

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 a diverse community of Grand Rapids, The Vision of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center is to 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

Date: November 11th, 2024 6:00-7:30 pm, Monday,

Posting Address: 409 Lafayette Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Location: Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center

Publication: <http://grcdc.org/>

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda item "Public Comment"

Agenda	Person	Time	Purpose
Opening			
1. Call to Order	Stephen	6:03	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: ST, TL, DM, KD, PS .2 Absent:, JB, CMK .3 Guests: LN	Stephen		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- TL 2nd-DM All-aye	Stephen		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- TL 2nd- DM All-aye	Stephen		Action
5. Public Comment on agenda items (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) No public comment		6:03	Comment
Reports from the Board			
6. President's Report - Two applications so far for open board seats. Ask for the Board to look at into their networks for someone with a finance background to recommend.	Stephen	6:13	Report
7. Executive Committee Report	Justine		Report
8. Finance Committee Report N/A	Kevin		
9. Secretary's Report N/A	Travis		

<p>10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports-</p> <p>.1 Marketing/Advertising- Travis No Update</p> <p>.2 Strategic Planning Committee- Phil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team has met to finalize the strategic plan for review tonight, thankful for Lisa, our consultants, strategic planning committee. Committee fully supports the draft version and excited to have further discussion tonight. Final version shouldn't look too different from previous versions. <p>.3 Reauthorization- NA</p> <p>.4 Evaluation/Leadership- Doug</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doug and Lisa planning to meet this week to discuss goals, which will have to be approved at the next board meeting. Reminder that we will all need to sign up for evaluation training program. Doug will send the information, but we won't need it until summer <p>.5 Policy- Travis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <p>.6 Fundraising- Doug</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have had two meetings since last full board meeting. Aligned on end of year letter, which Courtney is planning to write. Also aligned on hiring someone for development, which is on the agenda for discussion tonight. Committee feels Lisa should make final determination. Also looking to bring a measure to the board about the possibility of a foundation being created, once we have someone to help with development. Looking to set up a procedure and ability to take financial donations without additional costs, potentially with the GiveButter platform. Lisa: our accounting partner from HF could potentially help us here – Lisa can help connect and also invited Doug to next financial committee meeting. Phil: also need to determine how to transfer a sum of money from GiveButter to our back account responsibly and appropriately. Lisa: we do have a line item for donations, we just aren't using it currently. Doug: also looking into monthly giving options, asks board for any knowledge or insight into these plans. 	All	6:25	Report
Reports to the Board			
<p>11. Executive Director's Report</p> <p>Current Significant Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had a good meeting with MAPSA and a good call on 	Lisa	6:45	Report

Friday with two other independent school leaders, Sarah Brookshire from Countryside Academy in Benton Harbor and Megan Nix from Renaissance Academy in Mt. Pleasant around topic of building transitions and expansions. Good to know we are not alone in our situation and thankful for the connection.

- Ms. Mandy has been the official Kindergarten teacher since October 25th and is doing very well acclimating to the class and the class is responding to her leadership and partnership with Ms. Chloe, too
- Ms. Swartz has a student teacher (Mr. Kenney) from the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative and Ms. G has been hosting a pre-service teacher from GVSU. This is in addition to Ms. Mandy and Ms. Maranda's participation in the WMU Urban Teacher Residency

Continuous Improvement Plan:

- No new information

Committee Updates:

Finance- The Board needs a new treasurer. Budget Amendment will be shared by 2/3 and will be voted on at the 2/10 meeting.

Facilities- The team has been discussing the need for help with project management- 5 hours a week, likely. We also see a need for new classroom doors and will get a quote so we can begin looking at grants. Stephen: potential to sell the doors to an antiques dealer. Philip: worth looking at policies around this, may be regulations / prescribed process for this. Potentially a state auction website you can participate in.

Evaluation- A meeting is in the works.

Marketing and Tech-

- Nothing new from me

Safety committee (this is a parent/school based committee):

- Nothing new from me

Moving Forward:

- The draft of the strategic plan is to be discussed. After Board discussion and one more round of optional feedback from staff and families, I recommend the Board will adopt this strategic plan to guide the next 3.5 years of our work. I have worked closely with the consultants, but also with the strategic committee, of which Phil Strom is the chair, to bring forth a draft that build on our strengths and pushes our areas of growth for the future. I believe the connection, engagement, and view of the whole child and community addressed in this plan is exactly what we need at this time.

12.	Family Team Report (Quarterly)		Report
Business			
13.	Old Business (previously moved) .1 N/A	7:15	Action
14.	New Business .1 Vote on new Treasurer: appoint Courtney 1st- PS 2nd- DM All- aye .2 Discussion on adoption of strategic plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lisa: plan builds on our strengths and areas of growth for the future. We have added a new 5th goal: Learning for All. This is aligned with our continuous improvement plan and our equity plan we did last year. Added one comment today around actions steps for each content area within the learning goals, so those will be forthcoming (before final approval in december). Other than that, changes from July to now were mostly changes to the order of the action steps and language clean-up (alignment with Reggio philosophy) and trying to keep formatting/style consistent.- Plan for tonight is to align on the draft being ready for final review and feedback from the community and to have room for discussion without the need for a final final vote.- Phil: Fundraising fits into goal #1. We did not want to build in dollar amount outcomes as we		Action

are still figuring out the most responsible way to move forward to that. Goal 1B refers to increased grants and fundraising metrics. Bit of a chicken and egg situation – want to bring in a consultant to help

- Travis: what is the thought around sequencing some of these new initiatives?
 - Lisa: yes, I have a separate version of the plan with notes on when we are penciling in each action item for year 1, year 2.
 - Phil: a lot of this stuff we have already been doing, but haven't been formally collecting data on. Want to set up a dashboard to track implementation. Also notes that goals may change as conditions and resources change.

Phil: Motion to accept first reading of the strategic plan. Now comments should be submitted on or before December 2nd so that the board can take them into
1st- PS 2nd- KD All- aye

.3 Motion to authorize Lisa to contract a fundraising consultant not in excess of an agreed upon amount

- \$100/hour is a reasonable rate for a consultant to do this work. 2-3 month term potentially. Reasonable amount to start with is \$5000, which we see as an investment. Want to authorize Lisa to enter into a professional services agreement to work with a consultant and then report back to the full board.

1st- PS 2nd- KD All- aye

Closing

15. Public Comment Open(Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) N/A Comment

16. Board Comment period
 - Kevin appreciates the well thought out and well written strategic plan. Feels very confident in the direction.

17. Adjourn Stephen 6:41 Action

School Leadership:

Executive Director- Lisa Nuyens LN

Pedagogista- Sarah Cooper- SC

GRPS Liaison:

Matthew Beresford

GRCDC Board Members:

Executive Committee-

President- Stephen Tanner - ST

Vice President- Justine Burdette- JB

Treasurer- Kevin Davis- KD

Secretary- Travis LaFleur - TL

Members at Large:

Courtney Myers-Keaton- CMK

Philip Strom - PS

Douglas Meeks - DM