

Meeting Notes--Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance

Board Meeting January 13, 2021 - 4:30 pm [Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meetings](#)

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86528943828?pwd=VkFmSUIvS0cyUVRaby9SZlcvV3Q0QT09>

Board members present: [Sue Carr](#), [Thom Evans](#), [Tom Howe](#), [Phil McDade](#), [Denise Peterson](#), [Tom Stolper](#)

Board members absent: [none](#)

MG-21 Staff present: [Rebecca Fox Blair](#), [Michelle Bartman](#), [Ian Lowe](#), [Paul Marx](#), [Alex Mentele](#), [Mel Zastrow](#),

MG-21 Administration present: [Shelby Steele](#), [Melissa Hahn](#)

A. Call to Order—Called to order at 4:32 by Board President Denise Peterson

B. Declaration of Public Notice—Duly noticed

C. Approval of Minutes: [December 2020](#) Phil moved approval of the minutes, Denise seconded, motion passed unanimously.

D. Correspondence and Announcements

E. Reports

1. [Executive Director Report](#)- review and questions
RFB called attention to the PR materials to encourage MG-21 applications; a shout out to Stacy for her wonderful work on this.
2. Review and Approval of November Financial Reports: Regular Budget,

Denise moved approval of the regular budget, Phil seconded, motion passed unanimously. Denise moved approval of the grant budget, Phil seconded. The only discussion related to being “sanctioned” for not spending all grant monies owing to Covid. This is not a significant issue. The motion carried unanimously. .

F. Business

1. Discussion: Reopening of MG21

Staff Input:

Ian: Uncomfortable with opening in early February, after having discussed the following questions with staff internally:

What core values are guiding our decision-making?

We all want what is best for students, what does this look like?

What information do we have now (about vaccines, about community spread, about district safety protocols, etc.) that we did not have in early/mid December?

What more information do we need?

What actions need to be taken to create safety and meaningful learning?

How can we create continuity and stability across both campuses?

Michelle: Also uncomfortable returning given the science.

[Middle campus input on planned opening for Feb. 8:](#)

Alex:

- 1) Want to give students and family choice.
- 2) Middle school kids need socialization and a place to connect with peers to explore their own identity.
- 3) Can't replicate online what can be done in person.
- 4) Teaching collaboration and PBL online is profoundly difficult.
- 5) Strongly believe this is for the good for their students and that the opening can be done safely.

FB shared the proposal and timeline for both MC and for UC—find at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R0wRSI3R7oSruDCv7px7V2jL6MGURGyBxIKc2OxlqfM/edit>

Open discussion: Board members asked questions regarding what we know or don't know about families who might choose to attend, what reasonable expectations are for attendance, that MC is less active and engaged in the community and might be less of a community spread issue. The well-being of the students is first and foremost, and middle schoolers need the social interaction necessary. Concerns were raised several times about community spread and that staff won't be vaccinated by Feb. 8, 2021.

Alex added that many MC students have had no experience with PBL directly and so doing this work has been especially difficult.

Phil and Thom spoke about their appreciation of the teaching staff and that they are wishing to do what seems correct.

Paul mentioned that several students are at risk of not earning credit and that there are connectivity issues, and that the virtual environment is not working for them. Paul shared that three students are identified who are credit deficient and would meet with them once or twice a week to target their needs.

2. Possible ACTION: MG21 Reopening Plan for 3rd Quarter

MC proposal: Tom Stolper moved that the Middle Campus reopening proposal be accepted, Phil McDade seconded, discussion focused on concerns about community spread, health of the staff, trusting the staff. Motion carried 4-2, Sue Carr and Tom Howe voting no.

UC proposal: Denise moved to allow the UC to bring in a small, focused group who are credit deficient; Phil seconded. Discussion noted that only one or two students would be in the school at a time, and that Paul and Rebecca both felt that they would be comfortable working with one or two students. Motion passed unanimously.

Given the time and the need for Board members to leave, a motion to table to remaining agenda items made by Phil McDade, seconded by Tom Howe, motion carried unanimously.

3. Recruitment/Open Enrollment update

4. Possible new Gov. Board member: [TG Interest Form](#)

G. Adjournment Phil moved to adjourn the meeting, Denise seconded, motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

MG21 Governance Board Goals 2020-21

1. Legal: Develop, review and refine school policies that need to be in place.
2. Effective Governance: Improve communication between Executive Director, school staff, the board and the district.

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