

**AGENDA**  
**Great River School Board Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

1. **Welcome** School board chair, Deborah Schlick  
An example from faculty and parent board members of a Montessori principle alive in the first week back to school.
2. **Consent Agenda**  
Approve August minutes Presented by Board Chair, Deborah Schlick  
Accept check register Presented by Board Treasurer, Cory Olson

**Reports and Updates**

3. **Director's Update** School Director, Christina Beck  
-- including addition update
4. **Financial reports** Board treasurer, Cory Olson  
-- SBS Summary  
-- Summary Income Expense Statement  
-- Balance sheet  
-- Fund balance estimate  
-- Cash flow analysis  
-- Foundation Update
5. **Enrollment update** Written report from Lydia McAnerney
6. **MN Charter School Association has not yet posted dates for board training**

**Old Business**

7. **Conflict of interest statements:** To be signed by all board members
9. **Final approval of A-2 Trip** Presented by Michael Flood  
Resolve questions of vans for transportation
10. **Charge committees** Christina Beck
  - Ensure GRS has an up-to-date list of all staff and board committees
  - Identify board members to serve on board committees
  - Charge committees to clarify objective and process

**New Business**

11. **Approve student handbook** Presented by Karen Cedars & Faculty
12. **Approve workload policy for Special Education**  
Presented by Kyle Kehrberg, Sped Dir.
13. **Approve trip to Nobel Conference** Presented by A3 Faculty (MF, AC)

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**MINUTES**  
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**Minutes**

Present: Michael Flood, Andrea Christensen, Kate Diehn, Candy Husemoller, Andrea Martin, Deborah Schlick, Christina Beck, Neil McMahon, Corey Olson

Absent: Paulette Zoe

On A1 Trip: Ben Moudry, Kira Donnaley, Sara Laurence-Lupton

Present: Karen Cedars (staff), Dean Walzak (accountant)

:

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. Member present share some of the highlights from the week.

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 09091601, to approve the August minutes and check register**

Offered by Andrea Martin

Seconded by Candy Husemoller

Noted: that conflict of interest statements were not distributed at the last meeting, but will be available at this meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Director's Update

Met with the Star School group this morning – an end of project report is available. Some discussion of our school nurse, Ann Paulus Jones

**Motion 09091602 to approve an hourly contract** for additional hours for Ann Depaulus Jones for continued oversight of immunization reporting and medical needs up to the amount budgeted.

Offered by Candy Husemoller

Seconded by Corey Olson

Motion passes unanimously.

4. Financial Reports

The Summary Income Expense Statement was reviewed. Only budget item outside of expected amounts are Administration Dues (MACS Membership) and Lease and Maintenance.

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The summary statement of the cash flow needs a correction. 2,036,000 is on the projected cash flow, but it is lacking the federal stimulus funds 2,130,000. The net deficit in that budget is 310,000. We have a deficit this year which is balanced by our 150,000 fund balance and a 150,000 line of credit.

Lengthy discussion about the 27% holdback and how we will navigate the challenges tht poses. The finance committee will meet this month and set key numbers that we need to keep an eye on. We have talked with our bankers, and they would be willing to extend our line of credit another \$200,000. We expect to need this in March of 2010. We expect to begin using our line of credit in January.

5. Board Training  
MACS is awaiting direction from the state legislature on Board training requirements. As soon as we are informed, we will pursue it.
6. Advancement and Enrollment Reports  
Emailed out two weeks ago. Will be included at end of minutes.
7. Kyle Kehrberg – Special Education Director Update  
Special Education Director for GRS, required by charter law in Minnesota to insure compliance and reporting standards. He is working with us to establish a workload policy for our special education program. Process adopted: Christina Beck, Kyle Kehrberg, Sara Laurence-Lupton, and Candy Husemoller will look at this in depth and bring back a recommendation to the board, keeping Dan Walczak in the loop. Their goal is to report back to the board in November.
8. A3 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip – Traveling with WI – voiced concerns regarding legality of transportation and safety of our students.  
**Motion 09091603 to approve 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Apostle trip** pending documented (email) proof that their insurance covers transportation of our students. Alternatively, approved with bus transportation.  
Offered: Corey Olson  
Seconded: Andrea Martin.  
Motion passes unanimously.
9. Conflict of interest statements:  
To be signed by all board members are available now.
10. Charge Committees: The proposed committee structure for GRS follows. For committees with an acting chair, that name is listed.
  - a. Strategic Panning Committee – this is given to the charge of the board president and the head of school.
  - b. Technology: Chair: Kate Diehn
  - c. Arts/Events:
  - d. Professional Development: Ben Moudry

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- e. Diversity Committee:
- f. Communications: Christiana Beck
- g. Building and Grounds:
- h. Personnel Committee:
- i. Nominations Committee: Neil McMahon
- j. Finance: Cory Olson
- k. Community Voices - does this continue as a committee? Recommendation to keep this as a school organization, but not an official committee.
- l. Development and Fundraising - does this continue as committee? Lydia has asked the board to clarify the role of Lydia, the new Foundation, and this committee? Corey proposes an optional meeting next month, the hour before our board meeting, with Foundation members and board members to clarify the role of the Foundation, the board, and Lydia.
- m. Executive Committee – Deborah Schlick

We review the committee structure. We, as a board, are not running or mandating the working of these committees, we are just looking at the overall structure.

In our work as a board, Deborah would like us to be thinking about our long term sustainability, the development of a genuine Montessori school, and the development and retention of our staff. She would like us to look at this next month and set specific goal towards building the future of this organization.

Our intention for the 2009/2010 School year is to implement the above committee structure.

**11. Approve Student Handbook**

Review basic changes.

Graduation requirements: credits added in Math, Social Sciences, and World Language. CAS requirement added in A3. Key experiences must be completed (7 of 8 possible.) In brief, we are expecting 4 years in core classes, 2 years of 2<sup>nd</sup> language, 1 year of art, and 1 year of Health/Fitness.

**Motion 09081904, to approve the proposed Student Handbook for 2009-10 as presented, with the exception of the graduation policy.**

Offered by Andrea Martin

Seconded by Andrea Christenson

Motion passes unanimously

The graduation requirements are going to be brought to the next board meeting.

**12. A3 Trip to Nobel Conference, October 6,7**

**Motion 09081805 to approve A3 Nobel Conference fieldtrip..**

Offered by Kate Diehn

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Seconded by Michael Flood  
Approved unanimously.

**Motion to adjourn.**

Moved by Neal Ma  
Seconded by Kate  
Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

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