

Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance Board Meeting

April 13, 2022 4:30-6:00

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

Board members present: Sue Carr, Toni Gadke (virtually), Raiden Edseth Griffin, Tom Howe, Phil McDade, Tom Stolper, Elizabeth Wheeler

MG-21 Staff present: Rebecca Fox Blair (virtually), Gene Delcourt, Stacy Levin, Alex Mentele, Mel Zastrow, Paul Marx, Michelle Bartman, Joel Jarosky, Sherry Parrish, Shelby Steel, Alyanna Cooper

MGSD Staff present: Dan Olson

A number of students, parents, and community members also present, listed in public appearances.

A. Call to Order Called to order by Board President Tom Stolper at 4:32

B. Declaration of Public Notice Duly noticed

C. Correspondence and Announcements

1. Senior Portfolio Night May 17 4:30-7:30

D. Approval of [March 9, 2022 Minutes](#) Sue moved to approve minutes, Phil McDade seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

E. Reports

1. [Executive Director Report](#)- please review prior to the meeting

Dan Olson shared information related to open enrollment and MG-21 enrollment. Tom Stolper asked a question about where we stand in numbers related to previous years; Rebecca noted that we're ahead in enrollment at this time compared to past years.

Sue asked what the spring staff retreat was; Rebecca shared that it is an opportunity to reflect on the year to date and to set next steps for the future.

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

Raiden moved to approve both budget reports, Phil seconded; motion carried unanimously.

F. Public Appearances

The Board heard student statements from Miri Bloom, Jadon Swan, Seth Sterns, Henry Stearns, Myles Payne, Lydia Warfel, Isaac Russel, Bella Novak and Elijah Hipke (texts of their comments can be found on the last slide of the presentation.) Student statements addressed the need for a dedicated administrator, greater funding, and the need for more special education staff. Students noted that one-to-one support was

central to their success. Several noted that students were unaware of their administrator's name (who is offsite most of the time owing to other duties in the district), and that most students assumed the school's administrator was Rebecca.

-Ian Lowe shared a historical perspective and the importance of an executive director and additional special educator. Ian also shared the insights of former employee Alyssa Hartson; both texts are available on the last page of the presentation.

-Brian Holmquist (read by Stacy Levin) in support of increased Special Education staffing and expansion of Executive Director position. Text is available on last page of presentation.

-Pageen Small, a parent (read by Mel) noted the importance of staffing increases to address student mental health issues. Text on last page of presentation.

-Kathleen Hipke: Parent of 11th grade student. Noted importance of special ed support, and believes that Paul Marx is stretched thin, and that more one-to-one support, as evidenced by the addition of Alyanna, is essential to his success.

G. Business

1. ACTION: Approval of recommended Student Services candidate for 2022-23

After reviewing a strong pool of candidates, three candidates were interviewed, including authentic role plays, and the interview committee, with Board members and MG-21 staff, selected Andrea Fresen as the best candidate.

Phil moved to hire Andrea Fresen, Sue seconded. Sue asked a question about the candidate's background and wondered if we might see a resume prior to making a hiring decision; Rebecca said that we could not as per confidentiality restrictions. After a brief sharing of Andrea's background and the hiring process, the motion passed unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: Staff Plan for MG21 Leadership Structure

See presentation; Michelle and Alex fleshed out information on each slide. Joel noted that in comparison to his experience at Capital High, MG-21 is significantly understaffed. Much discussion centered around the first "Why a Change is Needed" slide in the presentation hyperlinked in the agenda. Issues discussed related to staffing, sharing of ideas and resources with the greater district (and learning from them), and the need to have a "seat at the table." Phil raised the central concern related to how hiring an Executive Director could weaken or significantly change the vision of a teacher-led school. Paul shared that the caseload for SpED has been consistently as high in the past as this year, and that constricted by this heavy load, he's unable to provide required service to each student as required by the state.

Phil noted in open discussion that the Special Education position is a separate issue from the Executive Director, and that in his view we can come to a decision on staffing. The Board agreed to meet again in a special session on April 20, to first address requesting increased Special Education staffing (one teacher, and one part time SpEd assistant), and then to discuss the creation of the new Executive Director position with administrative status.

H. Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for consideration of the following: Staffing Considerations

There was no need to convene in closed session regarding staffing at this time.

I. Reconvene Into Open Session and Possible ACTION re: Closed Session Staffing Consideration

J. Adjournment

Phil moved to adjourn, Elizabeth seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:17 PM

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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