

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
January 23rd, 2008
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kelly Rodieck, Michael Flood, Cory Olson, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio), Mary Gantenbein, Ben Moudry, Nora McConnell Johnson (Ex-Officio), Andrea Christensen, David Melvin, David Zdenek, Tom Carrigan, Judy Plante, Candy Husemoller, Angela van der Puije.

Board members Absent: Connie Lepro.

Community Member Present: none

Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:00pm.

1. Overview of GRS Director Review Process

Kelly handed out review packages to all board members and explained the review process. All board members received packets tonight and are asked to get them to either Kelly or Michael by February 13th. Kelly will attend the next staff meeting at GRS and hand out packets for all staff and explain the review process. Staff are requested to get their reviews to Michael by February 13th.

Aaron Drevlow's contract is through the current year, and Kelly is working to negotiate a new contract with Aaron. Kelly is working on a 3-year contract.

2. Review and approve December 19th, 2007 meeting minutes and consent agenda.

Consent Agenda:

C08012301: Approve minutes from December 19th, 2007 Board meeting

C07912302: Add Cory Olson as signatory to our University Bank checking account and University Bank line of credit. Cory will advise the board by email if the line of credit is used.

Resolutions **C08012301**, **C08012302**, approving the Consent Agenda. Moved by Judy Plante, seconded by Michael Flood, and unanimously approved.

3. Senior High Student Government Report by Nora McConnell Johnson.

- Student Government is going through a makeover. This process will take a few weeks.
- Students have been getting out a lot with J-Term - this is good!

4. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Finance Committee – Cory Olson

Overall, things are looking good. There is one unexpected bump in the road. This year, Minnesota changed their due date for the EDRS report. We didn't catch this change in time, and we missed the deadline. This means that for the rest of the year we will be paid by the state for 195 students, not our revised 207 students. This will be corrected next fall. This tightens our cash flow, but cash flow is still positive through the whole year, there isn't as much room for changes as we would like.

Resolution 08012301, review of the check register of checks written on GRS's behalf from December 1st to December 31st, 2007. Offered by Tom Carrigan, seconded by Cory Olson, and unanimously approved.

B. Building Committee – Aaron Drevlow

Aaron is looking into leasing a Pod for our IB Chemistry Lab, to begin this summer. We are experiencing some heating/cooling challenges - more cold than hot. There are engineers coming this week to look at our system and see what needs to be done to get the heat where it is needed. Our HVAC system is a challenge.

C. Fundraising and Development – Aaron and Kelly for Connie Lepro

- We received a \$5000 grant from St. Jude to fund the food and refreshments at the Great Extravaganza.
- We received a \$250 grant from an engineering firm to help fund FIRST Robotics.
- Annual Fund Update: we have 75% participation so far! We are \$5000 ahead of our goal!!! We are still working to get 100% staff and board participation.

The board challenges the GRS staff to an Annual Fund Challenge - 1st group to 100% participation gets an Ice Cream Cake!

C. Nominations Committee – Judy Plante

Our Annual meeting is set for March 10th. Judy is working with Adrienne and Lydia to prepare the ballots. There is a bylaw change proposed: to change the board size to 15, an increase of 2 positions. These positions would be parent/community positions. Michael Flood will write formal bylaw proposal.

Seats that are up for election this spring: Kelly's, Michael's, and Cory's. Elections are coming up this spring. Corey will run again. The election takes 2 weeks, starting March 10th.

D. School Support Committee – Aaron Drevlow.

This report is combined with Aaron's later report.

E. Strategic Plan – Kelly Rodieck & Aaron Drevlow, delivered by Kelly

Committee is creating a Great Gathering for this year's auction to fund the necessary filing fees to create the non-profit organization. They are also preparing a

survey for our parent community to check on building needs. This is to make sure we don't build a building or in a location that nobody wants.

F. Directors Report - Aaron Drevlow

The front office is re-organizing. With the addition of Karen Cedars as counselor, the front office is working to clarify responsibilities and priorities for the different school tasks.

The School Calendar is under development and should be presented at the next board meeting.

We had a positive staff retreat. We spend an overnight at the LCS Land School working on teambuilding, organizing the school calendar, examining space needs, and beginning to detail the upcoming grade level split.

We are interviewing for the open Social Studies position.

5. New Business: Carver Training

Judy Plante led a ½ hour Carver Training. The primary goal is for the board to be a resource to the school. Our responsibility is to make sure our organization works for our community, for this generation and the next.

We discussed the importance of clear roles and talked through several examples of how each of us have to wear different hat (parent, teacher, board member, friend) during the day and how that can lead to role confusion.

We discussed the importance of speaking with a single voice. During board meetings, we debate issues. When we speak to the public as a board member, we speak of the board decisions.

As a board, we set limits, primarily the budget. We also select our sponsoring agency and make sure that we are in compliance with MN State Standards. Our primary job in managing the school is to hire the School Director. So long as the school is operating within these limits, our role is to support the School Director.

Announcement: Hamline Site Visit: Friday, February 8th. There will be a board meeting with Hamline Site Visit team.

Announcement: Everyone is invited to the JH and SH performance next week!

6. Adjourn at 8:25pm

Note: Next Board Meeting is February 27th, 2008

*Consent Agenda
January 23rd, 2008*

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

C08012301 – *The GRS Board approves the December 19th, 2007 meeting minutes*

C08012302 - *Add Cory Olson as signatory to our University Bank checking account and University Bank line of credit. Cory will advise the board by email if the line of credit is used.*

Offered by: Judy Plante

Seconded by: Michael Flood

Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

*Resolution 08012301
Review Check Register*

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

Offered by Tom Carrigan

Seconded by Cory Olson

Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.
