

Great River School
School District #4105



Engaging intellect, shaping character, building community

MISSION

Great River School, an urban Montessori learning environment, prepares students for their unique roles as responsible and engaged citizens of the world.

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

**Great River School Board Meeting
August 19, 2009**

**Agenda
6:30 pm – 8:30pm**

1. Welcome and Introductions. Confirmation of agenda.
2. Consent Agenda.
 - A. Approve July Meeting Minutes and accept check register

Reports and Updates

3. Director's Update
4. Financial Reports
SBS Summary, Summary Income Expense Statement, Balance Sheet, Fund Balance estimate, Cash flow analysis
5. Lease and Building addition update
6. Board Training
7. Advancement & Enrollment Reports

Old Business

8. Approve proposed 2009-10 School Board Meetings Calendar
9. Distribute and sign conflict of interest statements

New Business

10. Set enrollment targets
11. Approve 2009 fall student trips
12. Accept Mark MacGregor's resignation
13. Review school committee structures

August 19, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Present: Cory Olson, Mary Gantenbein, Andrea Martin, Christina Beck, Deborah Schlick, Paulette Zoë, Kate Diehn, , Ben Moudry, Sarah Lawrence-Lupton
Absent: Neal McMahon, Candy Husemoller, Mark MacGregor, Michael Flood, Kira Donnelly, Andrea Christensen

1. Welcome and Introductions

Goal for the year is to fine-tune the Board as the policy setting body of the school. The Board has two assignments: 1) ensures that the organization is financially healthy; 2) hires chief administrator and supports him/her to run a good school. Each meeting we'll set the structure for doing that work. Confirmation of meeting agenda.

2. Consent Agenda

Review of July minutes and corrections noted. Intention is that in the future, everything on the consent agenda will be distributed to Board members before the meeting and Dean Walczack will be included on that mailing. Clarification of items on the check register. No further questions or discussion.

Motion 09081901, to approve the July minutes and check register

Offered by Kate Diehn

Seconded by Ben Moudry

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Director's Update

General questions about aspects of the new lease agreement were addressed. The advice that we received from legal counsel helped in the negotiation of the lease and we were comfortable with the terms and of the lease. For example, HVAC problems are our responsibility but some of the issues will rest with Energy Park and not GRS specifically. This will be examined and discussed at a future board meeting. Maintenance continues to be a big concern that will also be addressed in the future. Overage in painting was due to the fact that cleaners and painters were two separate entities and not an even exchange of services. Having looked at the circumstances carefully, we will be able to avoid the confusion we experienced in the future. No further questions or discussion.

4. Financial Reports

The Summary Income Expense Statement was reviewed. It was noted that it provides a lot of valuable information. Request was made to add our fund balance progress each month as a point of reference in the report. In addition, it should be noted that the numbers will be accurately portrayed for last year after the audit has been completed. On the Cash flow statement, projections and actuals will be included so that we can note our progress. No further questions or discussion.

5. Lease and Building Addition

The addition is on target and going according to plan. The space is framed in and the windows are being installed. This is a good time to consider whether or not GRS should purchase the building. It was noted that GRS is paying \$10,000 in costs to CDC that we could invest into the building if the Great River Building Company bought it. Further exploration of this idea will be addressed by a newly created Board committee at a future time.

6. Board Training

MACS is awaiting direction from the state legislature on Board training requirements. As soon as we are informed, we will pursue it. The Vice-President of the GRS Board is creating board books for board members that will be distributed at the September Board meeting.

7. Advancement and Enrollment Reports

Enrollment: GRS currently has 262 confirmed students, up 10 from last month's report. We have invited 270 and are awaiting word from the remaining 8. There was discussion about the timing and balance of the waiting list and how it ebbs and flows over the summer and clarification about PSEO students and how that functions.

Advancement: There was discussion and clarification about the GRS Foundation and the reasons for creating it (i.e., broader opportunities for raising and distributing funds that are different than public school guidelines). The Foundation is governed by its own board and has its own website. Meetings are open to the public and visibility within the community is growing. As it grows, GRS will consider hiring a formal money manager and begin audits. Regular foundation reports will be made to the GRS board its by-laws will be posted on the website and included at a future board meeting for review.

