

Meeting Notes--Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance Annual Summer Retreat

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

Board members absent: Phil McDade

MG-21 Staff present: Rebecca Fox Blair

August 16, 2021 8:00am -12:00

MG21 School Building Room 29, 5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716

A. Call to Order **Called to order by Board President Stolper at 8:10 AM**

B. Declaration of Public Notice—**Duly noticed.**

C. Welcome new board member Raiden Edseth Griffin

D. Motion to convene into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c) for consideration of the following: (Roll call vote)

1. Executive Director Evaluation 2020-21-Data Summary Review and Next Steps

Rebecca left the meeting for the closed session. Thom Evans moved to convene into closed session, Sue Carr seconded, motion passed unanimously in roll call vote. Discussion related to the Executive Director Evaluation and next steps.

D. Motion to adjourn Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session.

Sue Carr moved to end the closed session, Toni Gadke seconded, motion passed unanimously. Rebecca returned to the meeting

E. Approval of Minutes: [June 14, 2021 Minutes](#) Sue moved approval, Toni seconded, minutes approved unanimously.

F. Correspondence and Announcements--**None**

G. Business

1. ACTION: Discussion and Approval of [Governance Board Meeting Calendar for 2021-22](#) Sue moved approval, Toni seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. ACTION: Discussion and Approval of [MG21 School Calendar for 2021-22](#) (Approval of overnight trips)/[Re-Member Service Trip to Pine Ridge](#) Sue moved approval of calendar, including overnight trips. Toni seconded. Discussion surrounded the few changes from last year and clarifications from Rebecca regarding Covid safety. Motion passed unanimously.

3. ACTION: Discussion and Approval of [MG21 Proposed School Budget for 2021-22](#) Rebecca shared the need to upgrade two Macs at about \$4000 as well as furniture. She noted that Jerrud may require moving back to last year's budget total, which would mean cutting purchase of the Macs as well as attendance at the ISN conference. Sue moved to accept the proposed budget, Thom seconded, passed unanimously.

4. Updates:

- a. [Priority Competencies](#) –Michelle, Alex and RFB’s workgroup created this draft document to operate across the entire school. It will be brought back to the Board when it is in its final form.
- b. [New UC Schedule/Courses](#)—Moved to A and B to give more students more opportunities and choice. Lit circles are continuing; Rebecca guided the Board through the details of the schedule and how it will work for students, and answered Board questions. CLP, for example, are Community Led Projects; some will be unique to Upper Campus, some to Lower, but there will also be shared CLPs where all students will come together. Currently there are two lunch periods, Sue, Thom and others raised the question about whether the whole school could eat together; currently split owing to Federal requirements related to portion sizes.
- c. [MC Schedule MC Courses](#)—Rebecca highlighted several areas and scope and sequence.
- d. [MGSD 2021-22 School Facilities Operating Plan](#)—No health person on site; Monona school nurse will be overseeing all the buildings; there will be a “bubble room” for students who may have been exposed. No students have chosen virtual to this point. Three MC students shifted to other schools and one UC moved to MGHS; Rebecca has queried parents through exit surveys to determine which reasons for leaving pertain to MG-21, and which are other contingencies. Currently there are 5 openings in the MC. If Dane County closes schools, Rebecca hopes that we can consider outdoor school, even in winter. Discussion related to mandating vaccination for all over age 12; the current plan is for in-person, 5 days a week, masked inside, with the understanding that all adults who come into the building are vaccinated. Questions raised about how to continue to respond to changing variants and shifting to “zoom school” or other creative solutions, like sequestered pods of the same 10 kids and teacher. Consider virtual needs/areas of technological readiness, social and emotional learning development, and maintaining rigor and relevance online.

H. Visioning for 2021-22

1. Discussion: What is our vision for the future? What would our school look like 3-5 years in the future?
2. [Board Goals and Competencies](#) for 2021-22 –Tom S. looked over evaluation comments and identified three areas for us to consider plus three others from WRCCS. Discussion about how to create a culture that extends over both the MC and the UC and what is the best way to support the MC staff and Joel, our new hire. Thom shared that he’s met the new police chief who is interested in restorative justice, and Thom will connect with Jess on this issue. RFB informed us that training in Integrated Comprehensive Systems for Equity will be delivered for the whole staff through the district.

The Board determined that our Governing Board Goals for 2021-22 will focus on:

1. Working to build a more cohesive culture across the UC and MC
2. Community Engagement from the WRCCS document
3. Communications from the WRCCS document.
4. Developing a leadership structure that includes clarity around supervision and employee accountability.

A general discussion took place regarding academic rigor, with a focus first on math and then generally. Raiden provided insights from a student perspective, especially in the context of a student’s own PBL. The teacher-led courses did have rigor, in his view. General discussion went deeper into math rigor and accountability and how we might provide greater math support and opportunities.

Leadership discussion: The shared leadership of two administrators (Shelby and Melissa) and RFB was discussed. Melissa evaluates teachers both at MGHS and at MG-21, but Shelby doesn’t have those responsibilities at the regular middle school. RFB isn’t actually a “supervisor,” per se, either of colleagues or of administrative support staff. The Board discussed the importance for addressing day-to-day

accountability and supervisory issues related to staff as needing to happen ‘in-house’ rather than externally.

3. [Review of Board Responsibilities from Charter](#) (handout from Denise)- Discussion/Identifying gaps [MG21 Charter](#)—Page numbers on this document are aligned to our charter document.
4. Discussion: New Board members for 2021-22-[Board Member Profile](#) Not discussed; will address at next meeting.
Review-Gaps/target areas, Parent Rep Not discussed; will address at next meeting

I. Adjournment Thom Evan moved to adjourn, Toni Gadke seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 11:36 PM

J. Lunch/Listening Session with MG21 Staff

MG21 Governance Board Goals 2021-22

TBD

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