



FRIENDS of MIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES: 1/8/2026
25302 Rancho Niguel Rd Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 *Virtual
Called to order: ~6:04PM

Roll Call:

2025-2026 MIP Board Members			
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Present/Not Present</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Present/Not Present</u>
President: Janey Sherman	P	Communications Director: Anne Yoon	P
Co-Vice President: Julianne Finkelburg	P	Secretary: Johanna Yang	P
Co-Vice President: Mel Gojkovich	P	Community Liaison: Open	
Treasurer: Pauline David	P	Co-Newhart Liason: Iris Lai	P
Financial Controller: Joseph Munoz	P	Co-Newhart Liason: Vanna Tran	NP
Co-Outreach Director: Cindy Ong	P	Cap Valley Liason: Stacey Cartledge	P
Co-Outreach Director: Katherine Darst	P	Parliamentarian: Kevin Welker	NP

Other Attendees:

- Brian (PTA president)
- Megan Holland
- Jasmina
- Ken Chen
- Rance

Minutes

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Janey moved to accept the minutes from the Dec 4 meeting, Stacey seconded the meeting minutes.



Principal and/or Teacher Requests

- **Bergeson Elementary School - Principal Dr. Linda Kim - P**
 - **Preschool Reopening Process:** Dr. Kim explained that reopening preschool at Bergeson depends on enough parent interest, requiring parents to enroll and obtain a 7-digit student ID. The process is being promoted to increase participation for the following school year.
 - **Mandarin Immersion in Preschool:** Julianne asked if the preschool would include mandarin, and Dr. Kim clarified that it cannot be advertised as mandarin immersion unless a qualified teacher or aide is available, but efforts will be made to provide mandarin exposure if possible.
 - **Recent Student Admissions:** Julianne inquired about how new 3rd and 4th grade students found the school, and Dr. Kim described that some students moved locally, while others were referred by principals or through word of mouth, with ongoing tours for prospective families.
 - **Enrollment Outreach and Waitlist:** Dr. Kim highlighted that most new families learn about the program through word of mouth, and there is ongoing effort to build the waitlist, especially for transitional kindergarten and currently need 7 more students to open a third TK classroom.
 - **School-Based Lunar New Year Celebrations:** Dr. Kim described plans for Lunar New Year assemblies and performances at Bergeson, including professional lion dancers on Feb 26 and 5th grade lion dance on Feb 19.
 - **Networking overseas:** Dr. Kim mentioned that there is a Taiwanese network that would like to interview us and promote our mandarin immersion program through their network, and will share details as they come in.

- **Newhart Middle School - Principal John Bajorek - P**
 - **School-Based Lunar New Year Celebrations:** D Principal Bajorek described plans for Lunar New Year assemblies and performances at Newhart on Feb 19-20, including lion dancers, student performances, and efforts to include all students.
 - **School tours:** First school tour in preparation for next school year will be on Jan 13 and will be highlighting all immersion programs including MIP and will have a flyer provided. Principal Barjorek will also provide private tours and will ask leadership students to attend and share their experiences at Newhart.

- **Capo Valley High School - Principal John Misustin – NP**



Other Business

- **Financials:** Pauline emailed the Treasurer's report, below is a summary.

Thursday, January 8, 2026

FoMIP Board Meeting - Treasurer's Report

ACCOUNT BALANCES (as of 1:45pm on 1/8/26)

Checking - Wells Fargo	\$	198,446.51
Savings - Wells Fargo	\$	137,374.47
PayPal	\$	26,729.38

TOTAL BANK BALANCE	\$	362,550.36
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EXPENSES

		<u>STATUS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Quickbooks subscription (monthly)	\$	75.00 Paid - EFT		
Fundraiser: Golf - General Expense	\$	156.06 Paid - EFT to Iris	12/17/2025	Costco - Snacks for (64) goodie bags
Fundraiser: Golf - Invoice from Tijeras	\$	10,380.60 Paid - WF CC	12/12/2025	Golfers, Food and helicopter fee
Fundraiser: Golf - Platform Fee	\$	500.00 Paid - Direct	12/16/2025	
Fundraiser: Golf and Ball Drop - Platform Fee	\$	1,911.60 Paid - Direct	12/16/2025	
Merchandise - Hats	\$	1,250.00 Paid - EFT ROSTR	12/4/2026	
Newhart - (2) additional class periods 2 of 2 payments	\$	30,828.00 Paid - Check	1/2/2026	
Operations - Wix through TechSoup	\$	187.20 Paid - WF CC	1/5/2026	Website platform
Fundraiser: Ball Drop Raffle Winner	\$	2,124.00 Paid - EFT	1/6/2026	
Fundraiser: Ball Drop Top Sellers	\$	1,220.85 Paid - Gift Cards	1/6/2026	Prizes
Gala - Shadow One Security - Full Payment	\$	455.00 Paid - Check to Shadow Or	1/6/2026	Gala security
Bergeson - LNY Performance Insurance	\$	348.00 Paid - EFT to AP Design Pro	1/7/2026	Insurance for LNY performances

