

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, February 10th, 2025

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	6:04	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: ST, JB, TL, KD, PS, DM .2 Absent: CMK .3 Guests: LN, SC, Andy (rep from Kennari)	Stephen		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- JB 2nd- DM All- aye	Stephen		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- DM 2nd- JB All- aye	Stephen		Action
5. Public Comment on agenda items (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes)		6:05	Comment
Reports from the Board			
6. New Business- Budget Amendment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservative projection from June, unsure of state aid at that time, which is why we do a mid-year budget amendment. Final amendment at the end of the year. - Deficit has shrunk — not yet to zero, but at a point where it's not a problem. - DM: question about increase in expenditures. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LN: some are actuals, some are projections, but are confident in the amounts. Some increases due to unpredictable things like title I expenses, special education expenses. Some are predicted, e.g. toilet replacement, which will be spent this year, but we didn't know about them in June. - Did get a music grant, which will pay for new materials and Jaquilne's salary for a year. - Significant billing issue with snowplow services, will end up paying for two years at once because of an issue on their part. - Motion to Approve: 1st: PS, 2nd JB, All - aye 			
7..	President's Report - no update	Stephen	6:15	Report
8..	Executive Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did first round interviews, continuing with formal interviews. Look for our report out and recommendations. 	Justine		Report
9..	Finance Committee Report - none	Courtney		
10..	Secretary's Report	Travis		
11..	Ad Hoc Committee Reports- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 Strategic Planning Committee- Phil .2 Fundraising- Doug <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met to review proposals, Lisa will talk to this in her report. .3 Marketing/Advertising- Travis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added US News School Ranking promo to website. Purchased license to use their logo digitally and in print. .4 Evaluation/Leadership- Doug <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No update .5 Policy- Travis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reverting to pre-2024 Title IX policy, per NCSI 	All	6:25	Report
Reports to the Board				
12..	Executive Director's Report Current Significant Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We had some intense bouts with both COVID and the flu on staff. Working on recruiting and hiring additional para subs. Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finance- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lisa: reviewed Budget Amendment 1 	Lisa	6:45	Report

- **Auditor:** I recommend, along with our partners at Hungerford Nichols, that we approve the proposal from Gabridge and Co. for the next three years. The reason for this is they come in as 5000-6000 less per year for three years than Plante Moran, representing a savings of at least 15000 over three years. HN felt that Gabridge would be able to offer a similar audit flow as Plante Moran, not requiring additional time (and charge) from them. For that reason, I think we should go with Gabridge because of our deficit and looking for places to find some savings.

- **Fundraising/Development:** In alignment with the committee, we will be contracting with Trisector Consulting for the first phase of the fundraising and development committee's work. We felt that Trisector and do good were pretty similar, but Trisector has more of a network in Grand Rapids and included travel costs in their proposal. For now, we will consider this as phase one and see how the fit is.

- **Facilities-** nothing new from me
- **Evaluation-** nothing new from me

- **Marketing and Tech-** Justine and I appeared on Shelly Irwin. The Expo went well- shout out to Stephen.
 - Requested help moving GRCDC off Facebook (beyond ads), toward a more centralized, owned comms platform. One platform like Remind + Facebook. Private way to text parents + pages for classrooms (documentation of

education). Hoping committee can recommend a few options.

- PS: early childcare recently settled on Family platform, which we could look into.
- **Safety committee** (this is a parent/school based committee):
 - We had a meeting this month and identified 3 areas for work: communicating about the committee's work and the standard response protocol to families, the door project, and finishing the rewrite of the EOP. Every member of the committee picked a project to work on and will be completing those. Kevin attended and continues to be an active Board representative on this committee.
 - Safety committee could be a good template for future committees which are less governance and more of the operations of the school, have parent involvement and a board rep, but run by Lisa.
- **Strategic Planning:**No updates-working on the actions that I listed last month.

Continuous Improvement Plan:

- Lisa and Sarah present midyear data update
 - Focus on improving attendance
 - SEL update
 - Reading
 - Math
- [Board to approve plan for the Reproductive Health and Sex Education Advisory Council](#)
 - Recommendations to the Board for Approval at GRCDC
 - Establish the Sex Education Advisory

Board as a team of **9** people from staff, families and community members, including clergy and community health professionals.

- At least half of the members will be parents who have a child attending the Academy.
 - A majority of parent members shall be individuals who are not employed by the Academy.
 - The Board will appoint two co-chairs, one of which will be a current parent of a child attending the Academy.
 - Do not recommend requiring a student member for this age group.
 - Each advisory board position is a term of three years to allow for continuity across the team, including evaluation every 2 years.
- A member selection process will include the following steps:
 - Gather candidate applications through the Link Letter, Staff Weekly communication, social media and Board Meeting notifications.
 - Candidate applications will be reviewed to fill the necessary member positions and a reasonable effort will be made to vary viewpoints within the membership. A rubric will be created.
 - Brief interviews will be conducted for open positions to affirm alignment to the Sex Education Advisory Board's roles and responsibilities.
 - Communicate with the school community to introduce the Sex Education Advisory Board members via the Link Letter, Staff Weekly communication, social media and

Board Meeting notes.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing co-chairs for the Sex Education Advisory Board to be: Sarah Cooper (staff/parent) and Kelly Moushey (4-5 teacher/non-parent). - Increased size of board, otherwise good with recommendations. - 			
13..	Family Team Report (Quarterly)		Report
Business			
14..	Old Business (previously moved) .1 N/A	7:15	Action
15..	New Business .1 Vote on the formation of a Reproductive Health and Sex Education Advisory Council 1st- JB 2nd- DM All- aye .2 Approval of audit firm 1st- PS 2nd- KD All- aye		Action
Closing			
16..	Public Comment open (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) - Appreciation from Andy (rep from Kennari)		Comment
17..	Board Comment Period - None		Comment
18..	Adjourn	Stephen	7:20 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- Courtney Myers-Keaton- CMK

Secretary- Travis LaFleur - TL

Members at Large:

Kevin Davis-KD

Philip Strom - PS

Douglas Meeks - DM