

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

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

**Absent** – Kugle, Manning, Young

**Opening of Meeting:** McCutchin called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

**Approval of February 14, 2023 Minutes** - Parrott's motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting, seconded by Bernards was approved unanimously.

### **Reports & Announcements:**

**Supt. Dan Olson Report** – Olson reported that things are going very well in the district now. The challenges of the past few years – staffing shortages, etc. seem to be behind them in many respects. He's hopeful that the upcoming referendum passes.

**Other Announcements** – Homburg will share details about Kathy Thomas's memorial celebration when she has them.

### **New Business:**

#### **Discussion & Possible Approval of requested donation from Monona Munchies –**

Margaret Clark has submitted a request for some funding for Monona Munchies, which provides lunch for Monona kids and parents during the six-week summer school program. They make about 300 lunches each day at the high school and then transport them to Winnequah for distribution. They are supported by donations and do not require participants to qualify. They need about \$8,000 and have \$600 on hand. They are applying for 501c3 status and are not officially affiliated with the district. The board felt that it was a worthwhile program but doesn't fit within MGEF responsibilities at this point. It would only serve one community. CG is much too spread out to do something similar. Snack Pak is limited to students who need food. Weinberger said we are required to give funds to another tax-exempt organization.

**Discussion & Possible Approval of MGHS Scholarship Presenter on May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Kathy Klinke volunteered.

**Discussion & Possible Approval of DC Funding via Starting Line Fund** – Mark Rundle requested approval of \$500 from the Starting Line Fund to enable a student to go on the DC trip. Beebe's motion, seconded by Salvi to approve the funding was approved unanimously.

#### **Discussion & Possible Approval of Charles Pyng Summer Scholarship Fund Creation -**

McCutchin recommended establishing a scholarship fund honoring the late Charles Pyng. Scholarships would fund attendance at a camp entering around art, tennis, or leadership. Olson reminded the board that it can't pay for any kind of sports camp if the student is on a MG team. Students would need to apply, and the funds would come from the MGEF general fund - \$500/year. It would be separate from the senior scholarships awarded each year. The board was concerned that only one scholarship would be available given all the students he impacted. Salvi's motion that we approve \$500 in each of the next four years to fund a summer enrichment camp in art or leadership and that the # of applicants will determine how the amount is split up among them each year, seconded by Beebe was approved unanimously. McCutchin and Eddington will work with the district scholarship person to determine out how best to promote it and get the approval of his family.

**Grant & Awards Committee (Beebe)** – They've notified both winners of innovation grants for this cycle and are waiting for one of them to respond.

**Pay It Forward Committee (Weinberger)** – Homburg is working on refilling the HS Grab & Go supply. A CG School counselor requested more snacks. Klinke will see if CG PTO is still supplying snacks for kids. If they can't handle the request, then we will decide whether to fund it. They will need to formally apply.

**Fundraising Committee Report (Parrot)** – There are questions about the legality of the golf ball drop. Lake Ridge Bank won't sponsor it if it's illegal. The committee is concerned with moving forward with the, particularly since we can't sell tickets online. They've discussed creating another program to invite the original golf ball drop sponsors to serve as foundation sponsors. Fundraising would move away from a singular large event. They plan to solicit businesses and individuals to sponsor the foundation as a whole and would create different levels focused on the programs MGEF offers. An example would be sponsoring a student in the snack program for 2 months for \$100. The goal is to create a more emotional connection to the work we're doing. We got a good response getting people to donate to the PIF fund. It would provide more opportunities for exposure for businesses.

There are concerns with other types of events – tremendous amount of work, people's time involved, lots of other events involving other organizations. The committee will take a look at each program MGEF sponsors and see what they will need next year in order to determine a fundraising goal. We need to promote the businesses much more effectively if we're not going to have a specific event to promote. We need to be able to tell them what they will get for their donation. It's hard to sell sponsorships without an event.

The goal would be to match the \$20K raised in previous years from sponsorships. We also raised \$10K in ticket sales bringing the goal to \$30,000 total. MGEF has a decent reserve now, so we should be ok for a while if we don't raise the full amount. The board discussed a variety of ways to promote the businesses involved.

Weinberger suggested we continue to send out the annual fundraising letter. Parrott suggested a letter to non-student households and sending something via Infinite Campus to student parents. That could be one way to raise the additional \$10K in addition to the sponsorships. Would like to allocate \$10K to PIF; \$10K – Innovation Grants; \$10K – Snack Pack; summer scholarship program of \$5K after Brandt funding is done - \$35K. Parrott will flesh out fundraising plan and share it with the Board.

**Weekend Snack Pack Committee (Klinke & Eddington)** – They will need help next Monday night, stuffing 10,000 eggs at Klinke Cleaners. On April 8, they will need people to put out eggs. Parrott suggested that high school students with volunteer hour requirements might help. The committee thanked MGSD officials for providing space to store and pack food.

**Scholarship Committee Report (McCutchin)** – They met with Krista to talk about summer scholarships and designed a one-page form for the scholarships. It asks what the scholarship means to them. They're looking for an additional funding source. \$7500 is left in the Brandt fund for these scholarships. Students can request up to \$500. They're looking for an additional funding source. The board decided that the grant request from Ida for Clay Retreat (see 2/14 minutes) would be a good way to test the form.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be virtual on April 11, 2023, at 4pm.

**Adjournment** – Parrott's motion to adjourn, seconded by Beebe was approved unanimously at 5:22 PM.

Mary O'Connor, Secretary