

GRS Minutes  
July 27, 2006

**Great River School**  
School District #4105



*“Reaching new heights in learning and leadership”*

Great River School is a junior high and high school community of caring parents, young adults, and teachers. It is a community where each member values every other member. A culture of civility frames the learning climate of Great River which is driven by inspiration and love of learning. The preeminent guiding principle of this community is a deep respect for and trust in young adults.

Great River School (GRS) is a Minnesota public charter Montessori school. GRS is one of four schools chosen by the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota to receive a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant to create a small and educationally innovative high school. Hamline University sponsor's GRS.

### **Our Mission**

Great River School is an urban-based public charter Montessori school that helps adolescents prepare themselves to create their place in our diverse society. Founded on leadership, service, and peace formation and shaped by the study of humanity and the environment, Great River School aims to meet the developmental needs and characteristics of adolescents. Great River School fosters independence, critical thinking, respect, and responsibility to self, to others, and to the earth.

### **Diversity Statement**

For Great River to be an outstanding school, it must be a community – staff and students – that reflects the diversity of St. Paul. Variety in race, religion, ethnicity, economic means, and sexual orientation strengthens and enriches the learning of the community. Great River strives to prepare adolescents to take a positive role in society by consciously

presenting a multi-cultural curriculum.

*GRS Web Page*

<http://www.greatriverschool.org/index>

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**GREAT RIVER SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING  
July 27, 2006  
6:30 pm  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Kelly Rodieck, Alan Stache, Stuart Mason, Tom Bailey, Constance Lepro, Judy Plante, Candy Husemoller, Angela van der Puije, Ron Wacks

**Board Members Absent:** Michael Floor, Marita Bujold, Eryn Dewey Carter  
Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

**1. Welcome, introductions and one good thing that happened at GRS this week.**  
Aaron gave updates on staff room changes, painting and electrical work progress.

**2. Executive Committee Nominations.**

**a. Nominations for:**

President – Kelly Rodieck  
Vice President – Michael Flood  
Treasurer – Alan Stache  
Secretary – Judy Plante

Resolution **06072701** offered by Alan Stache, seconded by Ron Wacks, and approved unanimously.

**b. Consent agenda. Resolutions:**

- **C06072701** – Approve June 25, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes
- **C06072702** – Approve the following employment contracts: Kira Donnelly and Sue Ellis
- **C06072703** – Approve Depository Designation. In accordance with Minnesota Statute 118A.02, the Board of Directors of Great River School, School District #4105, designates the following as the depository of public funds for FY06: University Bank, 200 University Avenue W., St. Paul, MN 55103 for checking, savings, and line of credit.
- **C06072704** – Approve Electronic Funds Transfers. In accordance with Minnesota Statute 471.38, the Board of Directors of Great River School, School District #4105, delegates authority to its Director, Aaron Drevlow, and Finance Committee Chair, Alan Stache, to make electronic funds transfers. All electronic funds transfers shall be known and approved by the Director and Finance Committee Chair and part of included transactions in the financial reports submitted to the Board.
- **C06072705** - Approve Minnesota State High School League Membership and the \$100 expense to maintain GRS's membership
- **C06072706** – Affirm Conflict of Interest and Board Member Code of Conduct (and return conflict of interest forms.)

Consent resolutions C06072501 to C06072205 were offered by Stuart Mason and seconded by Ron Wacks and approved unanimously.

**4. Letter of employment for Eric Lanners** discussed. Resolution **06072702** offered by Ron Wacks, seconded by Stuart Mason, approved unanimously.

**5. Reports from standing committees.**

a. Finance – Alan Stache.

- GRS is likely to be out of statutory operating debt this year. Aaron and Alan discussed projected budgets for this school year for trips, materials and other expenses.
- The Summary Income Statement shows State revenue is 84%. Federal revenue is 62%. Other Local Revenue Sources is above budget at 140%. Total revenue is at 84%.
- Expenses are at 93% of budget.
- Balance sheet shows \$60,723 in GRS's checking account.
- Short term debt remains at \$120,485.
- Net income (\$62,550) is offset by estimated year to date holdback of \$132,123.

Check Register Resolution **06072703** offered by Stuart Mason, seconded by Angela van der Puije, passed unanimously.

b. Communications – no report

c. Building Committee – Tom Bailey

- NECA (Electrical Contractors Association) will donate electrical work
- Report on painting progress and building readiness – all should be substantially complete before teachers need access to classrooms

d. Fundraising and Development – Connie Lepro

- Trip letters have gone out and responses coming back. Second letters to go out for follow-up.

e. School Support – Aaron Drevlow for Marita Bujold

- Aaron, Marita, Monica and Lydia are working on roles and expectations for the coming year.
- Ice Cream Social and introduction to the school to be held August 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8.

**6. Director's Report** – Aaron Drevlow.

- Recruitment data for 06/07 school year: 186 confirmed students, 6 unconfirmed as of July 27.
- Dr. Drevlow shared the staff memo on back to school organization, space and scheduling. Included is the Federal Grant Spend Down Plan (giving guidance on allowable expenditures) and department budgets for the school year.
- A meeting was held with Monica, Sara Dickson (New Promise Fellow) and Aaron to discuss roles and expectations for the coming year.
- Salary Schedule Committee had its first meeting, which included a review of other district salary schedules from around the state. Eric will design a first draft of a proposed “Cafeteria” plan.
- The scheduling committee has been working on the schedule, and outside help has been sought from an IT consultant and an outside guidance counselor.
- Athletic schedule has been set, and work proceeding on an Athletic Handbook.
- A finalized student handbook will be presented for board approval at the August meeting.
- Aaron and Angela will be teaching a course modeled after the IB Theory of Knowledge course. Aaron shared a model syllabus with the board.

## **7. New Business**

Dates were set for board meetings through December 31, 2006. The dates are:

- August 24
- September 21
- October 26
- November 23
- December 28

## **8. Adjourn by unanimous consent at 7:35 pm.**