

## MLCS Board Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2025



### **Board Members present**

Will Sarkisian, Megan Lee, Jason Podesta, Kristie Laxague, Stephanie Niven

### **Others present**

Stephanie Torok, Annie Stayer, Beth Duncan, Karen and Michael McDaniel, Donnie Wright, Julie Smith, Kim Hartsell, Natalie Durnall, Denise Peck, Jennie Radonich, Michelle Evans, Shelli Oliver, Amber Karpus, Candice Myers

**Will called the meeting to order at 4:31pm and Jason opened with prayer.**

### **Approval of minutes**

November minutes: Will opened a motion to approve. Megan made the motion to approve, Jason second the motion, all in favor and approved.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment

## **Reports**

### **Administrator Report**

Stephanie Torok reporting:

We had our all-school Christmas performance rehearsal yesterday. It went wonderfully; Natalie has done an excellent job! Keep Natalie in your prayers, she has been traveling to the Bay Area a lot to tend to her mom. Bob Kirk is training the new sound team and Sarah Banks will be taking over. We are praying for snow! January 5<sup>th</sup> is our first school ski day. We have a germ running through the school right now, 27 students were absent yesterday. Academically, our students are excelling in reading!

### **Preschool Report**

No Crystal Wolf tonight. Stephanie said that they are working on their Christmas performance. It will take place the morning after ours. They are starting to plan ahead for next year.

### **PTF Report**

Julie Smith reporting:

Not a lot going on this month. The Thanksgiving feast went well! We had more than enough food we were able to bless our community afterwards with the leftovers. Our next event is Grandparents Day. We will be providing cookies at the Christmas Performance.



## **Financial Report**

Beth Duncan reporting:

Nothing new to report, everything is balanced. We received 3 grants and 2 donations. The 3 grants: \$476.00 that went to Jannet Martinez from the Art Association, \$1,000.00 grant went to Donnie Wright from SAF for the outdoor PE and learning space, and \$1,000.00 went to Julie Smith from Adventist Health to go towards the outdoor learning space. A \$2,500.00 donation came from the Hermreck's that is to be put in our SAF fund account, and the other donation came from Edward and Jane Anderson for \$10,583.00 and that will be going into our general fund.

## **Teacher Report**

Amber Karpus reporting:

Our Christmas party was beautiful, great fellowship! Our school-wide write is this week. We are all working hard on the Christmas Program.

## **Facilities and Projects**

Donnie Wright reporting:

During Christmas break we will start repairs in the girls bathroom downstairs. The underground tank has been serviced and updated with the county. SIG Solar came and did a walk through. Their team will be at our January Board meeting to do a presentation. If we decide to move forward by installing solar for our school, it would be paid for with a loan. Candice Myers suggested getting other quotes if we are moving forward. Natalie Durnall suggested SolarWorx. Chimney sweep for the boiler room is tomorrow.

## **Old Business**

### **Board Member Search**

Chris Buck has withdrawn his name to be on the Board; he will still be participating in PTF events. Any recommendations or interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to any Board Member.

### **Grants**

Natalie Durnall reporting:

Natalie is still waiting to hear if we were accepted for any of the grants. If we are not, she has a plan for next year. There is another grant in March that she will be applying for.

## **New Business**

### **Fundraising Committee**

This committee is coming together to produce long-term fundraising ideas, that are separate from PTF. A few people have reached out to Megan and are interested in being a part of this. Walt and Kerry have been the forefront of Jubilee, gym sales, the thrift store and have devoted their lives to this school for 46 years. We need to plan ahead for when they decide to step down.



## **Service Project**

Julie Smith:

We had team of parents (Myself, Amanda and Annie), our kids and a handful of high school students bring our leftover food from the Thanksgiving feast to one of our local homeless camps as an outreach project. It was such a blessing to serve the people that are living there right now. Not once did we feel like we were in danger. We thought this would be a wonderful opportunity for our whole school to do a drive and for our Jr. High students to go out there and deliver the items that we collect. This idea has been shut down, and it is very disappointing. We understand that many of the emails that the board received were from law enforcement, with honest and true concerns, but we are going out to minister to these people and they are so grateful. Our mission statement as a school says let your light shine. Our core values say that serving on and off campus is a part of what we do. I have been here for 12 years, and we do not serve off campus. Parents' rights were taken away from a handful of parents complaining. It should be the parents' choice whether they want their child to participate. We were going to send permission slips home, and the parents were going to be able to choose whether they wanted them to participate. However, that option was taken away from us as parents.

Jennie Radonich and Michelle Evans spoke in agreement with Julie. A couple of parents expressed that there are other places our students can serve in our community outside of school other than a homeless camp. They appreciate and recognize that there is a need for our students to serve outside of school and would like to see this incorporated. The Board has taken the advice of our local law enforcement officials stating that this location is not a good choice to send our students. The Board is not opposed to our students serving, it is not wise to choose this location within school hours. The Board is in full support of our students serving in some capacity.

**The meeting ended at 5:35pm.**

**Next meeting is January 20, 2026 at 4:30pm in the Chapel.**

**-Closed session**