

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: 6:00-7:30 pm, Monday, December 13th, 2021

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

Location: Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center

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

Agenda	Person	Time	Purpose
Opening			
1. Call to Order	Abby	6:03	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: AG, AE, AS, AJ, ST, AB, TL, AF, KD .2 Absent: .3 Guests: LNH, Beth VanderMeer	Abby		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- AE 2nd- ST All- yes Vote to modify agenda to add on vote of Lisa's growth goals for the years. 1st - AE 2nd - KD All - yes	Abby		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- AG 2nd- AJ All- yes	Abby		Action
5. Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes)		6:06	Comment
Reports from the Board			
6. President's Report - Most of subcommittees have met up and started tackling goals	Abby	6:09	Report
7. Executive Committee Report .1 Anissa gave info needed to the organization we work with on policy updates - legally required updates, recommendations for public charter schools - Do this 2x a year.	Anissa		Report

<p>- only one that is not just a normal legal update - need to spell out how we deal with public comment periods that get long or contentious. Cannot cut off public comment just because it runs long - only for specific reasons(i.e. abuse/violence). Please read carefully when get updates.</p>				
8.	<p>Finance Committee Report - going over budget amendments and assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All funding sources have increased this year. - Went over all changes to initial budget assumptions. - Bottom line - overall, our projected expenditures are under projected revenues by approximately \$178,700. - The proposed decrease in expenditures over revenues for FY2022 increases the estimated fund balance from \$608,736 to \$746,996 which is 26% of local revenue (compared to 10% board minimum / 5% state minimum). 	Kevin		
9.	Secretary's Report	Amelia		
10.	<p>Ad Hoc Committee Reports</p> <p>.1 Leader Evaluation -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal to vote on Lisa's goals today - Lisa went over her 3 goals - 1) Maintain the number of applicants K-5, 2) continue transparent communication about COVID and other school related decisions, 3) Teacher satisfaction/strong culture - para's evaluated and given feedback, everyone knows who to go to with problems. - Anne and Travis both finished board member training on leader evaluation. - Amber going to training on January 18th, 2022. <p>.2 Marketing/Development - focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach to Early learning neighborhood collaborative (ELNC). - Target various neighborhood newsletters/associations - Want to target marketing to help maintain diversity - goal is to have GRCDC student body diversity reflect Grand Rapids demographics. - Open house scheduled for February. - Stephen working on new brochure - Generic mailers that can be mass ordered with school info can add a sticker for specific enrollment dates. That way can be used for multiple years. - Place to store visual/digital media that is easily accessible <p>.3 Strategic planning initial thoughts - Andrew Brower Ideas around 3 initial buckets or realms</p>	All	6:25	Report

- "Visioning" - school, location, expansion of grades, how to fund, what we want to invest in
- "Reauthorization" - what value do we want from this partner, what is the value of who we partner with currently (GRPS) vs drawbacks. Other possible partners and tradeoffs.
- "Learning Laboratory" GRCDC as teaching community for new teachers, community
- Committee has a couple upcoming meetings set up - January and March.

Reports to the Board

11. Executive Director's Report Lisa 6:45 Report

Current Significant Issues:

- New custodian started back TODAY- after having a stress fracture AND COVID. We are very thankful to Mr. Trevor, Ms. Megan, Ms. Ann and parent volunteers for aiding us during this very trying time
- Re-posted para position and Special Education position- so far no viable candidates, will keep open over break - two interviews of possible para's but "ghosted" at reference phase of the process.
- Positive response from families about our extra two days of break for COVID mitigation, and MUCH less COVID in December than November
- 5th grade application process- district decided to accept iReady which is great instead of MWA Map scores. Is a state approved benchmark test. First deadline for Theme Schools has passed.
- Preparing to submit ESSER III funding plan- had over 150 responses to the family survey for prioritizing the use of funds. Got responses from all groups - including special education and homeless foster care families.
- Additional staffing, target summer program, ventilation of school, increased teacher pay were some of top priorities.
- Cannot use ESSE funds for teacher salaries.
- Current vision to use discovery care to do target summer program (i.e. school will pay for 3 days of discovery care for kids who need summer learning help and have a education specialist there)

