

Great River School
School District #4105



Scholarship, Service, Success

MISSION

Great River School is a Montessori community that prepares the whole student for a life of scholarship, service and success.

GOAL

Great River School is the public school of choice for highly motivated students.

VISION

Great River School is a place where college bound students are excited and inspired to learn. Great River School encourages students to ask complex questions and seek new and difficult challenges. Great River School combines academic and social experiences in a culture of civility and trust through peaceful practices. Great River School is a place where students feel safe to express and challenge themselves. Every student at Great River School is a valued member of the community. The exceptional Great River staff teach teamwork through cross-country travel, experiential learning, drama, the arts, and micro-economic ventures while helping students set individual academic goals.

CORE VALUES

Great River School believes in the following:

- Montessori Education
- Community, Interdependence, and Sustainability
- Civility, Grace, and Courtesy
- Diversity
- Growth through Challenge

***Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge,
but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities.***

Maria Montessori

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**Great River School
Board Meeting
April 12, 2007
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kelly Rodieck, Tom Carrigan, Eryn Dewey-Carter, Michael Flood, Jim Groess, Candy Husemoller, Connie Lepro, Stuart Mason, Judy Plante, Alan Stache, Angela van der Puije, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio)

Board members Absent: Marita Bujold

Community Members Present: Cory Olson, Ed Fowler

Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions and one good thing that happened at GRS.

- A soy candle made in the Junior Hi Microeconomies class was brought to the meeting
- Kira and Michael have developed an integrated Algebra/Geometry unit

2. Consent Agenda

Approve March 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Consent agenda resolution **C07041201** offered by Tom Carrigan, seconded by Eryn Dewey-Carter, and unanimously approved.

3. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Finance Committee

Alan reviewed financial status. At 9 months or 75% of the year, GRS is at 72% of revenue, on target for this time of year. With the state holdback, revenues would be at 78%. There are no surprises in expenses. Lunch expenses are impacted by the pizza sales, and a transfer will be necessary to cover expenses. Cash flow is good, although as always, it is expected that the line of credit will be utilized over the summer to cover holdback amounts which will be held until August through October.

Resolution 07041201 Review Check Register was offered by Stuart Mason, seconded by Michael Flood, and unanimously approved.

The budget draft was reviewed. The strategic plan aims at 195 students, and the budget draft used that figure as a base. A total of 210 students is anticipated on opening day. One budget item of note is increased funding for athletics, which has been run on a shoestring in these first years. Included in the budget amount are payments for coaches and bus transportation. The board discussed the need for an athletic and activities handbook(s), with policies governing the use of the funds, charging of fees, and use of reduced/waived fees in certain circumstances. This handbook will be developed at a later date.

The big drivers in the strategic plan that impact the budget are the addition of a Montessori Director, addition of two teachers, and increase in IB coordinator time. Also, benefits details for the coming year are being discussed at FAC.

Projections for enrollment: as of the meeting date, 228 students had said yes to attending GRS next fall. Family meetings will be held before the end of the school year. It is anticipated that 15 – 20 will not attend, so the total should be on target for the 210 needed in the fall. Four junior high and 25 senior high applicants are on the waiting list as well. If the larger number of 228 holds, there will be strategies such as use of a portable classroom and adjustments to the master schedule. Another factor in counting students is the use of PSEO. Currently, it looks like 6 students will be engaged in PSEO to some degree, which will affect total student count and funding. Contingency budgets will need to be in place for the various scenarios.

Final budget is anticipated for May meeting action.

B. Building Committee

Jim Groess reported that the badge reading system is getting closer. It appears that purchasing this system would be possible in the lease. Work continues on the parking lot and signage.

C. Fundraising and Development

Connie gave an update on progress:

- Trip ask is up to \$44,610. A new trip letter will request \$500 from new and returning students.
- Annual fund at \$15,289 and still shooting for 100% participation of board members. Annual fund result is lower than anticipated.
- Great Extravaganza committees working on final plans. Donations have been received of 124 items worth approximately \$14,500. Ticket sales: 81 sold to date.
- Great River Run will be a walkathon on 5/20, focused on getting students involved
- eBase (integrated database); plan is to purchase and install this summer.

