

Great River School Board Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2010

*One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.
~ Maria Montessori*

Board Members Present: Christina Beck, Andrea Christensen, Kira Donnelly, Michael Flood, Mary Gantenbein, Candy Husemoller, Sarah Lawrence-Lupton, Andrea Martin, Neal McMahon, Ben Moudry, Cory Olson (via phone for Financial Report), Deborah Schlick, Paulette Zoë
Board Members Absent: Kate Diehn
Non-Board Members Present: Dean Walczak (Finance Manager)

Introduction: GRS students shared a poetry reading

1. Financials (Dean Walczak, Cory Olson)
 - Income received
 - Federal Stimulus funds
 - Personal donations
 - Small portion of lease aid
 - Upcoming expenses
 - Building addition
 - State of Minnesota payment status discussion. Points of interest:
 - Bank expecting that all of this year's hold back will be paid next year
 - This has also been shown in the state report although the state's status is unknown and unpredictable according to current news reports
 - State has borrowed from public school reserves to fund itself; this does not include charter schools
 - Line of Credit
 - GRS line of credit has been secured through the end of the year
 - It's not expected that the line of credit will be used for February, 2010
 - GRS received the MN Department of Education 2010 School Finance Award
 - The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet and report to the Board about designating our depository and clarity around financial controls
2. Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the January Minutes
 - ELL Consultant, Erica List-Tesdell, to be hired on an hourly basis

Motion 1002171

Motion to approve the consent agenda
Offered by Andrea Christensen
Seconded by Kira Donnelly
Motion passed unanimously

3. General Reports
 - Director's Report
 - Diversity Committee

- A draft of the mission statement is being developed and will be brought to the Board at a future date
- Personnel Committee
 - Update was distributed
- Fundraising
 - Expanded curriculum pledge goal reached for the second time
 - Fundraiser scheduled at Kierans Downtown Minneapolis
- Enrollment
 - Typically lose 10-15 students per year; this year 10
 - Ahead of last year in applications; 152 for next year
 - Goal of 260; 220 returning w/waiting lists

4. Inservice Module – Independent Contractor vs. Employee

- Control over IC or employee is what determines the categorical difference
- Knowing the difference is helpful in making hiring decisions as well as how the employer classifies them for tax purposes
- Note: Using the Inservice Module format is helpful and beneficial to the work of the Board and its fiduciary responsibilities.

Old Business

5. Staff Handbook

- PTO is the only policy change to the handbook from 2008-09
- The policy was discussed

Motion 1002172

Motion to accept the newly improved PTO policy as described in the current handbook
 Offered by Michael Flood
 Seconded by Kira Donnelly
 Motion passed unanimously

New Business

6. Segregation of Duties

- A segregation of duties chart has been developed and will be completed and shared at a future board meeting.

7. Approval of Spring Intensives

- Bike Canoe Trip (Nelson Inz, Leader)
 - Five Days
 - Nine students
 - One additional chaperone being sought
 - Leave biking, camp, rock climbing, canoe, camp, return via bus, camp, bike back
 - The canoeing is done with a company
 - More information about rock climbing is needed

Motion 1002173

Motion to approve Spring Intensive – Bike Canoe trip contingent upon further investigation into liability

Offered by Candy Husemoller

Seconded by Sarah Lawrence-Lupton

Motion passed unanimously

8. Faculty Retreat

- Great success – Bay Lake Camp, setting and accommodations were wonderful
- Staff inspired by presentations about what everyone is doing and sharing the experience
- Everyone felt valued, “on the same page”, and moving forward together
- Progress of GRS community was acknowledged
- Suggested that success of retreat be woven into GRS Annual Meeting
 - Let GRS Executive Committee know of ideas

9. Future Agenda Items

- March, 2010
 - Update on 2010/2011 budget
 - GRS Annual Meeting – plan for future date
- May, 2010
 - Plans for Fall key experiences approved

Motion 1002174

Motion to adjourn at 8:10pm

Offered by Neal McMahon

Seconded by Michael Flood

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paulette Zoë, Secretary