

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
February 27th, 2008
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kelly Rodieck, Michael Flood, Cory Olson, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio), Mary Gantenbein, Nora McConnell-Johnson (Ex-Officio), Andrea Christensen, David Melvin, David Zdenek, Tom Carrigan, Judy Plante, Candy Husemoller, Connie Lepro, Ben Moudry

Board members Absent: Angela van der Puije

Community Member Present: Leah Brennan-Magidson, Mark MacGregor, Suzan Gottlieb, Mike Hesano, Lou Griffin, Maria Turnblom

Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:37pm.

1. Good things...

J-term was great, the JH play was excellent, excellent essays from the SH that were extremely positive about GRS, a Great Extravaganza meeting - things are coming together.

2. Annual Calendar Approval

Resolution 08022701: approval of non-controversial calendar for the 2008/2009 school year. Offered by Tom Carrigan. Seconded by Candy Husemoller and unanimously approved.

Resolution 08022702: Proposal to change the Senior High J-Term to a May Term.

The rationale from the staff perspective: by moving the experience May, it makes travel and "getting out" much easier. By moving the experience to the end of the year from the middle of the year, it opens up more time for the students and the staff to prepare for May Term experiences. In the opinion of the staff, it is more appropriate for the SH students.

In the discussion, concerns are raised: how are students viewing the change. Feedback from students is that people will miss J-Term in January, but that nobody is really upset.

Resolution 08022702 is offered by Michael Flood, Seconded by Ben Moudry and unanimously approved.

Judy presents a short Carver reminder that as a school board, our responsibility is to make decisions for the good of the school.

Resolution 08022703: Proposal to eliminate the half-day Friday.

The staff feel that we would be more efficient and better serve our students by having a regular school days. The consistency of the week is critical to both staff and students.

In the discussion that follows, concerns are raised over the student's reactions. Staff like the consistency. The Junior High students gathered 75 signatures in support of the half day. There are a number of students who use the ½ day well and would like to be able to keep it. Some people voiced concerns about how the students would perceive the change. Much discussion followed.

Offered by Cory Olsen; Seconded by Mary Gantenbein; Opposed by Connie Lepro and Candy Husemoller; **Resolution 08022703** passes by majority vote.

Resolution 08022704: The proposal is to change the start time to 8:15 ending at 2:45. Aaron Drevlow proposes an amendment to change the start time to 8:30, ending at 3:00. This amendment is accepted unanimously. Much discussion followed. Students present expressed a desire for a 9:00 start time and a 3:30 end time. Some discussion of the needs of adolescents followed.

Offered by Tom Carrigan. Seconded by Connie Lepro and unanimously approved.

2. Review and approve January 23rd, 2008 meeting minutes and consent agenda.

Consent Agenda:

C08022701: Approve minutes from January 23rd, 2007 Board meeting

C08022702: Approval staff contracts for Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Peter Mullvain, and Victor Enrique Garita.

Resolutions **C08022701**, **C08022702**, approving the Consent Agenda. Moved by Judy Plante, seconded by Michael Flood, and unanimously approved.

4. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Finance Committee – Cory Olson

We are doing well. Corey did a small comparison to how we were doing last year and we are currently doing. We are currently in better shape, financially, than we were a year ago. We are still working with the 195 student numbers, with the state holding back a larger-then-expected amount, due to a missed EDRS filing. These funds will be balanced out when the state catch-up payments come in the fall of 2008. We are still on track to make our Fund Balance goal for the year. Discussion on reading the budget report and some concerns over specific budget items and how they show up on our budget report. Cory will discuss the format of the report with our SBS.

Resolution 08022705, review of the check register of checks written on GRS's behalf from January 1st to January 31st, 2008. Offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Judy Plante, and unanimously approved.

B. Building Committee – Aaron Drevlow

We've had heating and cooling issues this month. New Mech has been in several times. We had a vendor out today to help us look at portables for next year. The two portables would be for a classroom and a chemistry lab. The most logical place for them is on the grass by the SH bathrooms. Concerns were raised about quality and permanence of the portables. Aaron invites people to visit existing sites and to speak with him about any concerns.