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	49,436.31
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GAINS

Merchandise Sales	\$	490.00
Fundraiser: Ball Drop	\$	17,454.40
Fundraiser: Golf Tournament-Tijeras Creek	\$	5,519.40

TOTAL GAINS	\$	23,463.80
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PROJECTED EXPENSES

Bergeson - PARA/Teaching Assistants 2 of 3 payments	\$	45,561.00	1/16/2026
Bergeson - LNY Lion Dance	\$	500.00	2/26/2026
Bergeson - PARA/Teaching Assistants 3 of 3 payments	\$	45,560.00	4/3/2026
Newhart - Ramen Party	Pending		Reimburse Iris
Bergeson - LNY			?
Newhart - LNY			?
CVHS - LNY			?
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$	91,621.00	

PROJECTED GAINS

Fundraiser: Gala

TOTAL PROJECTED GAINS

\$ -

- **Budget Review and Approval of Amendments:**

- **Fundraising Outcomes and Expense Overview:** Pauline reported on low expenses, successful fundraising from the golf tournament and ball drop, approximately \$23,000 raised from this event. She also mentioned ongoing payments for gala items, providing figures for merchandise sales and event proceeds.
- **Budget Allocations for Events and Programs:** Pauline and Iris discussed budget limits for Lunar New Year and other enrichment events, clarifying that the \$2,500 allocation covers all cultural events, with additional smaller budgets for Newhart and Capo Valley.
- **Teacher Conference Funding Request:** Pauline presented a request for funding teacher attendance at the ACTFL conference with board members debating accountability, value, and alternative local options, including a suggestion of having the teacher share her experience at the conference to some fellow teachers and a few members of the board, before deciding to regroup and seek more information before approving this request.
- **Level Learning Professional Development:** Dr. Kim detailed the request for \$4,405 to fund in-person Level Learning support, substitute coverage, and curriculum planning days, explaining the need for targeted Mandarin curriculum refinement and data-driven instruction. Janey mentioned that there is a training budget for this school year 2025-2026 that could possibly be used for this year. Principal Bajorek asks whether the Newhart MIP teachers could also be included in the learning process with this program, Dr Kim will send him the invite for their next virtual learning.
- **Board Vote and Approval Process:** Janey facilitated a board vote to approve \$4,405 for Bergeson's professional development for this school year 2025-2026 and in the 2026-2027 budget, with consensus on the importance of investing in teacher training to maximize the value of the Level Learning software.
- **I-Chinese Reader Renewal:** Cindy mentioned that teachers were requesting for a renewal of I-Chinese reader to be used for the remainder of this school year. Cindy will provide an estimate of cost and reach out to Pauline before renewal request goes to a vote.



- **Golf Tournament Event Feedback:**
 - **Event Results and Financial Impact:** Julianne reported that the golf tournament and ball drop raised nearly \$23,000, with strong support from volunteers and positive feedback on student involvement and program awareness.
 - **Participant and Community Feedback:** Board members solicited feedback from non-board participants, with Ken and Cindy noting that some parents were unclear about the event mechanics, suggesting the need for clearer communication and outreach.
 - **Fundraising Model and Accessibility:** Cindy and others highlighted the accessibility of the ball drop fundraiser, the high return rate compared to other fundraising models, and the potential to increase participation with better information dissemination.
 - **Future Event Planning:** Julianne and Pauline discussed the possibility of combining the golf tournament with the annual gala, and considered ways to improve tracking of golf ball sales and enhance parent engagement for future events.

- **Lunar New Year and Outreach Initiatives:**
 - **Community Parade and Festival Participation:** Cindy and Dr. Kim discussed participation in the inaugural Lunar New Year parade at Irvine on Feb 7, with student ambassadors performing and a cap on the number of walkers, as well as a performance slot at the festival.
 - **Mission Viejo Mall Showcase and Other Outreach:** Cindy outlined the expanded two-hour Lunar New Year showcase at Mission Viejo Mall on Feb 21, requesting help to coordinate talent from all schools. Janey suggested storytime held by high school volunteers to read a short book or poem to smaller children as part of the event, and will discuss further. Cindy also mentioned additional opportunities at the Pacific Symphony Lantern Festival on Mar 7 and other venues.
 - **Performance Coordination and Talent Recruitment:** Cindy, Stacey, and others discussed strategies for recruiting and preparing student performers, including leveraging high school talent, coordinating with teachers for common songs, and considering the purchase of cultural props for future events.
 - **Art Contest Expansion and Logistics:** Katherine and Cindy explained that the art contest is now open to all grades and schools, with digital submissions, community voting, and prizes for winners, and discussed coordination with teachers and budget considerations for awards.
 - **Lunar New Year Celebration Equipment:** Stacey suggested possibly buying our own costumes, yoyos and other supplies used for Lunar New Year performances rather than rent. Cindy and Stacey will discuss further offline. Cindy also mentioned that there are some outfits on the school site that we could sell or donate, Janey will reach out to Alex Walker regarding logistics.

