

The Mission of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center
is to continuously expand the potential of children, the experiences of educators
and the involvement of parents within the diverse community of Grand Rapids.
The Vision: base all decisions on the principles of Reggio Emilia incorporating
current research on learning as well as developmentally appropriate practice.

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center Board of Directors Meeting

6:00 – 8:00 PM Monday, January 14, 2013

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center

409 Lafayette Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC: When the Chair recognizes a member of the public for oral comment, Such comment shall be for five (5) minutes or less, at the discretion of the Chair. Comments will be heard at the time the subject item is addressed to the Board, or under Item VI (Items Not on the Agenda).

Minutes

I. Call to order- 6:08

Present: Tracey Brame, Trevor Gilbert, Erin Melcher, Esther Kuipers, Sarah Cooper, Chris Hanks, Tim Glasser, Sana Amash

II. Approval of agenda- Hanks move, Glasser second, unanimous approval

III. Approval of minutes- Hanks move, Glasser second, unanimous approval

IV. Reflection- Tim: Should have running list of to-do items (old business) and have follow-up in meetings; help us gain consensus on purpose of work groups

Tracey- it would be good to have more structure; organize action items around work groups

Tim- Asana website is one possibility; or keep an action plan in dropbox

Erin- or google docs

Tracey- who will set this up? **Tim will do this—first action item**

V. Public comment- Sana: What is the purpose of the community retreats, who started them? Typically about four parents attend and the rest is staff.

Erin- They existed when I came here—have tried ways to increase participation.

Trevor- They were introduced by David Hill.

Tracey- is there a more effective way to introduce the philosophy?

Tim- do we need to continue them?

Erin- Maybe a summer event would be better.

Sarah- They have gotten away from introducing the philosophy.

[More discussion of summer retreat—invite community; make it like a festival]

Tim- which work group would address the question “how do we engage the community?”
“Is this event worth the effort?”

Chris- seems like Ed. Programs or Leadership

Action item: This will be put on the agenda for February.

- VI. Family Team- no rep.
- VII. Administrator's report
 - a. See written report
 - b. Update letter went out
 - c. UPrep/Steelcase meeting: constructive meeting, will have follow up
 - d. Fund development matrix
 - e. Revamping special ed and Rtl programming
 - f. Site plan and building prospects for early childhood—early discussions with bank and community
- VIII. Pedagogista report
 - a. See written report
 - b. Working on year long projects; documentation of studio support
 - c. Adding one reflective meeting per month, in addition to regular CP; sort of goes back to earlier way of working—take one topic for the whole meeting
 - d. Beginning to collect materials for Hive
 - e. My own professional development is moving along; focusing on adult learners, submitting article
- IX. Leadership team
 - a. Not much to add—main thing was meeting with UPrep
 - b. Proposed next steps with cabinet—will set meeting date
 - c. Action items- written report about future meetings; when we can meet with cabinet; engagement with community;
 - i. Chris- sounds like you'll be making a new case to the campaign cabinet
 - ii. Tracey- our goal is to demonstrate that we haven't fallen apart, but rather that the environment has changed and we have adapted our goals.
 - iii. Tim- it would be good to have a more modular plan, be able to identify specific pieces.
 - iv. Erin- we are taking a new approach by looking at specific projects.
- X. Finances- Tim shared summary but no new details to report.
- XI. Facilities- Chris reported that Raymond said he didn't have new information.
 - a. Tim- what about signage?
 - b. Erin- We haven't ordered a sign.
 - c. Tim- Let's put it on Facilities agenda.
- XII. Ed. Programs
 - a. Chris- GREDC is working well.
 - b. We are looking for funding priorities and opportunities
 - c. Erin- Kent 4C is an option
 - d. Trevor- what does it mean that you haven't met?

- e. Chris- We don't have clear agenda.
 - f. Tim- should this work group be suspended, or should it be focused on hearing from families about new programming?
 - g. Tracey- Let's devote the March meeting strategic planning toward establishing mission of this work group.
- XIII. To do items
- a. Tim will set up drop box.
 - b. Action items include: inviting board members to spring open house (Tracey); convening cabinet (leadership); explore signage options (facilities).
 - c. Strategic planning agenda: February: community engagement; March: educational programs mission.
- XIV. Adjourn
- a. Hanks move to adjourn, Glasser second unanimous approval (7:50)