2. Update on Strategic Plan Implementation

Curriculum-

Sarah and I are in the midst of formal teacher observations on Domain 1-4 for all teachers. These domains are what we would call the “cornerstones” of good instruction- all the more important as we continue to adjust and account for everyone being in school full time and in person. These domains are: Organization/Rules/Procedures, Positive Relationships, Culture of Thinking and Learning and Engagement/Enjoyment. We have revised our process for the observation this time around, in collaboration with the A Team, in order to create a process where the teacher’s voice is elevated and the coaching/eval process. Our vision is to have the observations and conversations throughout the year be “formative” with an eye toward growth so that when the “summative” happens at the end of the year, we are all aligned at that point.

- Lisa and Sarah observe together
- Lisa types up script of lesson, teacher gets a copy.
- Lisa/sarah and teacher each rate teacher on domain
- Meet together to go over and resolve ratings.

So far, feedback from teachers has been positive- this is a first try at this and the A Team will continue to study and shift as necessary, with an eye towards even more staff ownership over this in the next school year (peer observations and coaching using our walk through tools for math, ELA, and SEL).

Culture

We have contracted with Opportunity Thrive to do some adult/staff culture and SEL support for the school with the commitment of continuing the work of a healthy work culture for all- increasingly important and we respond to and recover from COVID. The initial survey will be this week with the PD with the facilitator beginning on Jan 18.

We are preparing for our second “data pull” for SEL for all students- this will take place in the first 2 weeks back at school in Jan. Our goal is to see a decrease in “high risk” for internalizing behaviors of about 3% and a decrease in students identified as needing Tier 2 SEL support, schoolwide and per classroom. Overall, we are seeing a large decrease in “major” behavior referrals compared to previous years, but much more anxiety/need for connection/need for social support (making friends, being a friend, conflict resolution),etc.

Fall Family Feedback Survey (n=200)

Highlights: 99.5% of families are satisfied with their decision to send their child to GRCDC this year.

Point of Growth: 17% of families report that their child is not sharing SEL learning or strategies at home- strengthening the participation of the whole triad in SEL will be good for children.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

The city said our block is marked as “unfinished” for repairs and indicated Cass (affectionately called “Cass Canyon”) would be completed last week. It has not been. We will continue to follow up.

Same plan with masking as GRPS - mandate through end of year. Kent county mask policy is expiring in January and they are not going to reup it.

3. Direct Action Updates: None right now

4. Facilities Update

- None at this time

5. Finance Updates-

- No updates for Audit firms, no further responses. The finance committee will have to determine next steps, which may include a one year extension of our work with Plante Moran and/or a call or conversation with them to try to negotiate pricing.
- Hungerford Nickels advises us that the Plant Moran price does seem excessive for what we are asking them to do.

12.	Family Team Report (Quarterly) - No one from family team able to make meeting		Report
Business			
13.	Old Business (previously moved) .1 N/A	7:17	Action
14.	New Business .1 Fall Budget Amendment/Assumptions 1st- AE 2nd- AB All- yes		Action

.2 Fall Policy updates - already voted on fall ones, will get new ones in January
 .3 Vote on Lisa's goals -
 1st - AE 2nd - AF All - yes

Closing

15. Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) Comment
 Beth appreciates the SEL lesson for the week being highlighted in the Link Letter so can talk about it with her kid at home.
 Amber is impressed with SEL work that GRCDC is doing with students.
 Abby - glad strategic planning committee looking at GRCDC as a learning lab.
 Anne - appreciated e-mail sent out after the Oxford shooting.
 Amber - SEL learning changes cultures - brings it back to school shootings.

16. Adjourn Abby 7:26 Action

School Leadership:

Executive Director- Lisa Nuyens Heyne-

LNH

Pedagogista- Sarah Cooper- SC

GRPS Liaison:

Matthew Beresford - MB

GRCDC Board Members:

Executive Committee-

President- Abby Sutter- AS

Vice President- Anissa Eddie- AE

Treasurer- Kevin Davis- KD

Secretary- Amelia Grayson- AG

Members at Large:

Andrew Brower- AB

Anne Jbara- AJ

Stephen Tanner- ST

Amber Fox- AF

Travis LaFleur - TL