

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, July 10th, 2023

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	6:10	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: AS, AG, AJ, PS, TL, Lisa Nuyens .2 Absent: ST, KD .3 Guests: Amykay Heckman, Chris LaPorte (both parents of former GRCDC Students, both interested in the board openings)	Abby		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- PS 2nd- AJ All- aye	Abby		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- TL 2nd- AJ All- aye	Abby		Action
5. Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes)		6:11	Comment
Reports from the Board			
6. President's Report Abby thanked the board for their support during her board presidency term, ending today. Need to approve regular meeting schedule for this year Thank you for being part of committees	Abby	6:12	Report
7. Executive Committee Report Anne thanked Abby for her leadership and support over the past couple years.	Anne		Report
8. Finance Committee Report	Kevin		
9. Secretary's Report	Amelia		
10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports (need updates on leads)	All	6:16	Report

.1 Marketing/Advertising- Travis

- Productive meeting with Stephen, Travis, Lisa, Rachel about the new website.
- Stephen and Travis meeting on Friday to go over next steps.

.2 Strategic Planning Committee- Phil

- Weekly check-ins happening with consultants and Lisa.
- Lisa and Phil met with Mary Free Bed about hospital expansion across from our school - so far just an update of the timeline and forming relationships.

.3 Reauthorization- N/A

- On hold for next 2 years - just reauthorized in May for 3 years.

.4 Evaluation/Leadership- Amelia

- Evaluation signed and given to Rachel
- New contract with Lisa has been signed.

.5 Policy- Travis

- Not ready to vote on these yet
- Next steps are to send any questions to the charter school policy people.
- Sent us notes about Lisa and Travis's meeting with them.
- Policy book needs to be updated prior to next school year.
- Some updates we do today will need to be sent to them so they can update dates these were done
- Policy updates
 - Student assessment update
 - Procurement - probably will not apply to us
 - Animals on school property - specifically around a service animal, vs ES animal (accommodation for a disability). Lean on IEP team to decide accommodations - school as a whole does not need to make a decision on this. (we already have an animals in the building policy)
 - School safety - wait on this until staff all trained in the safety training decided on - then add that to policy (will not vote on this in August).
 - Accommodations for accessibility of web content, apps etc. Moving target (vote on in August)
 - Technology updates
 - Acceptable use - regarding student's use of technology.

- Acceptable use -staff use of technology - 2 factor authentication. Will need in the future (not voting on this this August). Includes AI - staff needs to use in a responsible manner (need further guide rules)
- Information security - any vendors held to the same security policies we hold ourselves to. Skyward only major web based vendor we use.
- What constitutes electronic stored information

There will be a special log-in for board to see approved and pending policies.

Would be good to have a technology committee on the board in the future.

.6 Board Liaison- A Team (Travis), Facilities (Kevin)

- Nothing to report.

Reports to the Board

11.	Executive Director's Report	Lisa	6:40	Report
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Immediate/Current Actions/updates:

- We have hired a music teacher! Jaclyn Klinger will begin building our general music education program (aligned with our philosophy and values) from the ground up this summer! Full time teaching will begin with the new school year. Students will have music 2x a week. Teacher will travel from classroom to classroom.
- Goal to have both teachers from each grade have one planning period together during the week.
- Adding music ensures that our students have full offerings of "during the school day" specials- twice a week movement, twice a week music, and half group Studio. Next steps would be to grow back our extracurriculars, find out about partnering with GRPS for sports and see if we can add any kind of language program
- We are actively interviewing Custodian/Maintenance candidates. Prioritizing school cleaning experience. Andre's last day was June 30th. Goal to have someone to start on August 1st.
- The A Team will be serving as our Equity Team (again) with the addition of Sarah Cooper. The team

has identified a travel team to attend the conferences with IU (Sarah, Lisa, Maranda, and Elly Cotton)- we will attend our first conference in August

- We did receive a proposal from J. Kloote for some custom outdoor classroom construction- this will now go to the committee for review (sana, andrew, trevor and me). Also looking at making a path through the rain garden

Philip - fundraising around the music program to help with new supplies that are needed?

Lisa - plan to build out music program over 3 years, can afford initial supplies but may need more funds to expand program as we go.