C. Fundraising and Development – Connie Lepro

- * We are at 79% participation on our annual fund - current we have \$62,540 raised.
- * Annual fund is off to a great start - we are at \$19,905!
- * We have two grant requests out, which we hope to hear back from soon.
- * Upcoming events: April 26th is the Walk-a-Thon, and April 13th, 2008 Annual Great Extravaganza!

D. Nominations Committee –Judy Plante

Our Annual meeting is set for March 10th. Cory Olsen and Mark MacGregor have applied for open positions. For the open teaching positions, Kira Donnelley has applied. Judy is hoping to receive the rest of the teacher positions soon.

Bylaw Changes: Michael Flood and Nora McConnell-Johnson propose changes to the board makeup. Michael will work with Nora to clarify three bylaw change proposals. The first will change the board number from 13 to 15. The second is to weight the teacher vote by a factor of 1.2 for attendance and voting. The third is to create an opening on the board for a voting student representative.

E. Strategic Plan – Kelly Rodieck

Committee is on task and getting ready for the Great Extravaganza. We are taking steps to create our non-profit support organization. A meeting will be held soon to update the strategic plan.

F. Directors Report - Aaron Drevlow

Our lottery is this Friday at 9:30am. Lydia would like a board member to attend to witness the lottery. There have been some rumors of a “secret” lottery - which is not true, but we take the reputation of our lottery seriously, so we are inviting anyone and everyone to attend the lottery this Friday and request a board witness.

	Applications	Planning to Accept	Goal for 9/1/2008
7 th	97	50	47
8 th	10	3	48
9 th	43	5	45
10 th	7	7	40
11 th	14	6	39
12 th	3	0	22

We are looking at class scheduling for this next year. We are proceeding with the strategic plan to set up a 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 grade level split. We are working on the current schedule.

Update on the pay schedule 08/09 plan. We have a proposed 4-tier system, approved by the board for next year. Aaron has not followed through (for many good reasons) with setting up an evaluation process to support the 4-tier system. This will take time, and maybe difficult to find resolution.

IB update: we are working on meeting IB concerns and curriculum mapping.

Administration organization update: front office has completed a RACI process. They are working on clarifying what are priorities for this spring and who is responsible for different tasks.

5. New Business: Aaron's evaluation is underway. Results will be discussed at next board meeting.

6. Adjourn at 8:45 pm

Note: Annual Meeting is Monday, March 10th, 2008.

Note: Next Board Meeting is March 26th, 2008

School Calendar Discussion and Vote

A. Non controversial calendar approval: **Resolution 08022701**

The Great River School Board approves the 2008-9 Great River School Calendar as proposed including the dates the school year begins and ends, trip length, number of school days, holidays and closed dates.

Offered by: Tom Carrigan

Seconded by: Candy Husemoller

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

B. Senior High J term/May term discussion and vote: **Resolution 08022702**

The Great River School Board approves the school's request to move J term to May. The senior high will resume regular classes upon their return from Winter Break in the 2008/9 school year.

Offered by: Michael Flood

Seconded by: Ben Moudry

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

C. All school – Half Day Friday discussion and vote: **Resolution 08022703**

The Great River School Board approves the school's request to hold classes all day on the Fridays the school is in session during the 2008/9 school year.

Offered by: Corey Olson

Seconded by: Mary Gantenbein

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2008 by majority GRS Board vote.

Favor	Opposed	Absent
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Kelly Rodieck	Connie Lepro	Angela van der Puije
Judy Plante	Candy Husemoller	
Michael Flood		
Mary Gantenbein		
Cory Olson		
Andrea Christensen		
Dave Melvin		
David Zdenek		
Tom Carrigan		
Ben Moudry		

D. All school – Start and end times discussion and vote: **Resolution 08022704**

The Great River School Board approves the school's request to start the school day at 8:30 am and end the school day at 3:00 pm each day

Offered by: Tom Carrigan

Seconded by: Connie Lepro

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Consent Agenda February 27, 2008

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

C08022701 – The Great River School Board Approves the January 23, 2008 meeting minutes.

C08022702 – The Great River School Board Approves the following teacher contracts: Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Peter Mullvain, and Victor Enrique Garita.

Offered by: Judy Plante

Seconded by: Michael Flood

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 08022705 Review Check Register

The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from January 1st, 2008 to January 31st, 2008.

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Judy Plante

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.