

## **Monona Grove Education Foundation Board Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2023**

**Present** – Bernards, Eddington, Klinke, Kugle, McCutchin, Manning, O'Connor, Olson, Parrott, Robbins, Runk, Salvi, Weinberger (left at 5:15)

**Absent** – Beebe, Homburg, Jones, Perkins, Young

Also Present – MG Principal Mitchal McGrath, Toren Young & representatives of the BSU

**Opening of Meeting:** McCutchin called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**Approval of January 3, 2023 Minutes** – Salvi's motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting, seconded by Eddington was approved unanimously.

### **Reports & Announcements:**

**Supt. Dan Olson Report** – Olson reported that the District fully supports the Black Student Union trip this year. Chaperones will follow policies and procedures. He shared the url for the district referendum website. No surveys have been done. Several other area school referendums were recently approved. The referendum gives MGSD the authority to levy up to the limit approved. Depending on state aids, they may not need to. They've done two non-recurring referendums where they had to return to the voters. This one will be recurring with no need to return. There's no indication that the school aid formula will be changed anytime soon.

**Kathy Thomas Resignation from Board** – Kathy Thomas has resigned from the board due to health issues but will remain on PIF committee and help with other fundraising projects as well. Board discussed ways to acknowledge her service to MGEF. She has done a tremendous job of fundraising and was very instrumental in establishing the PIF program. The board made several suggestions. McCutchin asked that members contact him with other ideas.

### **New Business:**

**Discussion & Possible Approval of grant request from BSU for Spring, 2023 trip** – Representatives from the Black Student Union reported on their 2022 trip to visit various HBCU's and other institutions. The trip focused on student voice, post-high school career and academic planning and building a stronger community. BSU membership has grown from 32 to 104 members. Several students applied to HBCU's and one was accepted to Xavier University.

The group requested funding to return to New Orleans this year. After being limited by Covid restrictions in 2022, they plan to stay an extra day to see more HBCU's, museums and learn more about Black History and participate in service learning. They've scheduled visits to 5 universities, two of which are HBCU's. They're asking for \$12,500 to help with bus costs. There will be a maximum of 35 students, mainly Freshman-Junior with 5 Seniors. Sophomores and Juniors get priority; grades and commitment to BSU are also considered. They've done a lot of fundraising and would like the trip to be fully paid for. Salvi's motion, seconded by Klinke to approve \$12,500 to fund BSU transportation costs, passed unanimously.

### **Discussion & Possible Approval of Brandt grant request from Ida Sobotik**

Ida Sobotik of the MGHS Art Department wants to take 24 students to Dodgeville for a 4-day Adamah Clay Retreat next summer, focusing on ceramics. \$7200 would cover everything; reviewers are not sure if the math is correct. Board members were concerned about the lack of organized fundraising and about how attendees are chosen. There is no way to know if any are students in need. How does this differ from summer band camp, and others? The Board tabled the request and will ask the applicant to appear at the March meeting to answer questions.

**Committee Assignments for 2023** – McCutchin reported that board members were slotted in the committees they requested. Robbins’ motion to approve the assignments with the addition of Salvi to the Finance Committee, seconded by Salvi was approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Grant & Awards Committee (Beebe)** – Weinberger presented the applications received for Innovation Grants. The committee recommends approving two, both from Taylor Prairie. The first, submitted by Allison Wojta will provide \$3200 for substitute teachers to enable 4K and kindergarten teachers to observe live lessons led by peers. The goal is to allow for a more collaborative and impactful experience by giving peer feedback to improve teaching techniques.

The second grant, submitted by Jacinda Wapenski & Elizabeth Wodzinski would provide funding to purchase a collection of audio-enabled picture books for 4K and kindergarten students. The grant committee increased the amount requested to cover the same grades at Winnequah bringing total funding to \$4,000.

The committee did not approve a request to fund a birthday book for each child in the school, currently funded by the PTO. The committee felt that MGEF would prefer to fund books for students who don’t have access to them.

Weinberger’s motion, seconded by Parrott to spend \$7200 to fund the two grants as presented, was approved unanimously.

**Pay It Forward Committee (Weinberger)** – MGSD reported that all schools spent their allotted PIF funds last year. Last month the board approved funding some grant requests immediately & others once the need was known.

Two PIF grants were approved in January. The first provided a supply of 12 swimming suits at a cost of \$275 for Winnequah students who can’t participate in lessons at the high school pool because they don’t own suits. Olson is considering if this should be funded by the district or MGEF. The second request provided \$250 for clothing to replace student clothing that is muddy and wet from playing outside.

**Weekend Snack Pack Committee (Klinke & Eddington)** – 147 students are currently receiving Snack Packs every weekend. Food prices have gone up and they’re approaching their budget limit. There is \$4,000 left to cover the last 10 weeks. The recent euchre tournament was very successful.

**Scholarship Committee Report (McCutchin)** – The scholarship committee met and approved scholarships to be awarded this year in the amount of \$21,250. There will be five Hlavac scholarships. The Lasting Angels scholarship fund and the Tygum Building Trades Scholarship have been added this year. The McNaughton Scholarship was increased to \$2500. \$2000 was approved for four \$500 Ahearn Scholarships. Salvi’s motion seconded by Kugle to approve the scholarships as presented was approved unanimously.

**Fundraising Committee (Parrott)** – The board discussed the future of the Golf Ball Drop.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be virtual on March 14, 2023, at 4pm.

**Adjournment** – Kugle’s motion to adjourn, seconded by Runk was approved unanimously at 5:28 PM.

Mary O’Connor, Secretary