

**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  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008  
Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Kelly Rodieck, Michael Flood, Cory Olson (by phone), Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio), Mary Gantenbein, David Zdenek, Judy Plante, Candy Husemoller, Angela van der Puije, Dave Melvin, Connie Lepro, Andrea Christensen, Ben Moudry

**Board members absent:** Tom Carrigan, Nora McConnell-Johnson (Ex-Officio)

**Community Member Present:** Conner Norton, Tammy Pust

**Kelly Rodieck** convened the meeting at 6:30pm.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Consent Agenda:** On the consent agenda there is just one item: approving the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting minutes. Resolutions **C08042301** approving the Consent Agenda. Moved by Judy Plante, seconded by Michael Flood, and unanimously approved.

**3. Reports from students:**

**Conner Norton:** Solar energy: a proposal for Great River School to implement a rooftop solar energy farm. Conner presents a well thought out presentation on solar energy, the costs involved, the savings - both in terms of Monday and environmental costs. Conner will write a short proposal for Aaron to take to the strategic plan meeting next week.

**4. Reports from Standing Committees:**

**A. Finance Committee – Cory Olson**

The balance sheet is clearing up - there are some monies owed GRS from other schools, which will not be carried over to the next year.

Income Statement: we are at 75% of our year (time-wise) and we are at 71% revenue and 71% expenditures - very good! Nothing is out of the ordinary.

Expense Statement - everything is in order. Some %'s are off, but they are small enough and explained.

Cash Flow- looking good. Our predicted minimum amount for the summer is \$96,000, which means we will not need to use our line of credit. Looking at next year, it gets better.

Check Register - reviewed and approved. **Resolution 08042301**, review of the check register of checks written on GRS's behalf from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to March

31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Offered by Michael Flood, seconded by Ben Moudry, and unanimously approved.

Finance Committee (Ben Moudry, Dave Zdenek, Paula Kalinosky, Aaron Drevlow, Bree Ackerman, Cory Olson, Karen Cedars, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger) report by Aaron Drevlow. In the board packet, there is a summary of the meetings to date. Dave Zdenek created a staff survey that has helped organize priorities. May 12<sup>th</sup> - forum for staff for feedback on process and decisions. School board members are welcome. At May 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting, budget will be presented to board.

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

Aaron has been working with Tom Bailey to identify additional space. We have between \$40,000 and \$60,000 to spend with the help of lease aid. They are looking at different spaces in the neighborhood. Met with the Port Authority to find out if we have a variance to put portable classrooms out back. They have not been very responsive. The current plan is 4 rooms, but no running water. We are looking at space by CyberVillage. There is vacant space in their building.

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

The Extravaganza went well - thank you Lydia & everyone who helped! Summary of fundraising progress to date:

Expanded Curriculum- 81% participation, with \$51,450 given and \$11,540 pledged.

Annual Fund- \$21,665 for the year.

Grants- Qwest technology - will hear in April, Community Power Letter of Interest - initial proposal complete.

Great Extravaganza - Projected net: \$18,000. Will be looking at future plans.

Other projects- Target, Box tops, and Milk caps: \$1,193.

CAP Grant - Mary Gantenbein presents a collection of Art Related Goals for the next 5 years. The goal is to think big and continue infusing our program with art participation and education. Some big goals - build our own theater space for 250 seats! This would also be a place where our whole community can meet.

#### **D. Nominations Committee –Judy Plante**

Judy, Mary G, and Tom C., met to count ballots. We are please to announce that Kira Donnelley, Mark MacGregor, Dave Zdenek, Dave Melvin, Andrea Christensen - were all elected in uncontested contests. In June, Judy will present a streamlined process for uncontested elections.

#### **E. Strategic Plan – Kelly Rodieck**

Kelly led a short conversation about Mission Statements that are being considered. This will be discussed further at the next Strategic Plan meeting on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. Lydia: "I believe a mission statement should be short and distinct."

Kelly - we need to revitalize the "School Support" Committee to a Parent Involvement Committee.

There is a Personnel Committee forming, which will work with staff sustainability, grievance issues, and other personnel issues.

Staff contracts will be coming out next week and the board will be voting on contracts next month. At the Wednesday Strategic Plan Meeting, there are a number of personnel issues that may come up - such as additional positions being added to the strategic plan. This could be a big meeting with people wanting a lot of input.

One goal for this meeting is to have a consensus on the strategic plan to bring back to the board. Lengthy discussion follows about who owns the strategic plan, how are decisions made, and how are changes made. The board owns the strategic plan. The purpose of the upcoming meeting is to check on progress and make adjustments. It is proposed that there be a planning meeting to help the strategic planning meeting run smoothly. Judy Plante will organize this meeting.

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

The personnel committee is forming.

Plan for Directors development is presented.

Aaron presents a Staff Benefits overview, and strategic plan overview.

NAMTA summary: we have 6 staff members and 3 students attending the national convention, Ben, Dave and Eric will all be presenting at this convention! Ben Moudry speaks about the upcoming presentation on engaging student in governance. Dave Zdenek spoke briefly on the presentation he will do with Eric on cooperative learning. At the NAMTA conference, we will be interviewing a number candidates for open positions here at GRS.

