



MORNINGSIDE HIGH MONARCHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Morningside High School

Welcome: The meeting was called to order in the MHS Parent Room by President Beverly Silsbee at 10:28 a.m. Board Members present: Patsy McMullin Brierley, Nancy Bennett Larr, Carrie Anthony Colby, Dawn Vincent, Susie Bartlett, Dave Bustamante, and Hal Hunt. Active members included: Chuck Baldwin, Carol Gilbert, Judy Bains, Rick Pfeiffer, and Don Goldman. Larry Lawrence attended as guest alum and MHS staff member.

Approval of Agenda: Following a motion to approve the meeting agenda made by Chuck Baldwin and seconded by Patsy, the agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

Welcome by Dr. Cain and Dr. Morris: The MHS staff provided a detailed update about the state of the school. Principal Dr. Kiwiana Cain and Assistant Principal Dr. Mary Spruce joined the meeting and provided an overview of the 2023-24 school year. Last year, MHS was placed on academic probation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), an organization providing accreditation of public and private schools. Dr. Cain reported that consultants and coaches have been retained to work directly with the principal and staff to improve instructional practices. Dr. Cain mentioned that the football program is in development while the pep squad, choir drum line and band programs are expanding. Dr. James Morris, the County Administrator joined the meeting via Zoom. He is focused on right sizing IUSD facilities and identifying school sites that must be closed. In 2002 there were 18,000 students in the district. The 2024-25 projection is for 6,900 students. Over 3,800 students attend charter schools and transfer out of IUSD. His plan is to significantly cut operational costs in order to improve instructional programs and attract families back to IUSD schools. Currently IUSD is the lowest paying district in the area because of its receivership status and the cost of the high staff to student ratio. These factors contribute to the district's inability to pay/offer higher salaries. His goal is to size IUSD facilities to 11,000 students. He has conducted several community meetings and expects that school closure announcements will occur in January 2024. Several members asked questions about the future of MHS. The district has contracted for valuation studies for both IHS and MHS. Presently, there are 800 students at IHS, 475 at MHS and 350 at City Honors. Dr. Morris noted that IHS is a tear down because of State funding requirements regarding the costs to repair aging school facilities as compared to funding a new facility. For example, it is

estimated that it would cost \$150 million just to repair core facilities at IHS. A new, state of the art high school facility is estimated at \$250 million. Dr. Morris updated us on a possible joint use work force housing project with El Camino CC. The 17-acre parcel between MHS, Woodworth and Monroe is planned to be developed with a townhome development via a 99 year lease, pending City approval. In response to a question about support from local NFL and NBA teams, the district is looking to funnel all sports donations to a planned \$135 million sports complex at Coleman (Sentinel) field rather than accept miscellaneous donations made to specific schools. Nike donated \$1 million for the installation of artificial turf at Coleman field. Dr. Morris promised to return to MHMAA to update us on the school closure and facility plans.

Approval of Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes: Following a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting made by Carrie and seconded by Don Goldman, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Board of Director Elections: By vote of the members present, Patsy Brierley, Nancy Bennett Larr, and Carrie Anthony Colby were re-elected to three-year board member terms.

Review of 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Finance Report – Susie reported that there were no exceptional expenses during the year, but that the Arrillaga and Duda donations are now fully exhausted. The 2022-23 budget and the actuals were closely aligned. A draft operating budget for 2023-24 was provided to all attendees. The budget will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Teacher Grant Report – Beverly gave an overview of the grant process along with details on the grantees, purpose and amount for each grant awarded during the 2022-23 school year. MHMAA awarded \$10,235 in grant funding for 9 projects including college tours, library books, athletic tournaments, special education field trips and instructional needs, robotic materials and entry fees for competitions, events and staff incentive gift cards.

Scholarship Committee – Dave shared a history of the MHMAA scholarship program and distributed a detailed handout of the 2022-23 awards. Dave reminded members how we were able to significantly expand the scholarship program due to funds from the Broady Foundation, the Arrillaga Family Foundation and the Fritz and Mary Lee Duda Foundation. Dave thanked Charlene Brax Ospital for her work directly with the scholars over the years. In 2023 MHMAA awarded 41 academic scholarships (14 to college bound seniors and 27 to former scholarship recipients now enrolled in college) for a total of \$117,000.

Vote on Resolution to Dissolve the Corporation: President Beverly Silsbee provided an overview and introduction of the dissolution process. She shared the history of the MHMAA beginning in 2009 and its incorporation in 2011, the scholarships awarded over the years and our impact on the MHS community. She went on to explain that our active

membership has declined along with our pool of current and potential Board members. After months of discussions with the Board, she recommends that MHMAA dissolve. Over the last several months, Beverly described her work, along with Susie and Charlene, on processing the internal MHMAA dissolution details. As a consultant, Don Goldman, an active member of the association, is providing the organization with both accounting and guidance in this process. Goldman explained the 501(c)(3) dissolution process and the required State non-profit filings and the necessity to complete a final tax return. Don will draft the documents and Beverly, with Susie's help, will file the final tax return. The goal for 2024 will be to spend all money on hand, and received, on scholarships and teacher grants. Any balance remaining after the dissolution will be delivered to MHS in the form of a cashier's check. Members present asked questions and shared stories about previous class reunions and past active MHMAA members. Hal Hunt made a motion to approve the Resolution **“to dissolve the Morningside High Monarchs Alumni Association, Inc. as of June 30, 2024, per the bylaws and IRA guidelines that govern the dissolution of 501(c)(3) corporations.”** Don Goldman provided the second to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Vincent, Secretary

