

**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  
October 24, 2007  
Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Kelly Rodieck, Michael Flood, Cory Olson, Judy Plante, Aaron Drevlow (Ex-Officio), Mary Gantenbein, Ben Moudry, Tom Carrigan, Connie Lepro.

**Board members Absent:**, Candy Husemoller, Angela van der Puije.

**Community Member Present:** Eryn Dewey-Carter, Nora McConnell Johnson, Michael Syorthomski

**Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:40 pm.**

**1. Welcome. Positive happening at GRS...**

Mary reported on progress with the Art Grant. Other news: 1<sup>st</sup> official college visit from Beloit, MIT Grant made the Star Trib and the Pioneer Press, MEA Montessori gathering at GRS, Ben ordered new dining hall furniture. Tomorrow, there are 7 candidates being interviewed for a teaching assistant.

**2. Review and approve September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting minutes and consent agenda.**

**Consent Agenda:**

C07102401: Approve minutes from September 26th Board meeting

C07102402: Approve new Spanish teacher's contact for Enrique Garita.

C07102403 Add the SH & JH Student Body Presidents as an ex-officio, non-voting members of the board

It was discussed what it would take to make the SH and JH presidents full board members. This could happen at our annual board meeting, if it was so desired by our community.

Resolution **C07102401, C07102402, c07102403**, approving the September 10th, 2007 minutes. Moved by Michael Flood, seconded by Tom Carrigan, and unanimously approved.

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

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

Cory reviewed progress on the annual audit and everything is looking good. The board reviewed the monthly finance report, which also looks good. Most line items are on track. Total expenses are at 21% and revenue is at 23% for the year. We received our “catch up” lease aid payment, and it will show up on our next finance report.

Cash flow is looking strong.

Aaron Drevlow reported on our Debit Card situation. There are a few outstanding items, but most are taken care of. The discrepancy, due to missing receipts, is down to \$19.95, which is a great improvement over last month. There is much discussion on the future of the debit card and program budget tracking. The new plan, presented by Aaron, is to transition from debit cards to credit cards, with each department having their own card.

Check register is reviewed. There follows some discussion on various checks. All is in order here.

**Resolution 07102401**, review of the check register of checks written on GRS’s behalf from September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Offered by Michael Flood, seconded by Judy Plante, and unanimously approved.

That was followed by a discussion of proposed budget to accommodate the increase in our student population. Our original budget was based on a student population of 195 students. Our current student population is 212. The new budget will be based on a conservative estimate of 207 to 209 students.

Proposed changes included: \$15,000 for transportation improvements, \$25,000 for curriculum improvements, \$3,000 increased funding for IB implementation, \$14,000 for furniture and IT improvements, \$25,000 for a new TA position in the SH, \$25,000 for hiring a counselor.

This year, we made a huge developmental jump in reaching our inrollment goal and our building’s maximum capacity, We added 80 new students, and we are continuing to grow our fund balance. As we look ahead, we need to determine what is the economy of size for the Senior High. Do we go up by 10 students in the SH and if so, how does that work out for our program and budget? This is to be discussed at future meetings.

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

It is working out well for Jim G. to be working as building manager. Our heat is on - which is causing some hot spots in the building.

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

Packets were handed out for comment. There is a lot of good news! Our Expanded Curriculum Donations level is at \$60,000 - which is our best year ever! There are five major grants that have come in this month - the total grant value is \$36,850 for this month alone! The Annual Fund update will be out next week. We had our first Great Extravaganza meeting in October - momentum is building for this coming spring!

November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6pm, is the next Great Extravaganza meeting. On the agenda: exact date and venue, and subcommittee chairs. All invited!

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

Michael Syorthomski, potential board member is visiting tonight. Announcements for spring elections will be coming out during the next two months.

### **E. School Support Committee – Kelly Rodieck**

Kelly will be organizing food for the upcoming Conferences.

### **F. Legacy Committee**

Ben Moudry reported on the Legacy Committee. This is a new parent and school committee that is examining how we can improve how parents, students and staff can work better together. This is a group with some powerful positive energy working to create an environment that is welcoming and supportive to a diverse population of students. Students are welcome to join.

In the next few weeks, 2 people will be coming in to observe our school to provide feedback to our school about social dynamics and behaviors present in our school.

Next meeting of the Legacy Committee is on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, at Great River School.

### **G. Strategic Plan – Kelly Rodieck & Aaron Drevlow**

The first meeting was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are two working groups: Transportation Working Group and a Foundation Working Group, with a third group to form soon: The Building Working Group.

School Transportation Working Group's next Meeting: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm.

Foundation Working Group's next Meeting: December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Transportation report was given by Tom Carrigan. Their goal for their next meeting is to identify 3 clear options and make a decision on the best option in December after getting staff and administrative input. They are currently working to compile state and federal guidelines for student transportation. Microbus option was presented and discussed for a while.

#### **H. Student Report - Nora McConnell Johnson**

Nora, the SH student body president, presented current SH student initiatives and concerns.

There are three bills working through the SH senate: an open lunch bill, a wireless access bill, and a bill regarding students taking on leadership roles in our school -- in the kitchen, for example.

Students have expressed concern that GRS keep true to its Montessori mission during the IB implementation.

Students are excited for J-Term.

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

Much of the directors report had been covered during discussions earlier in the meeting. Aaron spoke for a while regarding the ongoing IB implementation and the upcoming Site Visit on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. This process is going well and there is a lot to do in the months ahead.

**4. New Business - none.**

**5. Adjourn at 8:55pm**

**Next board meeting is November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

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Consent Agenda  
October 24, 2007

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

**C07102401** – The GRS Board approves the September 26, 2007 meeting minutes

**C07102402** - Approve Enrique Gartia's employment letter.

**C07102403** – Approve changing Bylaw 4.2 to include SH & JH student body presidents as ex-officio non voting board members. The board welcomes Nora McConnell Johnson, Senior High student body president and the Junior High student body president to the GRS board.

Offered by: Michael Flood

Seconded by: Tom Carrigan

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

**Ex Officio:** Latin for "from the office," to describe someone who has a right because of an office held, such as being allowed to sit on a committee simply because one is president of the corporation.

**Minn. Stat. Sec. 317A.181 BYLAWS-** After the adoption of the initial bylaws and if there are members with voting rights, the board may not adopt, amend, or repeal a bylaw fixing a quorum for meetings of members, prescribing procedures for removing directors or filling vacancies in the board, or fixing the number of directors or their classifications, qualifications, or terms of office . . . .

**A bylaw changing director qualifications must be approved by the members at the annual meeting.**

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Resolution 07102401  
Review Check Register

The GRS Board has reviewed the check register listing checks written on GRS's behalf from September 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007.

Offered by Michael Flood

Seconded by Judy Plante

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

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