Curriculum/Academics-

We are working on the “math pilot” as discussed at the last board meeting, which will allow for differentiation in Tier 1 in the math block. Designed by teacher council, round table with paras about plan and to get input/interest since they are involved in implementation. We will start first with 3rd grade and 4th grade for this pilot. Dedicated math para will come to classes to help with tier 1 math lessons. The goal of this is to increase growth for children who are at, near, or above grade level

- We have GREAT para’s! Goal going forward is to use para’s in more intentional ways such that they can be the most effective.

SEL-

The A Team is working on professional development for all staff during opening weeks on two aspects of Tier 1 SEL: 1) recognizing and giving feedback for behavior and 2) consistent Tier 1 practices in all classrooms

5 of our teachers gave time in their summers to attend the 4 day Responsive Classroom Core training (Mark, Maryam, Kelly, Harmony, and Carley).

Finance- Audit scheduling the week of August 7. Board will get 3-mail from Plant Moran asking if we want to report anything.

Facilities- Got some estimates for new front door.

Safety- We are scheduling our needs assessment survey for September. The consultant recommended that we wait until

after the needs assessment to determine how to spend the remainder of the safety grant. They said that the state has extended by 1 year the deadline for spending the grant to 9/30/2024- Lisa working on confirming this

- Abby - Could also do fundraising around safety needs?

Evaluation-none

Strategic Planning:

Currently having weekly calls with Dawn and Libby (Sarah C. joining for ½ of these), as they build their knowledge and context for the school. Planning a site visit for September.

Phil and I had an initial meeting with MFB about their construction timeline and will determine a cadence for connection to plan for any potential impacts and opportunities. Confirmed that Cass is shared between the School and MFB - each own ½ the street. Will not start until at least April 2024. First order of business is to figure out how to do pick-up and drop off during this project.

Upcoming:

- Need board table at orientation and both expos.
- Plan for public comment cards at board meetings (Abby interested in helping with this).
- Board Orientation

12.	Family Team Report (Quarterly) Next president should touch base with Family Team. 2 new stewards will start next year (Amy and Lyanna)	Report
Business		
13.	Old Business (previously moved) .1 N/A	7:26 Action
14.	New Business .1 Renewal of Term for AJ, ST. Motion to discuss renewal of terms for Anne and Stephen. 1st - PS 2nd - AJ all - aye Open position previously held by AF (expired 6/30/23- now 6/30/26). .2 Discussion and vote on Officer positions (see separate document *Officer position voting, oath, and yearly policy voting minutes 7_10_23.pdf* for documentation of nomination and votes for each role) .3 Oath of Office for new Fiscal year	Action

(see separate document *Officer position voting, oath, and yearly policy voting minutes 7_10_23.pdf* for documentation of who said oath)

.4 Annual Policy book legal items including adoption of Regular Board meetings 2023-2024- Special 2nd June meeting date for Budget approval- 6/19/24 ?

(See separate document *Officer position voting, oath, and yearly policy voting minutes 7_10_23.pdf* for policies voted on and approved)

Closing

15.	Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes)	Comment
	<p>Amy Heckman - 4 children all alumni of GRCDC. Oldest 24yo started at GRCDC in Kindergarten. Has been involved in Family team, part of executive team at the old building, committed to and well versed in Regio Emilia principles. Background is child development, recently working in HR. Feels being on board would be a good way to give back to school community. Has submitted both resume and letter of intent.</p> <p>Chris Laporte - From a family of early childhood educators. Step-daughter went to this school for 2 years was a great experience for her. Believes this form of education leads to life-long learning. Experience as an educator, works for Aquinas as an art teacher, involved in the philanthropy community in Grand Rapids.</p> <p>Abby - will get a sub committee of board members together to interview Amy and Chris. Encourages them to continue to come to meetings.</p> <p>Lisa - Amy's experience in early childhood could be helpful. Both have good connections in the community. Both have base love for Reggio philosophy.</p>	

16.	Adjourn	Abby	7:55	Action
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School Leadership:

Executive Director- Lisa Nuyens Heyne- LNH

Pedagogista- Sarah Cooper- SC

GRPS Liaison:

Matthew Beresford

GRCDC Board Members:

Executive Committee-

President- Abby Sutter- AS

Vice President- Anne Jbara- AJ

Treasurer- Kevin Davis- KD

Secretary- Amelia Grayson- AG

Members at Large:

Stephen Tanner- ST

Amber Fox- AF

Travis LaFluer- TL

Phili Strom-

