

## **Monona Grove Education Foundation Board Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2023**

**Present** – Beebe, Bernards, Eddington, Homburg, Klinke, McCutchin, O'Connor, Olson, Parrott, Perkins, Robbins, Salvi, Weinberger

**Absent** – Jones, Kugle, Manning, Runk, Thomas, Young

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

**Approval of November 8, 2022 Minutes** – Robbins' motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2022 meeting, seconded by Klinke, was approved unanimously.

### **Reports & Announcements:**

**Supt. Dan Olson Report** – The school year is almost half over and things are going so much better than last year which was really hard for everyone. All teaching positions are filled, but there are still some substitute teacher shortages. It's a much more normal year so far. The School Board has decided to bring an operating referendum to a vote in the April election. They had hoped to hold off for another year, but all indications are we won't be getting enough of an increase in state aid as needed for 2023-24. They haven't determined an exact amount they'll be asking for. School taxes have gone down this year because state aid could only be used for property tax relief.

### **New Business:**

**Discussion & Possible Approval of grant request from BSU for Spring, 2023 trip** – postponed until February meeting

**Election of Officers** – McCutchin was nominated for the position of President by Salvi, seconded by Robbins; Beebe was nominated for VP by Parrott, seconded by Klinke; O'Connor was nominated for Secretary by Homburg, seconded by Klinke; Salvi was nominated for Treasurer by Parrott, seconded by Homburg. All were approved unanimously.

**Committee Assignments for 2023** – Anyone interested in joining another committee, please let McCutchin know by January 27. Bultman will continue to maintain the website but doesn't have time for meetings and other activities. Other committees that need members are Fundraising and the Starting Line Fund. Parrott is happy to continue working on the Golf Ball Drop but there are a lot of other opportunities she doesn't have time to focus on. Robbins can help with Communications. Committees are as follows:

- Pay it Forward
- Fundraising
- Communications
- Innovation Grants
- Brandt Grants
- Scholarships
- Investments
- Snack Pack
- Starting Line Fund

### **Old Business (None)**

### **Committee Reports**

**Grant & Awards Committee (Beebe)** – No applications for Innovation Grants for next year have been received. There are some people completing previous grants due to extensions. The latest reminder to staff went out last week and Olson will send another one in mid-January.

**Pay It Forward Committee (Weinberger)** – The Board needs to discuss an annual stipend for each building this year. McCutchin is waiting for a report as to what each spent since last year. He does know that Granite Ridge has spent all of their money (\$250) and is in need of more. They also need some gym clothing. Homburg reported that MG 21 (\$350) has used all of their funds as well. Weinberger’s motion that we give Granite Ridge \$250 and MG21 \$350 for winter clothing, seconded by Beebe, was approved unanimously.

Weinberger’s motion that funds be replenished at all other schools to bring them up to their 2022 level – MGHS – 500; GDS \$500; other elementary schools (CGS, TP & Winnequah) all \$250, seconded by Parrott, was approved unanimously. McCutchin will share the amount needed with the board once he learns what it is. The committee will notify the schools.

Beebe reported that a Pay it Forward grant went to pay for a HEPA filter for a student to use in his room at home. He was missing a lot of school due to his asthma. MGHS asked for resupplies in their Grab & Grow area which we filled.

**Communications** – O’Connor reported that Traditions was distributed in mid-December. There are issues returned as undelivered at the district office which Weinberger will pick up. Salvi suggested some more Facebook posts especially about Pay it Forward.

**Weekend Snack Pack Committee (Klinke & Eddington)** – Their recent Culver’s fundraiser netted \$1400. They’re about \$9,000 short for next year. There are still several fundraisers scheduled so they’re not too concerned at this point.

**Scholarship Committee Report (McCutchin)** – The committee is meeting on January 19 at 4:00 to review 2023 spring scholarship awards. We should have two more new scholarships this year each worth \$2500. Another couple is interested in starting another one this spring. That would bring us to 16 scholarships.

We recently received a request for funding for students to attend a National Leadership Conference. Funding would come from Brandt funds. The funding requests were as follows: 1) \$250 for National Leadership Conference Awards which would be \$25 each for 10 students and allow them to apply for a larger award. 2) \$5,570 for National Leadership Conference Travel which would provide funding for up to 5 students to attend this summer. The board had questions about how students were notified of the opportunity and selected. At this point, students are not aware that financial assistance may be available. We just received the request today and a decision is needed soon. Weinberger asked if it might fit under the Starting Line Fund as there may not be Brandt funds available in the future. Currently \$22-25,000 remains. McCutchin’s motion to approve both requests, seconded by Klinke, was approved unanimously.

**Investment Committee Report (McCutchin)** – The committee is meeting with LPL advisor Paula Possin on January 5 at 4:00.

**Other Business** – Robbins thinks there might be a role available for MGEF with Homecoming. She’s not sure what if anything the high school might be open to. There may be other gaps – ex. Winter dance – that they may need help with as well. She just wants to get it on peoples’ radar.

The Snack Pack’s Portillo’s fundraiser is scheduled for Feb. 14.

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

**Adjournment** – Parrott’s motion to adjourn, seconded by Eddington, was approved unanimously at 4:51 PM.

Mary O’Connor, Secretary