

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 pm, Monday, August 12 8th.

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
<b>Opening</b>			
1. Call to Order	Stephen	6:09	Action
2. Roll Call	Stephen		Action
3. Approval of Agenda	Stephen		Action
4. Justine, Douglas. All Yes  Approval of Minutes Courtney, Justine, All yes			
5. Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) None		6:10	Comment
<b>Business</b>			
6. President's Report, Stephen:			Action
<p><b>Stephen reads Statement for Trevor:</b></p> <p><i>Today, we celebrate Trevor Gilbert's remarkable 21 years of dedicated service and leadership at the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center (GRCDC).</i></p> <p><i>Beginning his journey as the school's janitor at the old building, Mr. Trevor's impact has grown far beyond his initial role. His unwavering commitment to the GRCDC community is evident through his constant presence at</i></p>			

*various events, including sports competitions, performances, and parties, always showing support for the children, families, and staff. His genuine care and dedication have made him an irreplaceable part of the school's fabric.*

*Mr. Trevor's compassionate nature shines brightly in his willingness to offer time and care to those in need. He has made countless hospital visits, home visits, and porch drop-bys to support families and staff during challenging times. His kindness and empathy have provided comfort and reassurance to many, demonstrating his deep commitment to the well-being of the GRCDC community. Known for his love of riddles, Mr. Trevor's playful interactions with children create a welcoming and engaging atmosphere, making him one of the first adults to greet students during morning drop-off.*

*Throughout his years of service, Trevor has been a steadfast pillar of support for students and families facing crises, whether it be a difficult day or the hardships of homelessness. He embodies servant leadership and he was an early adopter of social-emotional learning- long before it was cool, Mr. Trevor was integrating these practices into the very fabric of being a narwhal. Mr. Trevor's practice of these values as a way of life has fostered a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and supported. As we honor Trevor Gilbert today, we recognize the profound impact he has had on the lives of so many and express our deepest gratitude for his 21 years of exemplary service.*

*From all of us narwhals, we wish you all the very best in the next part of your journey. You are and will always be a part of our narwhal pod.*

**GO NARWHALS!**

### **Back to School Night Table**

- Need people for 5-7pm shift at board table:  
Doug and Justine signed up
- Need to create a sign-up sheet with name, contact info, and skills. Leave skills section open-ended but provide examples. Ask if they have previous board experience.

- Include a QR code to access the strategic plan (and email address for feedback)

#### **Board Member Recruitment**

- Open applications after strategic plan approval
- Keep application period open for 30 days
- Form a committee for interviews (Courtney and Justine volunteered, Phil "on call")
- Include information in the next Link Letter

#### **Strategic Plan Communication**

- Discussion on engagement methods and preferences
- Action item: Add strategic plan link and videos to teacher newsletters (now that they have a shared template)
- Action item: Create board member bios for website and handouts (reverse side of board meeting schedule)

#### **Board Meeting Promotion**

- Established rough order for board members to promote monthly board meetings on Facebook: reverse seniority order, but have Stephen kick it off in September.
- Include promotion information in Link Letter as well (not just Facebook)

#### **Board Meeting Schedule**

- Confirmed 2nd Monday of the month for regular meetings
- Special budget meetings: June 9th at 5:30pm for budget hearing and June 16th at 6pm to finalize budget.

#### **Board Retreat Planning**

- Discussed potential dates; tentatively planning on September 30th.
- Courtney to plan ice breaker

## 7. Committee Updates

- Finance: Kevin: No new business
- Marketing: Justine: Planning for next year, balancing with strategic plan rollout and construction communication. Planning to add section to Link Letter about Mary Free Bed construction
- Leadership: Doug Need more committee members, plan for mid-year review

## 8. Executive Director Report, Lisa

- Staffing changes and new hires
- SEL program expansion
- Flagpole repair planned
- Mold remediation and future building improvements
- Security updates (new front doors, radios, emergency management plan revisions)

## 9. Strategic Plan Approval Process

- Lisa to send out a Doodle poll for strategic planning committee meeting
- Discussion on adoption timeline and future review process

## 10. Officer Elections and Oath of Office

- Board members absent at last meeting recited the oath for the new fiscal year
- Travis elected as Secretary. Stephen to set up meeting with Amelia re: Secretary training/onboarding for Travis.
- Justine elected as Vice President

## 11. Annual Policy Book Update

- Doug asked clarifying question about sex education and parent's rights: new policy doesn't mean parents can't see instruction materials or even observe instruction in person, just that they don't have a right to the latter.
- Phil motioned to approve as presented, Justine supported, All: aye

## 12. Public Comment Policy

- General agreement that having a more formal policy for public comment periods would be good as it provides more guidance and structure.
- Also discussed adding a section at the end of meetings open-ended board member responses. Phil: I have felt unsure about when to speak as a parent, which this would help address.
- Phil to work on updating the policy to add this
- Courtney: suggested our meetings could be tightened up, with brainstorming happening in pre- or post-meeting discussions rather than the monthly meeting with everyone.

## 13. Board Retreat Topics

- Stephen: plan for broadcasting board meetings, strategic plan discussion,
- Justine & Courtney: board onboarding
- Courtney: Robert's Rules
- Marketing committee: come up with a plan on what to present...
- Doug: fundraising apparatus

## Closing

14.	Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes)	Comment
	none	
15.	Adjourn	Stephen 7:51 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- Travis LaFleur - TL  
Treasurer- Kevin Davis- KD  
Secretary-

### Members at Large:

Justine Burdette- JB  
Courtney Myers-Keaton- CMK  
Philip Strom - PS  
Douglas Meeks - DM