

Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance Board Meeting

April 14, 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/86427956963?pwd=ZVhjTGc3MUNKSUhhVzUxcGpLL3J1dz09>

Board Members Present: Sue Carr, Thom Evans, Toni Gadke, Tom Howe, Phil McDade, Tom Stolper

Board Members Absent: Denise Peterson

MG-21 Staff Present: Rebecca Fox Blair, Shelby Steele

A. Call to Order At 4:30 by Phil McDade, Board Vice-President

B. Declaration of Public Notice—Duly noticed

C. Approval of Minutes: [March 10, 2021 Minutes](#) Phil McDade moved to approve minutes of March 10, 2021, Thom Evans seconded, motion passed unanimously.

D. Correspondence and Announcements

Awarded [MGEF Grant for \\$2,760](#) for [IATA Collaboration Service Project](#)

Rebecca noted that Bob Schlaeffer will volunteer to support this work in the linked project above.

E. Reports

1. [April Executive Director Report](#)- review and questions

Rebecca noted much interest in the Middle Campus and that applications for the Upper Campus were slower, though she expects that both will meet our attendance goals and there are likely to be students on the waiting list for the MC. Phil wondered if the slower response to Upper Campus is owed to concerns about Covid and what its impact may be.

Significant student attendance issues arose in third quarter and supports have been put in place to address concerns. A proposal has been put forward for an independent, online credit recovery program for those who have had considerable absence and are thus credit deficient. Tom S. raised his concern about the greater value of an in-person summer session, rather than online, but this remains a staffing issue as there is no one currently available due to other summer responsibilities. Regular high school summer school doesn't mesh with MG-21 programs and goals, and so can't be accessed by those students who are behind.

2. Review and Approval of March Financial Reports: Regular Budget, Grant Budget

RFB noted that spending in the regular budget remains low owing to the continuing limited in-person teaching of third quarter. Most of the non-grant spending has been on books, supplies, and online curriculum delivery.

Phil moved approval of March 2021 Regular Budget report, Thom Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

RFB noted that grant monies have not been spent, though the staff continues to work on developing proposals and expect to spend those funds by the end

of May, prior to the June deadline to do so.

Phil moved approval of March 2021 Grant budget report, Toni seconded.

In discussion, Rebecca shared items that have been identified for purchase, including picnic tables (which arrived today), a van, sewing machines (Margaret Jankowski and Jen at Monona library were mentioned as excellent resources), canoes and paddles, a trailer for the canoes, hoop houses, and a shed for garden materials. All curriculum and conference money in grant will be spent by June.

The motion to approve the grant budget passed unanimously.

F. Business

1. Reopening Update

30 students were on site yesterday for the first time, bringing excitement and joy back to MG-21. There are two outside spaces, one an arbor based on Gene's designs that the kids helped erect, and that can be taken down in 2 hours. RFB reviewed current staffing and who is teaching the virtual cohort.

2. Update re: Hiring Team

RFB, Thom Evans and Denise from the Board, RFB, and four staff and a student from MG-21 served as the hiring team. Close to 20 applications were received; Phil noted that this deep pool of candidates is an indication of the high regard in which MG-21 is held. The pool was reduced by consensus to three finalists and interviews took place last Friday, using the new District hiring process. One person clearly stood out and it's possible that within the next week we may have a special MG-21 Board meeting to approve hiring and recommending the candidate to the MGSD Board. Phil suggested that the background material be provided to the whole Board prior to our approval; RFB will check on confidentiality issues and what items might be shared. Thom Evans shared details about the thorough selection and interview process and its value, making special note of the student representative. References have been checked, and an invitation will be extended to visit the school.

3. MG21 Board Member Re-commit/Rotation Off-[2021 Term Expirations](#)

[Governance Board Member Recruitment and Vacancy Process](#)

Denise Peterson will leave, and Tom Stolper and Phil McDade agreed to continue for another three year term. Those members who join the Board service after the start of the school year will be seen as interim for that year, and their three year term will commence starting with the next school year.

4. Discussion: [MG21 Board Member Profile Spreadsheet](#) and posting of vacancies

Tom Stolper, Thom Evans, and Rebecca Fox Blair took the group through the document, and open discussion followed regarding the thoughtful approach this document takes, The Board will individually look at this and we'll return to it in May; the goal is to identify one new Board member in time for August's retreat (date of which to be set in May).

5. Discussion and Possible Approval: Items to Be Purchased-Canoes/Trailer

Tom Stolper moved to table the canoe purchase as there is not yet a completed proposal owing to a Covid-widened canoe supply and a desire by staff to have a deeper curriculum discussion about the use and value of

canoes to the curriculum and mission of the school. Phil seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Director Evaluation Timeline

We will see this document in May.

7. End of Year:

- o Senior Portfolio Night 5/13 4-7:30
- o Graduation June 3 7pm

8. Recognition of Ian

G. Adjournment Thom Evans moved to adjourn, Phil seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 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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