

Great River School
School District #4105



***Engaging intellect, shaping character, building
community***

MISSION

Great River School, an urban Montessori learning environment, prepares students for their unique roles as responsible and engaged citizens of the world.

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
June 24, 2009**

6:30 pm – 8:30pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consent Agenda.
 - A. Approve May Meeting Minutes
 - B. Approve contracts
3. Discussion of membership, MN Association of Charter Schools
4. Budget 2009/10
5. Lease
6. School Calendar 2009/10
7. Building addition update
8. Director's update
9. Reports from Standing Committees:
 - A. Finance Committee – Cory Olson
 1. SBS Summary
 2. Summary Income Expense Statement
 3. Balance Sheet
 4. Fund Balance Estimate
 5. Cash Flow Analysis
 6. Check Register
 7. Check Register Resolution
 8. GRS Building Committee and bonding
 9. GRS Foundation
 - B. Personnel Committee – Tom Carrigan
 - C. Fundraising and Development – Mary Gantenbein/Lydia McAnerney
 - D. Nominations Committee – Judy Plante
 - E. Community Advisory – Mark MacGregor
10. Date and plan for July meeting, leadership discussion, celebration of year end.
11. New Business
12. Adjourn at 8:30 pm

**Great River School Board Meeting
June 24, 2009**

6:30 pm – 8:30pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

Judy Plante, Mary Gantenbein, Michael Flood, Cory Olson, Paulette Zoe, Kate Diehn, Andrea Christensen, Kira Donnelly, Angela van der Puije, Mary Gantenbein
Absent: Candy Husemoller, Tom Carrigan, Sarah Lawrence-Lupton, Ben Moudry
Community Member: Andrea Martin (Interim Director), Christina Beck(new director), Neal McMahon (will begin board term next month), Deb Schlick (will begin board term next month)

2. Consent Agenda.

A. Approve May Meeting Minutes

Amend May minutes to include annual meeting – election results

B. Approve contracts

3. Discussion of membership, MN Association of Charter Schools

May meeting we had Gene Picolo provide information regarding MACS membership. Cory (financial committee) says he thinks it could work financially. Discussion regarding the benefits to joining MACS occurred. Benefits include : professional membership, coalition of charter schools to encourage legislation to support charter schools, advertise for new staff and new students.

Resolution for joining member in MN Association of Charter Schools

Now, therefore, the Great River School Board of Directors hereby moves to join the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools for the 2009-2010 membership year, which begins on July 1, 2009 and expires on June 30, 2010.

Further, this Board of Directors approves the expenditure of the funds for said membership in accordance with Payment plan of paying the full fee by July....., 2009, as outlined by the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools.

Offered by : Mary Gantenbein

Seconded by: Paulette Zoe

4. Budget 2009/10

Judy presented the information about the unallotments by Governor Pawlenty. The state payments will now hold back 27% of a schools budget for the 09/10 academic year. Great River has a line of credit with the bank. It is a delay in payment and not necessarily a cut. However, there will be interest payments on any loans taken out in order to manage the lower cash flow. Deb asked for concrete figures with this new legislation.

Bottom line: we need to grow fund balance \$85,000 next year to meet our strategic plan.

5. Lease

A year ago the discussion around how to make this space work for the growing school began. Last fall a draft lease was issued, since then Great River has been in conversation with CSDC regarding the five year lease and the building of an addition. CSDC has proposed two options for payment of lease, the stronger option being rate per square foot. Lease Aid provides 90% of any lease charge to a certain cap, which we will not reach. CSDC has delayed for months in providing Great River with the copy of the lease. We need to sign the lease so that CSDC can re-finance the building to finance the addition. CSDC is asking for the lease to be signed as quickly as possible. We will need to sign the lease prior to the next board meeting. We are seeking advice from our lawyers regarding wording within the lease, including the price in regards to the option to purchase and a changed statement regarding the maintenance of the building.

The Great River School Board authorizes a committee led by Cory Olson to negotiate and execute the lease on our behalf.

Offered: Mary Gantenbein
Seconded: Paulette
Unanimous

Reminder: the Great River School board needs to set up committee to look at long term options for the setting of the school in conjunction with the Great River Foundation. An optimum, sustainable site must be researched.

7. Building addition update

The project has begun, walls have come down, carpet has been taken out and the project is progressing well.

8. Director's update

Andrea Martin gave a short update. Hiring is just about done, the committee for hiring a math teacher hopes to have a new hire by the second week of July. Lydia is keeping the website current with the building addition. Dean Walzak is starting as business manager, he is willing to do the audit. This is scheduled for October. The mystery of the leaking water throughout the building has been solved. Certain pumps need to be shifted when the system is changed from heating to air conditioning. Cold water was going through pipes designed for hot water. The summer hours for the school will be: closed on Mondays, open from 9-3 Tuesday through Friday. Andrea Martin thanked everyone for all the support.