- Fund raising strategy, goals and reporting plan in progress and likely to be presented to the board in May.
- \$500 coming from Peach Foundation to support Peace Group attendance at spring Peach Jam.
- \$607 came from Target Foundation (Take Charge of Education program)
- Grant application in process for \$4,500 from GreenGuardian to support a J-term intensive
- Grant application in process for up to \$10,000 for garage class for MIT InvenTeam project
- Grant proposal to Perpich Center for \$8,000 for 2 year process to develop arts integration program.
- A request was made to Best Buy for 40 calculators.

D. Nominations Committee

One open position at this time.

E. Strategic Plan

No new discussion beyond the earlier discussion of how the budget reflects the strategic direction.

G. Carver Training & Board Eval

Board evaluation and talent inventory were distributed. Members are asked to complete both and email them to Judy or hand deliver at the next meeting.

4. Director's Report

A. Aaron discussed the graduation rule resolution, which authorizes students to participate in graduation ceremony if within 2 credits of meeting the required State standards/coursework. **Resolution 07041202** offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Jim Groess, and passed unanimously.

B. Aaron reviewed the salary schedule. Staff has reviewed and there is support. Concerns were raised regarding the impact on fund balance and the need to allow for review. Language in the draft resolution was changed to allow for the salary schedule to be subject to the board's budget review process. **Resolution 07041203 as amended** offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Eryn Dewey-Carter, and passed unanimously.

C. Aaron reviewed the 2007/8 school calendar, requiring 172 student days, 190 staff days, and 1127 student hours. Which day of the week would be a half day will be determined at a later date. **Resolution 07041204** offered by Jim Groess, seconded by Tom Carrigan, and passed unanimously.

The Director's report continued with discussion about the visits by the IB regional coordinator, interaction with Hamline, the Milwaukee meeting and others.

The senior high trip details were shared. **Resolution 07041205** authorizing the senior high trip was offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Stuart Mason, and unanimously passed.

Finally, the goal for hiring is May 1, with contracts being offered by May 17.

5. New Business

None.

6. Adjourn at 8:54 pm

Consent Agenda
April 12, 2007

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

C07041201 – Approve March 22, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Offered by Tom Carrigan

Seconded by Eryn Dewey-Carter

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07041201
Review Check Register

The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from March 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006.

Offered by Stuart Mason

Seconded by Michael Flood

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07041202
Graduation Policy

Students graduating from Great River school must meet required Minnesota State Standards and coursework in all areas as reviewed by the Director. Special Education requirements or criteria will be assessed in conjunction with the school's Special Education Department and Special Education Director.

Students will be allowed to participated in the Graduation Ceremony if they are within two credits of meeting the required State standards/coursework. These students will not "graduate" or receive a diploma until they have met the required State standards/coursework either through summer school or additional coursework at Great River School. Once the missing required standards/coursework is completed and a transcript from another school is received or standards/coursework is completed through Great River School, a diploma will be issued and the student will have "graduated."

This policy will be added to the 2007/8 GRS Student Handbook.

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Jim Groess

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07041204
2007-8 School Calendar

The GRS Board has reviewed the proposed 2007-8 calendar. The GRS Board approves the 2007/8 calendar summarized as follows:

Staff Days = 190

Student Days = 172 (State Guideline = 172)

Student Hours = 1127 (State Guidelines =- Minimum of 1020)

The GRS Board approves the staff in-service and school in session days, major trip dates, and no school days as proposed.

The GRS Board is not approving which day during the school week will be a half day. The Staff have proposed changing the half day from Friday to Wednesday. The GRS Board will decide this issue in May after reviewing the community input the school receives.

Offered by Jim Groess

Seconded by Tom Carrigan

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07041205
Senior High Trip Authorization

The GRS Board authorizes the expenditure of funds and implementation of the senior high trip as proposed.

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Stuart Mason

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.