

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

October 21, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Present: Christina Beck, Andrea Christensen, Kate Diehn, Kira Donnelly, Michael Flood, Candy Husemoller, Sarah Lawrence-Lupton, Andrea Martin, Neal McMahon, Ben Moudry, Cory Olson, Deborah Schlick, Paulette Zoë, **Absent:** Mary Gantenbein

1. Celebration of the New Addition

2. Consent Agenda

Add: Agreement for PT services, A Chance to Grow, Inc.
Add: Mary Dybvig, as needed, hire for testing. This fits into the budget
September Minutes will be forwarded with the November Board packet
Check Register confirmed by auditor, not needed for approval at each meeting
No further questions or discussion.

Motion 09102101 to approve the Consent Agenda

Offered by Michael Flood
Seconded by Neal McMahon
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports/Updates

Director's Report submitted

Financial Report

Graph representation of key components of the budget is helpful.
Check register goes to Cory, Christina and the finance committee.
It would also be good to highlight anything that was unexpected in the monthly budget as well as any unexpected projections.

- Auditing our expenses this month have resulted in about \$20,000 of savings in accumulated areas.
- Updates on the holdback were shared.
- Stimulus funds have not been accounted for (approx. \$160,000). We will revise the budget when these funds come in.
- Physical needs to make the building beautiful need a lot of work. Function is also an issue. Managing the physical space is an ongoing challenge.

Foundation Update

The FAQ sheet was distributed and discussed.
The role of the foundation is to support GRS through fundraising. The \$ is currently held in checking. There is conversation around having an investment component later down the line. Meetings of the Foundation generally happen prior to the Board meeting. These meetings are open to the public.
There are other Foundation models in both the public and private school sectors that could give us more information for guidelines and precedence.
Quarterly reports from the foundation will be given to the board (not monthly)

Training Update

Two needs of the Board were identified – what are the roles of individual board members (infrastructure) and what do we need to do our job (module).
MDE and MACS has not yet detailed the guidelines for required board training from the state.

In-service Modules (MN Association of Charter Schools), monthly online, will help us with information.

4. Old Business

GRS Graduation Requirements

Change expression of CAS from 150 hours to 4 semesters

Motion 09102102 to adopt the GRS graduation standards, recommended and required as shown.

Offered by Ben Moudry

Seconded by Sarah Lawrence-Lupton

Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

Personnel Handbook

This will be distributed prior to the November Board meeting and included on that agenda.

Recommendation to the Board form

This form will be helpful for communication.

A3 Off Campus Policy

Discussed and not approved pending further information to be gathered.

Proposed Board Focus for 2009-2010

- Developing mature management processes for GRS
- Supporting the development and solidifying of the adolescent Montessori Model
- Achieving financial stability and sustainability
- Attracting and retaining high quality faculty

Presentation and discussion

Suggested:

Change the term “management” to “governance”.

“Create policies to support... facilitation” to precede each point

Motion 09102103 to adopt this Board focus for 2009-10 with suggested changes

Offered by Cory Olson

Seconded by Andrea Martin

Motion passed unanimously

6. Future agenda items

Salary

Strategic Plan review

Board Work Plan

Checklist for Self-evaluation

Annual report

Professional Development plan for Head of School

Motion to adjourn.

Offered by Andrea Martin

Seconded by Paulette Zoë

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.