

Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance Board Meeting

November 10, 2021 4:30-6:00

Meeting Minutes

MG21 School Building Room MPR, 5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716

Board members present: Raiden Edseth Griffin, Tom Howe, Tom Stolper, Toni Gadke, Thom Evans

Board members absent: Sue Carr, Phil McDade

MG-21 Staff Present: Rebecca Fox Blair, Mel Zastrow, Shelby Steel

A. Call to Order: meeting was called to order by Tom S at 4:36

B. Declaration of Public Notice

C. Approval of [October 12, 2021 Minutes](#) : Tom H moved to approve, Seconded by Tom E with unanimous approval

D. Correspondence and Announcements: Rebecca discussed the possibility of a grant application from MGEF that would target nontraditional students in 6th-12th grade and would focus on outdoor education and leadership skills and felt it would be appropriate to pursue this.

E. Reports

1. MG21 Staff presentation-Mel Zastrow Middle Campus Learning : Excellent presentation by Mel in regard to a new math curriculum to be used in the MC that would emphasize a hierarchy of math skills allowing for differentiation of learning pace and emphasis on practical applications of these skills. In addition to her presentation, Mel provided a packet she developed that provided a description on focus areas as well as examples of lessons and activities associated with topic areas. Well done and well received.
2. [Executive Director Report](#)- review and questions: Enrollment in the UC is currently at 49 with one student on a waiting list with 19 in the MC and one on the waiting list. Both waiting list students will complete application process, and it is anticipated that as it stands, they will be admitted at the start of the new trimester. A relatively small number(ie. 1 MC student/3 UC students) are having attendance issues which are being addressed by staff. Discipline issues will now be monitored by a new all school behavior/ RJ Tracking sheet. New sink is being installed in MC kitchen at the cost of \$1,049. Sink is much larger than current sink and will allow wider range of potential use. Other new equipment has included the canoes purchased for the limnology class. Canoes fared well in their maiden voyages recently. Staff PD has involved ICS Equity(10/21) and participation in MGSD PD(11/5). Additional PD has included all MG-21 staff book discussion of The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice by Fania Davis. Members of the board noted that the latter, along with staff sweatshirts and business cards for all staff, are a nice compliment to the goal of making MC and UC more unified. RFB also discussed the 4-6 week Covid testing program through Flambeau Diagnostics that will be housed at MG-21 as well as vaccine clinics for 5-11 year olds that coordinated by Forward Pharmacy and offered at Granite Ridge school(Cottage Grove) and Winnequah School(Monona). Dates of these clinics will be well publicized. Regular communication

with Melissa Hahn, Shelby Steele and RFB are continuing on a weekly basis. RFB also reported that the Annual Accountability Report was presented on 10/27 to the MGBOE and was well received. In the area of PR/Recruitment for MG-21, the PR team will be focusing on getting media coverage for Gene D's work on hand built canoes as well as Wilderness Week. Additional efforts in this regard will include a possible exhibition night in January to highlight projects MG-21 students and staff are engaging in. Other news of a highly positive nature include a number of community led projects during the first trimester, all new student completion of the Hope Survey, the UC partnership with IAT at Swamplovers, as well as staff efforts to increasing student leadership with groups at both the MC and UC(thank you Joel) levels. In regard to the latter, RFB mentioned there is also a group of students working on developing a Gender Neutral bathroom policy.

2. Discussion and ACTION on Enrollment Policy clarification [Proposed Revised Admission Policy](#) :After discussion, it was decided to put this on hold until MGED legal staff finishes their review. In the meantime, we will continue to sue current Enrollment Policy per a motion by Tom H, seconded by Toni and passed unanimously.

3. Update on Social Worker position : RFG reported that they have a strong candidate from IL who has had a zoom interview and is coming to visit the school next Wednesday to meet with staff and students as well as completing the interview process.

4. Discussion: [Governance Board Goals: Next steps](#) (Complete worksheet and come with some thoughts and ideas to share) : RFB asked GB members to review the Governing Board Goals for 2021-22 and add comments or suggestions to this google edit document. We also discussed the possibility of adding board members and agreed that it would be good to both make this more public by posting board responsibilities in the MGSD and MG-21 newsletters and asking for interested parties to apply as well having current board members approach possible candidates they would feel would be a good fit and asking them to consider the application process. Discussion seemed to favor the potential addition of two new members given the turnover we may be expecting at the end of this year as well as a strong feeling that it would be good to have a parent member. This would seem to require further discussion at the next board meeting.

G. Adjournment :Toni moved to adjourn/ Tom H seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:04.

The Governing Board Goals for 2021-22:

- 1. Work to build a more cohesive culture across the UC and MC*
- 2. Create/refine plan for how to engage community partners and volunteers in collaborating with your school*
- 3. Establish/revisit methods or systems for frequent and transparent communication between the board and the school leadership*
- 4. Develop a leadership structure that includes clarity around supervision and employee accountability.*

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