Resolution to approve the contract for the auditors to conduct the audit in October. Cory agreed that the rate is acceptable.

Motion to approve the contract for Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich and Co., PA to conduct audit and tax documents.

Moved by Kira
Seconded by Angela van der Puije
Unanimous approval.

9. Reports from Standing Committees:

- A. Finance Committee – Cory Olson
 - 1. SBS Summary

2. Summary Income Expense Statement
3. Balance Sheet
4. Fund Balance Estimate
5. Cash Flow Analysis
6. Check Register
7. Check Register Resolution
8. GRS Building Committee and bonding
9. GRS Foundation

Total revenue is at 88% of the budget, total expenses are also at 88% of the budget. This is where we should be at this time of the year. Remember that next month we will only receive one payment from the department of education so our cash flow will be limited, but expected. Update on the Building Committee and bonding situation. Initially we could issue bonds for 5.5%. It is going to be 7.5% if we did it this year. The most recent rate is 8.75%. We would not be able to purchase the building at this rate. It is important that we negotiate the five year lease. The current market is impacting the finances related to the purchase of the building. The purchase price of the building goes up 2.5% each year.

B. Personnel Committee – Tom Carrigan

Andrea Christensen reported that the staff members were given written feedback from the survey conducted by the Personnel Committee

C. Fundraising and Development – Mary Gantenbein/Lydia McAnerney

Mary G presented the expanded curriculum and fundraising support. The Great Extravaganza actual profit was \$14,588.

D. Nominations Committee – Judy Plante

No news tonight.

E. Community Advisory – Mark MacGregor

No news tonight.

F. Strategic Plan – Judy suggested that long term building discussion be put on the July agenda.

10. Date and plan for July meeting, leadership discussion, celebration of year end. July 15, 2009 will be the first meeting for the 09/10 school board meeting. Typically the vice president has stepped up to be the president. Tom's term ends this year. Cory will convene the meeting with the first agenda item being the election of new offices. Cory will serve as interim president.

Resolution

The Great River School Board authorizes Cory Olson to serve as Interim President of the GRS school board from July 1, 2009 – July 15, 2009.

Offered by : Mary Gantenbein

Seconded by Andrea Christensen

Unanimous

Leadership – in July a president, vice president, secretary and member at large positions need to be filled. Michael will take notes at the July 15, 2009 meeting as interim secretary.

The board discussed how to structure the executive committee and leadership of the board for next year.

Judy suggested that next year's board look into how to reach out to the parent community to get involvement in board committees.

11. New Business

Michael Flood reported that state law regarding transporting students has changed. Two years ago there was a board committee to investigate purchasing vans or buses. Due to the difficulties this presented, money was allocated to each level to transport students. The school needs to look into what are the needs and what can or cannot be done.

Board training – dates need to be set for the board to be trained. New laws have been passed regarding the legal requirements for board training. This will be planned at the next board meeting.

12. Adjourn at 8:50 pm

Consent Agenda
June 24, 2009

C09062501 The Great River School Board approves the minutes for the May 27, 2009 meeting, and approves the contract(s) for Sheila Sullivan (A3 Science), Brad Wildman (Special Education) and Molly Kienan (A2 Social Studies).

Offered by: Andrea Christensen

Seconded by: Michael Flood

Adopted this 24th day of June, 2009 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

09062501 Resolution for joining member in MN Association of Charter Schools

Now, therefore, the Great River School Board of Directors hereby moves to join the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools for the 2009-2010 membership year, which begins on July 1, 2009 and expires on June 30, 2010.

Further, this Board of Directors approves the expenditure of the funds for said membership in accordance with Payment plan of paying the full fee by July...., 2009, as outlined by the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools.

Offered by : Mary Gantenbein
Seconded by: Paulette Zoe
Adopted this 24th day of June, 2009 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

09062502 2009/10 Budget approval

The Great River School board approves the budget for the 2009/10 school year which includes an \$85,000 growth of fund balance.

Offered by: Angela van der Puije
Seconded by: Michael Flood
Adopted this 24th day of June, 2009 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

09062503 Lease Execution

The Great River School Board authorizes a committee led by Cory Olson to negotiate and execute the lease on our behalf.

Offered: Mary Gantenbein
Seconded: Paulette
Adopted this 24th day of June, 2009 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

09062404 Interim GRS Board President

The Great River School Board authorizes Cory Olson to serve as Interim President of the GRS school board from July 1, 2009 – July 15, 2009.

Offered by : Mary Gantenbein
Seconded by Andrea Christensen
Adopted this 24th day of June, 2009 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

09062505 Check Register approval.

The Great River School board approves the check register for March, 2009.

Offered by: Andrea Christensen
Seconded by: Kate Diehn
Approved this 24th day of June, 2009 by unanimous GRS Board vote.