- **Website and Communications Updates:**
 - **Website Launch and Features:** Janey showcased the new website's improved design, ease of use, and integration with social media, and outlined plans for public launch and content review by board members.
 - **Content Management and Photo Permissions:** Cindy and Dr. Kim discussed the need for clear procedures regarding media release waivers for student photos, and confirmed that the communications director will be responsible for ongoing updates.
 - **Upcoming Meetings and Events:** Janey announced the next board meeting date on Feb 5, shared reminders for event planning, and encouraged board members to submit updates for the newsletter and participate in upcoming activities.



- **High School Liason Update:**

- **Cultural Events:** Stacey mentioned that cultural night is on Feb 20, tickets are \$10 and will start at 6:30pm with potluck at 4:30pm, all are invited to attend. She also mentioned that Principal Misustin is open to having a parents information night. Stacey will also spread the word on the art contest to the students in high school emphasizing on participation can boost college application and suggests having recognition in a library or art center of their artwork.

Follow-up Tasks

- **Preschool Reopening Communication:** Send out information to parents about the process for expressing interest in reopening preschool at Ferguson and clarify enrollment steps. (Dr. Kim)
- **Lunar New Year Parade Participation:** Coordinate with Cindy to finalize student ambassador participation and performance details for the Lunar New Year parade at Irvine Great Park on February 7th. (Stacey, Cindy, Iris)
- **School Tour Information Sharing:** Ensure that information about the Mandarin Immersion Program is included in school tour presentations and flyers for Newhart, and distribute to prospective families. (Principal Bajorek, middle school liasons)
- **Budget for Newhart Events:** Finalize and communicate the budget allocation for Newhart's Lunar New Year and 8th grade MIP celebration events, ensuring Iris is informed of the available amount. (Pauline, Iris)
- **High School Teacher Conference Funding:** Regroup with the teacher who requested for conference funding to discuss options for funding her attendance at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages conference, including accountability and possible local alternatives, and report back to the board. (Stacey)
- **Professional Development Funding for Bergeson:** Include \$4405 for Bergeson's professional development Level Learning consultant, subs, and curriculum planning) in the 2026-2027 budget and process reimbursement for 2025-2026 as needed. (Pauline)
- **I Chinese Reader License Renewal:** Obtain and communicate the cost for a short-term six-month renewal of I Chinese Reader licenses for Bergeson first grade and coordinate with Pauline for approval and processing. (Cindy, Pauline)
- **Friends of MIP Website Content Updates:** Coordinate with the communications director and administration to update the new Friends of MIP website, including current tour information and ensuring photo waivers are in place for student images. (Janey, Cindy)
- **Golf Tournament Popsicle Passes:** Meet with Dr. Kim to plan the distribution of popsicle passes to students who sold five golf balls for the golf tournament. (Julianne, Dr. Kim)
- **Golf Ball Drop Communication Improvement:** Develop a process to provide better visibility to parents on who purchased golf balls for their children and ensure all participants are notified of results and winners. (Julianne)
- **Art Contest Prize Funding:** Review the budget to determine if there is room to cover art contest prizes for Newhart and Capo, and coordinate with Cindy and Stacey as needed. (Pauline)
- **Mission Viejo Mall Lunar New Year Showcase Talent Recruitment:** Connect with Newhart and Capo staff to identify and recruit polished student talent for the February 21st Mission Viejo Mall Lunar New Year showcase, and coordinate performance logistics. (Cindy, Iris, Stacey)



- **Chinese Yo-Yo and Lion Dance Equipment Purchase:** Research costs and feasibility of purchasing Chinese yo-yos, lions, and a dragon for use at all three schools for Lunar New Year and other cultural events. (Stacey)
- **Art Contest Flyer for Middle and High School:** Have a digital flyer for the middle and high school art contest and ensure it is posted and communicated to students, with a focus on those who are artistically inclined. (Iris, Stacey)
- **Story Time/Poetry Reading Event Planning:** Discuss and plan a story time or poetry reading event featuring high school students, possibly as part of the Lunar New Year or as a separate outreach activity. (Janey, Cindy, Stacey)