

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
September 10, 2007
Minutes**

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

Board members Absent: Connie Lepro.

Community Member Present: Gretchen & Dan Zbichorski, Jim Groess

Kelly Rodieck convened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions and one good thing that happened at GRS.

- 218 students enrolled and an 81% retention rate from last year.
- Hard working staff! (The hardest working staff ever!)
- Our building is looking great.
- Soccer Team JV & Varsity both are looking good this year!
- Several students are trying to return - hard in many ways yet good for our student body to realize that space is limited.

2. Consent Agenda - C07091001

Consent agenda resolution **C07091001**, approving the August 22, 2007 minutes. Moved by Tom Carrigan, seconded by Judy Plante, and unanimously approved.

3. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Finance Committee

Cory presented an abridged finance report as the SBS financial statements will not be ready until later in the month. Our current cash balance is \$228,000. The regular SBS statements will be sent out next week by email, with a summary by Cory.

B. Building Committee

In the absence of a new Building Committee chair, Jim Groess reported:

- Everything looks good
- Coming soon to the parking lot: speed bumps and signs.
- The new copier was networked today.

C. Fundraising and Development

In Connie's absence, Kelly gave an update on progress:

- Fund Raising Committee meeting 9/12
- The expanded curriculum fund is doing well. Currently, we have received \$54,425. Our goal this year is \$55,000.
 - 93 of our 190 families have committed to the trip ask.
 - Pledges total \$23,225, donations received total \$32,200.
- Milk caps have brought in \$400
- Box tops have brought in \$122
- Lemelson-MIT grant in progress - we are in the 2nd phase of applying for a \$10,000 grant.
- Grant submitted for \$3000 + to purchase new encyclopedias.
- Mary G. is facilitating our \$4,000 CAPS Grant to help develop our art program.
- Christine Stevens has agreed to coordinate for the Book Fair at Barnes & Noble again this year.
- 1st Great Extravaganza meeting will be held in October - Neal McMahon will chair this event again!
- Tours and Recruitment for next year are beginning already!
- Open Houses have been scheduled for December, January, and February.
- The student directory should be published by the 25th of September.
- We currently have 218 students enrolled.

D. Nominations Committee

Judy reported that there was no action by the nomination committee. Currently, the board has one community member, one-year term open and a parent member position open. Nominations committee is looking for options to fill these spots.

E. School Support Committee

No action to report. We are looking for a Board Chair and a Parent Co-Chair for this committee. We need to recruit a volunteer coordinator for next year.

F. Strategic Plan

Kelly and Aaron reported progress on the strategic plan. The transportation committee will be meeting in October with the goal of working through a concise cycle of setting goals, making a plan, carrying it out, and ending the work of the committee. After that, the Building Committee will form and begin work. This is a much longer process and should evolve into the Foundation Committee.

4. Director's Report

Ben Moudry presents an overview of the 10-day JH Fall Trip. The entire JH will travel to Williamsburg, VA and back. They will travel in two groups and will be stopping at Jamestown, Monticello, and Williamsburg - a mid-1700's living history museum. This is one of the greatest living history museums in the world. Our student will be there 2 ½ days, 3 nights.

Michael Flood presents an overview of the 5-day HS Fall Trips. The 9th and 10th graders will be spending a week at the Lake Country Land School while the 11th and 12th graders spend the week on a college tour.

Fieldtrip authorization forms presented for both trips and approved by the board. Resolution **07091001** to approve of both fieldtrips moved by Mary Gantenbein, seconded by Judy Plante and passed unanimously by the board.

Aaron Drevlow covered the rest of the director's report:

- Fall Trip Permissions passed
- Student Numbers update: we have 218 students currently enrolled.
- Financial implications of 218 students - how to support staff
- Pay Scale Update - a work in progress
- Blue binders - soon to arrive for board members
- Open lunch - This policy is in progress. Need parent community input.
- Dismissal - common misconception of parents about where students can and can't be after school. Students need a reason in order to be at GRS after school and they need to be with a staff member. An article is coming out in this weeks GRS newsletter to clarify this issue.
- Spanish Position Update - JP Fitzgibbons is in for September. We are posting in various places to hire a full time teacher by October.
- Staff member licensure update - looking good.
- Annual Report - this goes to Hamline (our sponsor). The current Directors report contains much of the data for the annual report. Much attention paid to the testing results. Overall, we are doing well.
- The annual report will be filed on October 1, 2007.
- Mary Donovan's Contract - this will be revisited next month.
- Jim Groess's Service Agreement: from board discussion, this is decided to be a budgetary item with no board action required.

5. New Business

Kelly is working to update all our policies and presented the board with the updated Media Contact Policy. The names have been updated to reflect board positions rather than specific people. Resolution **07091002** offered by Michael, seconded by Angela and passed unanimously by the board.

6. Adjourn at 7:50 pm

Next board meeting is October 24th, 2007.

Consent Agenda
September 10, 2007

The GRS Board approves the following Consent Agenda items:

C07091001 – Approve August 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes.

Offered by Tom Carrigan

Seconded by Judy Plante

Adopted this 10th day of August, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07091001
Authorize Fall Trips for JH and SH

The GRS Board has reviewed the trip authorization forms and trip itineraries for the SH and JH fall trips and approves these trips.

Offered by Mary Gantenbein

Seconded by Judy Plante

Adopted this 10th day of September, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.

Resolution 07091002
Updating Media Communications Policy

The GRS Board hereby resolves that the Board President is the media contact for the GRS Board. If GRS board members are contacted by the media, the GRS Board members will refer the media to the Board President.

The GRS Board hereby resolves that the School Director is the media contact for GRS staff. If GRS Staff is contacted by the media, then the GRS staff will refer the media to the School Director.

Offered by Michael Flood

Seconded by Angela van der Puije

Adopted this 10th day of September, 2007 by unanimous GRS Board vote.