

## **Monona Grove Education Foundation Board Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2023**

**Present** – Beebe, Bernards, Eddington, Homburg, Jones, Klinke, Kugle, Manning, McCutchin, O'Connor, Olson, Robbins, Runk, Salvi, Weinberger

**Absent** – Parrott, Perkins, Young

**Opening of Meeting:** McCutchin called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

**Approval of March 14, 2023 Minutes** – Runk's motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting, seconded by Homburg, was approved unanimously.

### **Reports & Announcements:**

**Supt. Dan Olson Report** – He's very pleased that the referendum passed and that it received such great support from the community. It will essentially allow the district to maintain the status quo. They will prioritize staff and teacher salaries in upcoming budgets. There is still some uncertainty regarding the state budget and how it will affect schools.

**Other Announcements** – Susan Fox's last school board meeting is tomorrow evening.

### **New Business:**

#### **Discussion & Possible Approval to draw on Madison Community Foundation**

**Endowments:** The meeting packet includes a summary of 2022 distributions available for withdrawal from the school endowment funds at MCF. We withdrew those available in 2021. Only Taylor Prairie has used their 2021 funds. The board discussed ways to make sure the schools are aware the money is available. McCutchin and Salvi routinely notify all principals and copy Olson who also follows up with them. Olson will remind the principals and make sure that Mark Powell, the new district finance director, is also aware of the availability of funds. Distributions from the Green Memorial, which is dedicated to Jim Green, a former PE teacher at Nichols School, are available for elementary schools in both Monona and Cottage Grove.

Neither MG 21 nor Granite Ridge have endowment funds. At the time MG21 was formed, it was decided not to pursue one for them because their enrollment was so small, and it would be difficult for them to raise the required \$7500. New funds at MCF now require an initial investment of \$25,000. Combining all the funds could be problematic because money was given for the use of a particular school. The board agreed to table the issue and leave the 2022 funds at MCF for now.

**Discussion of future fundraising campaigns:** The board discussed doing a United Way type campaign this fall. Should we keep to the schedule we've followed for the Golf Ball Drop – letters out this summer, etc.? Jones feels we should do some sort of fundraising campaign with the idea that we may need something bigger in the future even if we don't bring in much money now. Beebe agreed, pointing out that it keeps awareness of MGEF out in the community. The board discussed several ideas for future fundraising events. They agreed to do a United Way type fundraiser in coming months and consider other ideas going forward.

#### **Discussion & Possible Approval of 2023/24 School Year Program Fundraising Goal:**

The packet included a spreadsheet summarizing funds needed for the 23-24 school year. Snack Pack needs are growing. They've raised \$11,000 and MGEF is committed to providing \$5K. They estimate they'll need an additional \$15,850. Along with other needs, that means 40,850.02 will be needed for the 2023-24 school year. The Snack Pack committee is applying for some grants so that number may change going forward. Weinberger pointed out that the

number does not include the cost of Traditions, which is probably 3500-4,000/year. O'Connor mentioned the need for a new graphic designer who will probably charge more.

About \$15,000 raised by the Golf Ball Drop came from sponsorships and donations. \$12,000 was from ticket sales. We don't receive a significant amount of donations outside of specific asks. Food donations from Second Harvest for Snack Pack are a possibility but they have very specific parameters we have to meet which may be challenging. Homburg feels that we should do what needs to be done to get involved with Second Harvest and that will give us a better idea of what we need to raise. The funding for Snack Pack is about 80% grant with 20% from fundraising. There won't be any carryover funds available at the end of the year.

Beebe suggested including something in monthly school newsletters asking for donations to help support the Snack Pack program. Anything we want to include in the newsletters should be sent to Katy Byrnes Kaiser who sends district-wide information to each school for their newsletter each month. Jones emphasized that we should have something about MGEF in every newsletter to keep us in the forefront of people's minds. The board will return to the discussion at the May meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Pay It Forward Committee (Weinberger)** – Cottage Grove School submitted two requests of \$50 or less. Homburg replenished the Grab & Go at MGHS. We recently received a request from Granite Ridge for help buy swimsuits. This again raises the question of what the district's obligation is to pay for things like this for a required class? Olson doesn't have an answer right now. At first glance, he sees it as similar to PE where students are asked to provide their own clothing & the district finds a way to help students who can't afford it. He'll explore further. Weinberger's motion to approve requests for the Grab & Go restock, the two \$50 CG School requests and \$250 for swimsuits for Granite Ridge, seconded by Salvi, was approved unanimously.

**Weekend Snack Pack Committee (Klinke & Eddington)** – There was an incredible turnout for the Cottage Grove Easter Egg hunt which raised about \$950 after expenses.

**Scholarship Committee Report (McCutchin)** – The committee decided to use Ida Sobotik's request for funding for students to attend a summer ceramics retreat as a test model for Brandt summer camp requests. Four requests have been received with one more expected. The process went well but may require a few tweaks in the future. McCutchin's motion to approve spending up to \$1600 from the Brandt Fund for summer ceramics retreat scholarships, seconded by Robbins, was approved unanimously.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be virtual on May 9, 2023, at 4pm.

**Adjournment** – Kugle's motion to adjourn, seconded by Runk was approved unanimously at 5:20 PM.

Mary O'Connor, Secretary