

## **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***

**Great River School  
Board Meeting  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Kelly Rodieck (by phone), Michael Flood, Cory Olson, Judy Plante, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio), Mary Gantenbein, Ben Moudry, Tom Carrigan, Connie Lepro, Candy Husemoller, Angela van der Puije, Nora McConnell Johnson (Ex-Officio).

**Board members Absent:** None.

**Community Member Present:** Eryn Dewey-Carter, Andrea Christensen,

**Judy Plante convened the meeting at 6:55 pm.**

**1. Review and approve October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting minutes and consent agenda.**

**Consent Agenda:**

C07112801: Approve minutes from October 24th Board meeting

C07112802: Approve basketball cooperative agreement. Ben presented an overview of the cooperative agreement to the board and the history.

C07112803: Appoint 3 GRS teachers to the board: David Melvin, David Zdenek, Andrea Christenson. The GRS Bylaw allow for a 13 member board. We currently have 10 members, 4 of which are teachers. Adding 3 more teachers will bring the total number of teacher board members to 7, a majority of the 13 members.

Pursuant to GRS Bylaws, all appointed board members must run in the annual spring election, allowing the community the opportunity to elect them. The teachers are aware of this requirement.

C07112804: Approve staff contracts: Deborah Keefe, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger , Mary Thom.

With the addition of three teachers, GRS now has a teacher majority board. Michael is to form study group to look at board composition to be presented at the spring annual meeting. This will look at ways to weight teacher votes or add more teachers to the board.

Resolutions **C07112801, C07112802, C07112803, C07112804**, approving the Consent Agenda: moved by Angela van der Puije, seconded by Tom Carrigan, and unanimously approved.

**2. Senior High Report – Nora McConnell Johnson**

Upcoming events:

SH Dance set for this Friday. It sounds like this may work out with Ben M. being the staff point person.

Community in the SH - needs help; had a break out session during recent community meeting for discussions about community; we used to have morning meetings and/or regular community meetings. Student Government will be working teachers to set up a community meeting schedule. They have met with Angela and this is underway.

#### Off Campus Lunch Proposal:

There have been very few comments from the community. It will be phased in, starting with just seniors. There have been a few changes through the process - including an increased emphases on phasing in. Discussion on the issue of issue of 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Resolutions **07112801**, approving the Off Campus Lunch Bill: moved by Michael Flood, seconded by Tom Carrigan, and unanimously approved.

### **3. Reports from Standing Committees:**

#### **A. Finance Committee – Cory Olson**

Cash flow is looking strong. We have received more from the state than we expected. Our enrollment is up this year. We received our “catch-up” payment. Our original budget was for 190 students. We are revising our budget for 211 students. We are at 31% overall while at 33% through the year for Revenue. For Expenses, we are at 32%.

Instructional Support services - this is staff training, and it is low right now (10%) because most these costs come in the spring and summer.

The Check Register is reviewed. There follows some discussion on various checks. Aaron to follow up on some individual items, but all is in order.

**Resolution 07112802**, review of the check register of checks written on GRS’s behalf from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007: Offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Candy H., and unanimously approved.

Discussion on our revised budget for the 2007/2008 school year. Some issues include looking at hiring new teachers for the next few years and how does hiring another counselor affect our long-term budget? How do student number change over the long term? A long discussion about the consequences of student numbers, this year’s budget, and next year’s budget followed.

**Resolution 07112803**, approve the revised 2007/2008 budget: offered by Ben Moudry, seconded by Tom Carrigan, and unanimously approved.

#### **B. Building Committee – Aaron Drevlow**

Not much to report this month. More next month regarding building foundation.

**C. Fundraising and Development – Connie Lepro**

The Blue Sky guides are 5 from meeting our goal.

At present, 53% of our families have contributed to the extended curriculum fund. We are looking at what to do about the families who have not yet contributed.

Lydia is purchasing fundraising software.

A letter is going out for the annual fund kick-off - our goal is to have 100% staff and board contributed. Tomorrow evening, there is a special open house for our supporters. It goes from 4:30-6. Nora is going to speak!

**D. Nominations Committee – Judy Planet**

Seats that are up: Kelly's, Michael's, and Corey's seats are up. Elections are coming up this spring. The newly appointed teachers will also be running for election.

**E. School Support Committee – Kelly Rodieck... given by Aaron Drevlow.**

A group of parents, a few staff members, and Aaron have been meeting with the "Legacy Council." Some observations from outside observers have come back positive. The Legacy Council is working to build a stronger, more inclusive community.

The next meeting of the Legacy Council is at 4pm, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Parents, students, and staff are invited.

**F. Strategic Plan – Kelly Rodieck & Aaron Drevlow, delivered by Aaron.**

Tom presented an update on the Transportation Committee. During their last meeting, they looked at the Small Bluebird - a great, yet expensive option. That size bus is an easier bus to drive, which it is a plus. The van proposition is not a viable option for the school. We are looking at a large school bus and setting up a pool of licensed bus drivers.

We have a Foundation Committee formed. The first meeting is schedule for Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm. Everyone is copasetic with this development. Please join us to learn more about the upcoming capital campaign.

