

Great River School Board Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2010

*Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.
Maria Montessori*

*Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Board Members Present: Christina Beck, Andrea Christensen, Kate Diehn, Kira Donnelly, Michael Flood, Mary Gantenbein, Candy Husemoller, Sarah Lawrence-Lupton, Neal McMahon, Ben Moudry, Cory Olson, Deborah Schlick **Board Members Absent:** Andrea Martin, Paulette Zoë **Non-Board Members Present:** Melissa Lark (Auditor, MMKR), Dean Walczak (Finance Manager)

1. Audit and Management Report (Melissa Lark, MMKR)
 - Presentation of GRS annual audit and management report. Points of Interest:
 - One internal control - journal entries need improvement; needed to be updated.
 - Board needs to annually approve signers on the account, which wasn't done in 2009. It is recommended that we make a list of annual board tasks.
 - Stable student increase in student numbers.
 - Budget-to-actual numbers look very good.
2. Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the November Minutes
 - Cleaning Company Contract – new company approval, which will include the new wing. Marsden, for \$29,000 annual fee. This fits within our budgeted amount for this year.

Motion 1001201

Motion to approve the consent agenda
Offered by Mary Gantenbein
Seconded by Cory Olson
Motion passed unanimously

3. General Reports
 - Professional Development Committee Report (Ben Moudry)
 - Head of School Report (Christina Beck)
 - Discussion about the stability of the school, which is very good.
 - Discussion of the 27% holdback and the future of K-12 funding.
 - Fundraising Report (Christina Beck)
4. Financial Reports
 - Finance Report (Cory Olson)
 - Discussion of fund balance. Our goal is 20%. Last year we were at 11.2%. This year we are at 7%. We are on goal to get back to 11% by the end of the year.
 - Review of financials (Dean Walczak)
 - Discussion

Motion 1001202

Motion to accept the audit as presented
Offered by Michael Flood
Seconded by Neal McMahon
Motion passed unanimously

Old Business

5. Board Study (Neal McMahon)
- Discussion of future Board training. We will move forward when the State of MN announces the requirements

New Business

6. Ratify Approval of 2008-09 Annual Report (Christina Beck)
- Report is a 31-page document compiled by Andrea Martin and Christina Beck. Overall, the report is very positive.

Motion 1001203

Motion to accept the 2008-09 Annual Report
Offered by Andrea Christensen
Seconded by Candy Husemoller
Motion passed unanimously

7. Approval of Spring Intensives
- San Francisco Art and Design (Kate Diehn, Leader)
 - Scheduled for June 9-14, 2010
 - Fourteen students
 - Budgeted at \$800/student with funds to be raised by students

Motion 1001204

Motion to approve Spring Intensive – San Francisco Art and Design
Offered by Andrea Christensen
Seconded by Candy Husemoller
Motion passed unanimously

- Costa Rica (Caroline Miesle, Enrique Garita, Leaders)
 - Twelve students
 - Budgeted at \$1,500/student
 - Vehicles will be leased in Costa Rica

Motion 1001205

Motion to approve Spring Intensive – Costa Rica, on the condition that travel insurance is purchased
Offered by Kira Donnelly

Seconded by Kate Diehn
Motion passed unanimously

- Arts, Industry and Culture of Seattle (Zach Schultz, Leader)
 - Thirteen students
 - Budgeted at \$650/student

Motion 1001206

Motion to approve Spring Intensive – Arts, Industry and Culture of Seattle
Offered by Sarah Lawrence-Lupton
Seconded by Andrea Christensen
Motion passed unanimously

- Canoe/camping trip (Nelson Ins, Leader)
 - Not yet presented
8. PTO Policy Proposal (Christina Beck)
- Discussion of the policy proposal
 - General agreement that it is important to educate the staff regarding the policy
 - The Personnel Handbook will come up for approval in February, 2010.
9. Future Agenda Items
- February, 2010
 - Special education workload policy
 - Personnel Handbook
 - Review strategic plan
 - March, 2010
 - Update on 2010/2011 budget
 - May, 2010
 - Plans for Fall key experiences approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm

Board Meeting notes taken by Michael Flood
Minutes respectfully submitted by Paulette Zoë, Secretary