom H. raised the issue of also shaping a PBL school to the transcendent child and building a structure appropriate to a middle school student. Sue Carr raised another issue about how "paper and pencil" the classrooms were and how little hands-on activities there were.
- Jon shared that students need to **opt in** to what MG21 has to offer, rather than **opting out** of GDS because they haven't been successful.

3. Action item: Approval of the [2018-19 Annual Accountability Report to MGSD Board](#)

- Denise moved to approve the report, Steve seconded, passed unanimously

4. Update on Executive Director Evaluation Update/Job Description

[Executive Director Evaluation](#)

[Current of Executive Director Job Description](#)

[New ExDir Job Description, Dec. 2019](#)

- Looked at the job description and the evaluation and had an open discussion about how this document outlives the current Executive Director and makes it possible to continue to improve.
- RFB raised the issue of prep time and that it essentially doesn't exist for staff; we need to create a place where staff feel honored and have the time they need. Agenda item for next time. She stated that there is a distinct fear that teachers will not stay in roles where necessary time to prepare is absent.
- Tom S. noted that we need to develop systems to adjust the schedule for greater prep, and to create a way for feedback to be given in a timely way.

I. Adjournment Denise moved to adjourn at 5:52, Phil McDade seconded, passed unanimously.

MG21 Governance Board Goals

1.To develop and implement a tool for evaluating the MG21 Executive Director.

2.To foster a positive and empowering work environment where all stakeholders can experience working conditions that sustain energy and dedication for years.

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