## **G. Directors Report - Aaron Drevlow**

Parent/Teacher conference survey results

Staff changes: Adam K. resigned to Join St. Paul Como. Mary Thom joined us to take his position. David Sorenson has resigned to join a magnet arts school. Bee Lee joined us to take his position, but she has resigned - she said that she is looking for a position where she can work with younger grades. We are looking to hire a long-term sub through J-Term. Our goal is to hire a permanent art teacher for the spring semester. Thursday, we are interviewing a group of counseling folks. This decision will be made over the weekend and the new counselor will start Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Montessori - IB: We are looking at the NAMTA proposed Montessori/IB curriculum, and working with NAMTA's Project 2012 to develop common principles for Montessori Secondary Education.

Angela presents the Montessori/IB program that GRS is working to implement. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the school board members are invited to attend a meeting with the IB Site Visit Team.

During December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and IB implementation team is visiting to evaluate our school. This spring, we will find out if we are approved to offer the IB coursework next year and run our first exams in the 2008/2009 school year. Lengthy discussion on the many concerns of transition to Montessori-IB and how to keep the Montessori first while incorporating IB.

Judy sums up many of the concerns well: we are working through a big change, and going into the unknown is challenging, scary, and it takes work.

**4. New Business - none.**

**5. Adjourn at 9:06pm**

**Note: Next Board Meeting is December 19, 2007**

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**Consent Agenda**  
November 28, 2007

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

**C07112801** – The GRS Board approves the October 24, 2007 meeting minutes

**C07112802** - Approve basketball cooperative agreement with Avalon. (Ben is bringing a hard copy of agreement to the meeting)

**C07112803** – Appoint the following teachers to the GRS board:

David Melvin

David Zdenek

Andrea Christensen

**C07112804** – Approve the following staff contracts:

Deborah Keefe

Melanie Peterson-Nafziger

Mary Thom

*Offered by: Angela van der Puije*

*Seconded by: Tom Carrigan*

*Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.*

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## Resolution 07112801 Off Campus Lunch Bill

The GRS Board approves the following Off Campus Lunch Bill:

### **Off Campus Lunch Terms and Conditions 2007-2008**

***Students are responsible for their own actions while they are off campus. The school provides no supervision of off campus activities and assumes no liability for any accident or injury that occurs while off campus.***

In order to obtain and retain off campus lunch privileges:

- All coming and leaving of the building for off campus lunch must take place through the front door (exiting to the main parking lot).
- All students **must check out and back in** with a staff member that will be at the front desk.
- Any 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student may leave alone, unless expelled from the program
- If one person partakes in an action that will result in an expulsion from the program, all members of the group will be expelled from the program along with them, unless other students notify staff as soon as possible.
- There will be a 3 strike system put into place, once a student has three strikes, they will be expelled from the program for the remainder of the semester.
- If you arrive back from off campus lunch late, and you are less than 10 min. late, you will receive one strike, along with an unexcused tardy.
- If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will receive two strikes, along with an unexcused tardy.
- Any actions that are against school rules, that take place during off campus lunch, will be punished as they would be had the actions occurred on school grounds, along with the appropriate number of strikes as decided by the staff member issuing the strikes.
- Located by the front door, there will be an either red or green sign. Green means that there will be off campus lunch. Red means that there will not. The main reason for a possible, temporary cancellation of the off campus school lunch program is weather conditions and road conditions. We do not want our students getting in accidents, especially because they are driving too fast for the road conditions.
- Eligibility in the program is contingent on having a 2.7 or better GPA in the previous semester at Great River School. Transfer students are not eligible until 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.
- All of these rules and regulations are to keep both you, the student, and us, as a school and community safe.
- **It is Great River School policy that students may not drive other students.**

**Failure to abide by any of the above rules will result in loss of off campus lunch for the remainder of the semester.**

OFF CAMPUS LUNCH PERMISSION FORM  
2007-2008

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please print full name) will have the privilege to go off campus during his or her lunch provided (1) he/she is and remains eligible under the terms and conditions stated in the attached "Off Campus Lunch Terms and Conditions for 2007-2008" and (2) this contract is signed by both the student and parent/legal guardian.

***To the student:***

I have read the entire attached "Off Campus Lunch Terms and Conditions for 2007-2008." I agree to follow the rules and conditions stated therein and I am aware of the potential consequences should I violate any of those terms or conditions.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

***To the Parent/Guardian:***

I have read and understand the attached "Off Campus Lunch Terms and Conditions for 2007-2008." I grant my son/daughter/guardian permission to leave the school campus for lunch. I understand that the school provides no supervision of off campus activities and assumes no liability for any accident or injury that occurs while off campus.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This policy will be added to the Student Handbook the next time the handbook is published.

*Offered by: Michael Flood*

*Seconded by: Tom Carrigan*

*Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.*

Resolution 07112802  
Review Check Register

*The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from October 1, 2007 to October 31, 2007.*

*Offered by Connie Lepro*

*Seconded by Candy Husemoller*

*Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.*

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Resolution 07112803  
Approve Revised 2007/2008 Budget

The GRS Board approves the revised 2007/8 Budget.

*Offered by Ben Moudry*

*Seconded by Tom Carrigan*

*Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.*

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