



MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING NOTES
Thursday, August 18th, 2022
9:30 AM

Call to order – 9:32am

Approval of previous minutes from June, Motion – Jennie Burkart, Second – Carolyn Fitzgerald

President Report – Tara Fergusson, President

- Meetings will be held the first Thursday every month at 8:45 in room 17, please allow 2 hours for each meeting.
- It has been decided that there will be a new norm of 5 volunteer hours per family. For example: 1 hour = lounge fairy delivery, 1 hour = bring muffins, 1 hour = working in the Nature Lab. Requesting 5 hours from each family
- There are new Nature Lab Rules that have been written by Anthony and the Board. This is in draft form and there will be a committee that will convene to fine tune. Goal is for it to be less restrictive generally. MUSF representative spoke at the board meeting and it was decided that MUSF/Teachers/Staff/Admin/School board will form a committee head up by Anthony Ranii to decide on the new draft of these rules for use of Nature Lab.
- Nature Lab Updates:
 - Living fence is complete and will be tended to and monitored
 - Extra \$ from the living fence will be used to “green up” Peus Grove. It has gotten a face lift
 - There will be a green border around the Stadium
 - Redwood Forest-like area proposed around the Building Block to provide Natural Shade.
 - Outdoor Learning Pavilion: Over the summer there has been an extensive amount of underground work to lay the infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity, and communications). The concrete slab is poured. There is a slight delay in the teacher station sink. The other 3 tables will be built in the meantime (4-6 weeks). There was a curb built along the back side of the pavilion to hold back the hillside of the Peus Grove. This change order was paid for by the building company.
 - Water Feature/Pond - This does not seem like the most responsible decision due to the drought. We will put a pin in it for the time being.

- Bathrooms: This week the school board has approved paying and installing the bathroom at the Nature Lab. Yay!! The contract has been signed today. It is a modular building that should be installed by this spring.
- Kitchen on Campus: The board has agreed to the following thus far. If MUSF can find the money to build a kitchen and it is feasible, then we would have permission to do it.
 - Location idea: in the same footprint of where the current lunch truck parks. There are many considerations: utilities, path of travel, etc
 - Anthony has toured SBMS to see how they run their kitchen
 - Our new lunch partner, Koji from Nu Cuisine, will be a collaborative partner in creating a farm to table connection between the Nature Lab and our lunch program.
 - This will be the fundraising goal for MUSF this year. This is in place of the water feature
 - There are two different people in the community that has expressed interest in donating \$1 million, so the fundraising would be for the costs for the planning and development of the kitchen.
- Annual report –
 - Tara looking for help from volunteers to put together the Annual Report to help show parents/families where the money we raise goes. Shared a layout that was approved, several ideas of timelines/graphs/visuals to share.

Grants – Carolyn Fitzgerald, VP

We have updated the LOI for grants, please review and send any changes/comments. The following grants have been submitted over the summer:

- Whitney Pratt - application out for \$50,000
 - Plan for that \$: There is currently a concrete culvert under the Joffrey Bridge. We would like to remove the concrete and create a natural creek bed to capture water that falls and keep on Nature Lab.
- New grant application The state of CA for Farm to Table - \$150,000
- Whole Kids Grant has approved our grant request and awarded us \$3,000 for cooking tools for the Outdoor Learning Pavilion

Back to School Picnic, Gina Brooke, Community Events

- Location: Terraces and basketball court
- Luca Pizza truck was asked but cost was too prohibitive for families at \$27/person, they also required a large deposit from MUSF, decided not responsible to front the money...
- United States of Espresso will be the food truck for the picnic, sandwiches, lattes
- There will be 2 bounce houses
- Rori's Ice Cream
- YMCA will be providing games and preview of after school programs
- Balloons that are used at all biodegradable

- Anthony praise to Gina – Always so organized, thoughtful, and early on planning... amazing job Gina!

Sponsorships for Carnival, Cathy Bunnin, Sponsorship

- October 22nd
- Corporate packages will be available, family packages for Ride sponsorship
- Looking for a new option for a item in place of drawstring bags. Looking for ideas that are more “useful” that will allow us to put sponsorship logos on. Discussion to continue with Carnival Committee that we will put together
- Suggestion to ditch item – important for local sponsors to have an item with their logo on, decision to find a Green friendly item in committee

Volunteers, Meika McCrindle, School Programs

- 2 open spots each for helping Sammy to run Nature Lab Club and Garden Club
- Carnival Committee

Mustang Fund Update, Ben Hyatt, Mustang Fund/Website

- The Annual Report flier will coincide with the launch of Mustang Fund this year
- Option this year: you can spread the donation to MUSF over 10 months through our website.
- New ideas to be shared, will be forming a committee to discuss format of campaign, goals, possible tiers of giving
- Decision needed whether to raise annual ask of \$500, has been the same for 10+ years. Cost of everything has gone up, suggestion to raise the annual ask to \$750. Will be decided in committee and proposed to the board next meeting (September 1st)

General Q&A – Carnival will be open to the public this year, world is open now, so are we.

Superintendent Report – Anthony Ranii, Superintendent/non-voting board member

- Nick Bruski - Update on CAST Scores
 - Nick Shared report from board packet, available on MUS homepage.
 - Summary is that we did great, when reading the packet, remember that each student is a half a percent on the main graphs, 2% per student on grade level graphs.
 - ELA and Math – 5th and 6th grades the highest since 2017, credit to MTSS program

Parent Survey

- Overwhelmingly positive responses
- All responses posted in board packet on MUS homepage
- Response rate was low
- After school program and school lunch programs were the two areas with less than satisfactory results... these are two areas we are working on this year with new lunch program

- You can access the specific results for all the questions online
- DEI focus:
 - Throughline: Is this fair and inclusive?
 - This will be an internal focus for staff, but additionally for MUSF and whole community
 - Not the only lens we look through but digging into this internally

General Q&A –

- Q: Is grass coming back on terraces? Concern of mud on kids' shoes coming home
 - A: Sod was explored, but \$53k, would use too much of the budget that is reserved for clean-up and removal of the portables at the end of project. Idea is Hydroseeding, it is less expensive but also less effective. Will continue to explore these options.

General comment - Anthony - Slideshow of photos and information all available in board packet

Meeting Adjourned – 11:13am – Next meeting in two weeks, Thursday September 1st, 8:45am, Room 17