There is a summer school for the Math being put together by a group of schools. We are sending 20 students to this school, and Dave Z. will be one of the teachers.

Next week, The Public School Montessorian will be interviewing Aaron and Ben.

Included in the Director's report is the Star Tribune article on our school - it was a great article!

#### **5. New Business:**

a) Accept the "Lottery Procedure and Policy"

Offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Judy Plante.

b) Accept the "Waiting List Policy"

Offered by Connie Lepro, seconded by Angela van der Puije.

#### **6. Adjourn at 8:40 pm**

**Note: Next Board Meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008  
Strategic Plan Meeting: Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Consent Agenda  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

**C08042301** – The Great River School Board Approves the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting minutes.

Offered by: Judy Plante

Seconded by: Michael Flood

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

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Resolution 08042301  
Review Check Register

The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Offered by Michael Flood

Seconded by Ben Moudry

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

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## Resolution 08042302

### Great River School Lottery Procedure Policy

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the practice of a fair and equitable lottery procedure at Great River School that follows all Minnesota state guidelines.

#### II. General Statement of Policy

When the number of applications exceeds the number of openings in a particular grade, we will conduct a lottery to determine those students who will be admitted or put on the waiting list. We will follow the steps outlined below to ensure this procedure is equitable to all applicants.

##### **Underlying Considerations:**

1. *Siblings* refers only to those prospective students who have siblings currently enrolled at Great River school and who will be at GRS in the academic year for which the lottery is being done.
2. Prospective students who have a sibling in the current year's 12<sup>th</sup> grade will not receive sibling preference as that student will not be at GRS during the next academic year.
3. If a student, admitted in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, has a sibling applying for a higher grade, the older sibling will automatically be admitted.
4. Twins will be treated as one application. They will be assigned the same number. If their number is pulled, the total of students accepted for that grade level would be raised.
5. Prospective students who are children of GRS Staff may not receive preferential treatment, but must be part of the lottery process.
6. If a GRS family plans to be a host family to a foreign exchange student with good academic standing, in anticipation of the benefit to our community, we will provide a place for that student in our school (see #1 above).

##### **Process to determine the number of students to be accepted**

1. The administrative team at GRS will determine the number of openings in each grade, 7 – 12, for the next school year by January 1 of the application year.
2. Names of all new applicants will be entered into a spreadsheet with information from their applications. Use a different spreadsheet for each grade. Note on the spreadsheet, which applicants have a sibling, who is also applying to GRS, in a different grade.
3. Each student will be assigned a number.
4. From the applications for each grade with openings, all applications from students who will have sibling at GRS during the 2008-2009 academic year will be pulled out and totaled for each grade. These names will be highlighted in yellow on the spreadsheet.
5. For each grade, the number of siblings in the prospective pool will be subtracted from the number of total students to be accepted.
6. Using the number from #4, the appropriate amount of 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be selected to reach the desired number of students to be accepted.

##### **Lottery Process**

1. Place metal coins marked with legible numbers equal to the number of applications for a grade into the lottery box.
2. Starting with prospective 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, draw one coin out of the box and call out the number.
3. Match that number on the enrollment spread sheet to the coin. Pull all numbers so each application receives a number. Highlight the students accepted in yellow (see #6 above)
4. After the total number of students to be accepted has been reached, write down the order of students on the waiting list according to the order in which their number is drawn.

5. Repeat this process for upper grades using the number of current GRS students moving from one grade to the next to ensure the desired number of students is reached through the combination of re-enrolling and new students.
6. Send "acceptance" letters to all prospective candidates from #7; send "waiting list" letters to the remaining candidates. Include enrollment contracts or waiting list forms as appropriate.

Once the process is completed, all the spreadsheets will be printed and all witnesses of the process will sign and date them. We will attach a copy of this policy to the spreadsheet so it is clear what happened and we were in compliance with state law.

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Judy Plante

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

## Resolution 08042303 Great River School Waiting List Policy

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the practice of a fair and equitable waiting list procedure at Great River School.

### II. General Statement of Policy

Following the lottery, those students who have not been admitted will be placed on a waiting list and within a reasonable length of time, either be admitted or notified that there will not be openings for them during the academic year for which they applied. We will follow the steps outlined below to ensure this procedure is equitable to all applicants.

#### **Underlying Considerations:**

1. The goal of our waiting list is to have a list of students from which to pull to maintain maximum grade sizes for the next academic year.
2. All students on the waiting list should know their current status at the end of each month following the lottery and through the first month of the school year for which they are applying.

#### **Waiting List Procedures**

1. All students on the waiting list will be assigned a number during the lottery procedure.
2. Letters to those students on the waiting list will be sent at the same time as acceptance letters.
3. Two weeks after the lottery, a second round of acceptance letters will go out to keep our enrollment at the desired total.
4. We will repeat this process as many times as necessary to keep our enrollment full according to pre-determined numbers.
5. At the end of each month, those students on the waiting list will be sent a postcard telling them of their new waiting list number.

Offered by Connie Lepro

Seconded by Angela van der Puije

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2008 by unanimous GRS Board vote.