

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

**Great River School
Board Meeting
August 22, 2007
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kelly Rodieck, Tom Carrigan, Michael Flood, Mary Gantenbein, Candy Husemoller, Jim Groess, Connie Lepro, Ben Moudry, Cory Olson, Judy Plante, Angela van der Puije, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio)

Community Members Present: Ellen Johnson, parent; Eryn Dewey Carter, teacher

Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

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

- The Garage is clean
- All staff have been hired for the new school year
- Staff meetings have been positive, productive times
- Trip planning is in good shape
- Michael suggests holding a “founders day”

2. Approval of Minutes

Resolution **07082201**, approving the July 19 minutes moved by Candy Husemoller and seconded by Jim Groess, and unanimously approved.

3. Staff Contract Approval

Resolution **07082203** approving contracts for Papenfuss, Christensen, Melvin, Lawrence-Lupton, Killian, Sorenson and amending contracts for Zdnek, Kunz, Gantenbein, Lanners and Donnelly moved by Michael Flood, seconded by Tom Carriagan, and unanimously approved.

4. Election of Officers

Resolution **07082201** electing Kelly Rodieck as President, Judy Plante as Vice President, Cory Olson as Treasurer, Michael Flood as Secretary, and Mary Gantenbein as Member at Large moved by Connie Lepro and seconded by Tom Carrigan, and unanimously approved.

5. Student Handbook

Resolution **07082204** approving the 2007-8 Student Handbook moved by Ben Moudry, seconded by Candy Husemoller, and unanimously approved.

6. Staff Handbook

Resolution **07082205** approving the 2007-8 Staff Handbook moved by Jim Groess, seconded by Angela van der Puije and unanimously approved.

7. High School League

Resolution **07082206** authorizing membership in the Minnesota State High School League offered by Michael Flood, seconded by Angela van der Puije, and unanimously approved.

8. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Finance Committee

Cory reviewed the SBS reports. Audited financial statements will recognize some changes: for example, the \$36,000 final installment of a federal grant was received. Once audited, this will be applied to the 06/07 balances. General fund net income is \$13,000. Expected enrollment is around 220, but budget is still reflecting 195. The school is on track with the strategic plan on fund balance goals for 2011.

Resolution 07082207 Review Check Register was offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Ben Moudry, and unanimously approved.

B. Building Committee

Jim Groess reported:

- Walls, doors and new classroom are complete
- Parking lot work is progressing: resurfacing and signs restricting access, and basket ball surface where there will be no parking allowed.
- The new conference room and Humanities space are complete.

C. Fundraising and Development

Connie gave an update on progress:

- Trip ask is at \$48,774.75
- Lydia, Connie and Neal are looking for a venue for the Extravaganza
- Fundraising software in place

D. Nominations Committee

One open community member slot is open, and another slot will be open after this meeting. The Nominations committee is looking for a Montessorian to join the board.

E. School Support Committee

The board discussed the need for a volunteer to coordinate the use of volunteers. Connie will draft a job description.

9. Director's Report

Aaron reported on the Montessori training. Weeks 1 and 2 were at the Hershey Farm School, weeks 3 – 5 focused on subject specialties. The Montessori High School in Cleveland has asked GRS to team with them. Michael suggest copies of the binders that GRS staff bring back from the training be kept as a central resource.

10. Resignation of Jim Groess

Due to his new role as a contractor to the school, Jim is resigning from the board. We thank him for his efforts and ongoing support of GRS!

11. New Business

- December 6 and 7 – the IB process will require school board time on these dates.

Adjourn at 8:30 pm

Resolution 07082201
August 22, 2007
2007-8 Executive Committee

The GRS Board elects the following officers:

President: Kelly Rodieck
Vice-President: Judy Plante
Treasurer: Cory Olson
Secretary: Michael Flood
Member at Large: Mary Gantenbein

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Tom Carrigan

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07082202
Approve July 19, 2007 Minutes

The GRS Board has reviewed and approves the July 19, 2007 minutes.

Offered by Candy Husemoller

Seconded by Jim Groess

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07082203
Staff Contract Approval

The GRS Board approves the following new staff contracts:

- Kirsti Papenfuss – Spanish Teacher – Fully Licensed
- Andrea Christensen – English Teacher – Fully Licensed
- David Melvin – JRH Humanities – License Pending (just graduated)
- Sarah Lawrence –Lupton – JRH Special Education – License Pending (just graduated)
- Kristi Killian – SRH Special Education – Fully Licensed
- David Sorenson - Art

The GRS Board approves the following amended staff contracts:

- David Zdnek – taking out language regarding Level Lead for JRH – there is not a JRH Level Lead
- 2006-2007 Adam Kunz – need to split his time out in contract between SPED FTE and Regular Education FTE time. No changes to compensation or other.
- 2006-2007 – Mary Gantenbein – need to amend her salary to appropriately dispense prior board appropriation from last months meeting.
- Eric Lanners – We have expedited his 4th limited license and will know if the state will allow him to teach. We have until October 1 to get him licensed, which all indications point to yes. This contract is from today's date until October 1. If he is not licensed by October 1, we will not renew his contract and will find a suitable replacement. Please see attached information regarding expedited licensure.
- Kira Donnelly – We have expedited her licensure (both via portfolio and also through the limited license path) situation and will know if the state will allow her to teach. We have until October 1 to get her licensed, which all indications point to yes. This contract is from today's date until October 1. If she is not licensed by October 1, we will not renew her contract and will find a suitable replacement. Please see attached information regarding expedited licensure.

Offered by Michael Flood

Seconded by Tom Carrigan

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous Board vote.

Resolution 07082204
Approve 2007-8 Student Handbook

The GRS Board has reviewed and approves 2007-8 Student Handbook.

Offered by Ben Moudry

Seconded by Candy Husemoller

Adopted by 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07082205
Approve 2007-8 Staff Handbook

The GRS Board has reviewed and approves 2007-8 Staff Handbook.

Offered by Jim Groess

Seconded by Angela van der Puije

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07082206
2007-2008 RESOLUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Great River School, School District 4105, County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic athletic and fine arts events (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High

School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great River School is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to:

1. Renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and
2. Participate in the approved interschool activities sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's Official Handbook, on file at the office of the school district or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities, and that the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities are assigned to the official representative identified by the Governing Board.

Offered by Michael Flood

Seconded by Angela van der Puije

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07082207
Review Check Register

The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from July 1, 2007 to July 31, 2007.

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Ben Moudry

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.