

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

All Rights Reserved

**Great River School
Board Meeting
March 22, 2007
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kelly Rodieck, Tom Carrigan, Eryn Dewey-Carter, Michael Flood, Jim Groess, Connie Lepro, Judy Plante, Alan Stache, Angela van der Puije, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio)

Board members Absent: Marita Bujold, Candy Husemoller, Stuart Mason.

Community Members Present: Mary Gantenbein (board member elect), Monica Howell (staff), Natalie Potts (student), Mike Shapiro (parent)

Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions and one good thing that happened at GRS.

- Two students who participated in the UM history day are going on to the finals
- Pi day

2. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve February 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes
- B. Accept Ron Wack's resignation

Consent agenda resolutions **C07021501** and **C07021502** were offered by Jim Groess, seconded by Tom Carrigan, and unanimously approved.

3. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Finance Committee

Alan provided this note to the board, in addition to his commentary : We received about \$60-70,000 too much in February from the state when they adjusted their special education estimates. This was reversed in our March 15th payment and we only received \$7,000. This would affect every document negatively from what is presented in the attachments. Summary IS - Total state revenue would be about 64% of budget, not the 68%. Balance Sheet - Main Checking and fund balance would be reduced by \$60-70,000. Cash Flow - every future period would have a cash balance of \$60-70,000 less. Even with these changes, we are still doing well versus the budget.

Alan reviewed the financial statements. Key points: fundraising revenue exceeds expectations; nothing out of the ordinary in expenditures; cash flow will tighten as anticipated over the summer.

In April, we will go over the draft budget for the 07/08 school year. Alan will try to have an estimated fund balance by April; it looks like GRS may end the year ahead of projects for the fund balance. Aaron reported that FAC has reviewed the draft budget and will be looking at it with regard to implementation of the strategic plan as well.

Resolution 07032201 Review Check Register was offered by Eryn Dewey-Carter, seconded by Angela van der Puije, and unanimously approved.

B. Building Committee

Jim Groess is working on the parking lot/drive through issue and the scan cards for building access. He is getting estimates on getting the scan card system up and running.

C. Fundraising and Development

Connie gave an update on progress:

- Trip ask is up to \$44,210
- Annual fund at \$15,029 and still shooting for 100% participation of board members
- Great Extravaganza committees working on final plans, with focus on increasing donations. Invitations out and press releases underway.
- Great River Run will be a walkathon on 5/20, focused on getting students involved
- eBase (integrated database); plan is to purchase and install this summer.
- Fund raising strategy, goals and reporting plan in progress and likely to be presented to the board in April or May.

D. Nominations Committee

Michael reported that the election is wrapping up and the three new board members will be in place. Kudos to Grania for her set up of the system, to Kelly for support and Adrienne for all the hard work of making it successful. Report at next meeting on the participation rate.

There is one open spot due to Ron Wacks' resignation and one community spot open (a one year slot). Mike Shapiro is visiting. He is a CPA and has volunteered to help on the Finance Committee.

E. School Support Committee

Judy Plante reported that the committee is sponsoring a College Night on April 12th. Future meetings of the committee will result in a plan for events for the remainder of this year and next school year.

F. Strategic Plan

Aaron reported a committee is looking at the mission statement for discussion and feedback at the next staff meeting. The foundation task force is anticipated to begin in June.

G. Carver Training & Board Eval

Judy reviewed a draft board evaluation and talent inventory. Members were asked to provide feedback via email in advance of the next board meeting. A revised version will be presented at that meeting.

4. Director's Report

Aaron reported that the internal budget process is moving ahead. Student count is at 180 currently: using 191 for the budget with a goal of 210.

Marshall Montessori IB (a school moving from IB to incorporate Montessori methods) will be visiting to compare notes with GRS's journey of incorporating IB into a Montessori approach.

GRS is looking into beginning a graduation requirement for community service hours.

The regional IB coordinator at Highland will be visiting. The Part B application for IB will be submitted by June 1st.

Aaron and Kelly will be working with Hamline on the renewal process for sponsorship, so it is in place by the June deadline for IB submission.

Several options are under discussion regarding teacher pay scales, and a proposal from the salary committee should be available by the April board meeting.

5. New Business

Monica Howell presented her "Playbook" overview, which outlines the roles and responsibilities for administrative functions for GRS, provides a functional organization chart and a flow chart of activities.

April 12 is the date of the next board meeting.

6. Adjourn at 8:16 pm

Consent Agenda
March 22, 2007

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

C07021501 – Approve February 15, 2006 Meeting Minutes

C07021502 – Accept Ron Wack’s resignation from the GRS board and thank him for his service.

Offered by Jim Groess

Seconded by Tom Carrigan

Adopted this 22nd day of March, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07032201
Review Check Register

The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from February 1, 2006 to February 28, 2006.

Offered by Eryn Dewey-Carter

Seconded by Angela van der Puije

Adopted this 22nd day of March, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.