8. Proposed Board Meeting Calendar for 2009-10

Third Wednesday meeting dates were proposed and calendar reviewed to ensure a quorum at each meeting. Meeting dates would be: 2009: August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, 2010: January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, July 21, and August 18 (First meeting of 2010-11). No meeting would be held in December 2009 or June 2010.

Motion 09081902, to approve the proposed Board Meeting Calendar for 2009-10 as presented

Offered by Andrea Martin

Seconded by Cory Olson

Motion passes unanimously

9. Conflict of Interest Statements

Statements were distributed and will be available for signing at September meeting.

10. Enrollment Targets

Enrollment targets will be discussed and set at a future Board meeting.

11. 2009 Fall Student Trips

7th/8th grade trip to Greenfield Village and Mackinaw City, Michigan. Safety in place, health and medical, non-Rx forms have gone out and are being checked in as students come in. Staff are in the process of identifying medical facilities for each campsite. 1/10 student to teacher ratio. Staff each have a cell phone.

Transportation in place (Coach buses and passenger vans)

Budget met (\$290 on a budget of \$300 per student)

Motion 09081903, to approve the 7th/8th grade trip as presented

Offered by Sarah Lawrence-Lupton

Seconded by Andrea Martin

Motion passes unanimously

9th/10th grade trip to Lake Country Land School, Dunn County Wisconsin.

Christina has already reviewed and approved all costs for this trip based on Michael Flood's estimates from past trips and experiences. School buses arranged, acceptable student/teacher ratios.

Motion 09081904, to approve the 9th/10th grade trip as presented

Offered by Kate Diehn

Seconded by Cory Olson

Motion passes unanimously

11th grade college trip to UW Madison, Wisconsin; Northwestern or Lake Forest in Chicago; Grand View or Simpson in Des Moines, Iowa; Carlton or St. Olaf in Northfield, Minnesota. Campus stays and campsites will be arranged along the way. Trip is under budget, transportation reserved, acceptable student/teacher ratios.

Motion 09081905, to approve the 11th grade trip as presented

Offered by Sarah Lawrence-Lupton

Seconded by Ben Moudry

Motion passes unanimously

12th grade leadership w/Wilderness Inquiry who organizes the trip of kayaking in Apostle Islands, Wisconsin. Trip is within budget w/financial assistance from Wilderness Inquiry, acceptable student/teacher ratios, transportation is arranged. Question is raised about the legal transportation of students in 15-passenger vans. The Director will check with Wilderness Inquiry.

Motion 09081906, to approve the 12th grade trip contingent upon legal transportation for students in the 15-passenger vans

Offered by Ben Moudry

Seconded by Mary Gantenbein

Motion passes unanimously

Further discussion about the Board's role in approving student trips at a policy level. It was suggested that the Director's Update indicate that the trips have met all of the criteria and the board can approve. The staff will work on developing the details of this suggestion and present their findings at a future Board meeting.

12. Mark MacGregor's Resignation

Mark MacGregor has resigned because of a conflict of schedules and obligations. Discussion about the correct number and balance of Board members followed. The by-laws indicate 9-15 Board members. We currently have 13 members, 7 of whom are staff members in addition to the Director as ex-officio.

Motion 09081907, to accept Mark MacGregor's resignation and not fill the Board seat

Offered by Andrea Martin

Seconded by Mary Gantenbein

Motion passes unanimously

13. Review of School Committee Structures

A GRS School Board and School Organization Chart was created last year and used for discussion purposes only at this Board meeting. The following suggestions were made as part of the discussion:

Finance – Cory Olson is current chair; should remain a Board committee

Personnel – No chair; TBD if it should remain a Board committee

Building - No chair and new members

Parent Involvement; No chair; should not remain Board committee but report to the Board

Development – GRS Foundation is clarifying whether it is needed as it develops

Nominations committee – No chair; the executive committee should take its place

Strategic Planning Committee – Does not exist but should be added.

At a future meeting, staff committees will be added to the ongoing discussion so that we have an overall picture of the committees, their roles and responsibilities. In the meantime, the executive committee will further examine, determine, and recommend a committee structure.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by Andrea Martin.

Seconded by Paulette Zoë.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.