

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, September 11th, 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	Stephen	6:05	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: AS, AG, ST, PS, AJ, KD, Lisa Nuyens (executive director) .2 Absent: TL .3 Guests: Justine Burdette, Courtney Meyers-Kegan, Doug Meeks.	Stephen		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- AS 2nd- AJ All- Aye	Stephen		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- AS 2nd- KD All- Aye	Stephen		Action
5. Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) - none		6:05	Comment
Reports from the Board			
6. President's Report - Nothing to report	Stephen	6:06	Report
7. Executive Committee Report - Nothing to report	Anne		Report
8. Finance Committee Report - Nothing to report (yet) - Audit happening now - results will likely be presented at our November meeting.	Kevin		
9. Secretary's Report - Nothing to report.	Amelia		
10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports .1 Marketing/Advertising- Travis -nothing to report	All	6:07	Report

- .2 Strategic Planning Committee- Phil
Met last Friday (9/8/23) - Lisa will report on this during her executive report
Dawn and Libby will be on campus 1st week of Oct.
Talked about topics that are priorities to incorporate in strategic planning.
Will meet with teachers, staff, families, students, board members and other interested stakeholders.
Talked about marketing to get good participation in these meetings.
- .3 Reauthorization- NA
- .4 Evaluation/Leadership- NA
- .5 Policy- Travis
 - None to report
- .6 Board Liaison- A Team (Travis), Facilities (Kevin)
 - Nothing to report

Reports to the Board

11.	Executive Director's Report Current Significant Issues:	Lisa	6:09	Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of the school year is going smoothly - we are fully staffed. Have had some COVID sickness. - Reading and Math: Diagnostic testing is happening right now. On Sept 29, we will have our data day to assign students to tiered support. The Board should expect a fall data presentation at the November meeting, as I will be out for the October meeting in Indianapolis for Part 2 of the Equity Conference. - Legislators repealed a law to report on academic data 3x a year - but Lisa plans to continue this practice. - Sarah and I are focusing our efforts on improving the Special Education systems at GRCDC- communication, documentation, and stronger services. Have 2 great staff members for special ed. Ms. Danielle and Mr. Alec. We have historically had a lack of routine and processes around special ed. so focusing on that. - Danielle will meet with each general Ed. teacher regarding how the kids who are part of special ed in their class are doing once every 6 weeks. - Some of our mental health grant money is being used to purchase curriculum from Navigate 360 (SEL curriculum). This company has partnered with the state of Michigan for MI Cares- which 			

means we will have access to the Tier 1 and staff facing resources for free and then we will pay for Tier II and Tier III resources. This is in order to continue to strengthen our SEL resources and keeping things consistent throughout the school is essential for our equity work-

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zsiNdzVJSsQparm6ElhHIZ9WMtFHGI2zM85lisa_ChY/edit?usp=sharing

<https://talesoflatortugita.weebly.com/blog/-children-with-special-rights-in-reggio-emilia-a-story-of-the-possible>

<https://navigate360.com/blog-news/sel-michigan-cares/>

Committee Work:

Finance- Audit is completed in draft form. Will likely present to the board at Nov. meeting as Lisa will be out of town in Oct. HN has had another staffing change and Molly Vincent will no longer be working with us. Tessa will be servicing us for now. Kevin and I will be setting the meeting dates for the year today.

Philip S. Question about if we have looked at other companies other than HN? Could we hire our own accountant instead? Have tried to bid this before and all bids were astronomically high compared to HN. HN is local and they give us a non-profit discount. Had a bumpy year with them but historically had been smooth. No specific policy on how often we should look for other bids for this.

Facilities- Nothing new right now- no meeting necessary.

Strategic Planning- We had a meeting with the current full committee on Friday (9/8/23). This meeting explored things related but not entirely held by the formal strategic planning process, along with an update on the process and feedback for the consultants.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/u/0/d/1gS6wSSPB YmWaSoBKDCIkPNZSY6fHZnhKqfKhi_p-Sal/edit

Evaluation- Will begin meeting after the committee for this year is determined.

Marketing and Tech- No current updates from me

Update on Strategic Plan Implementation

Dawn and Libby will be visiting GRCDC on October 3-5. They will be immersing themselves in GRCDC during the day and will have several times available to meet with families, staff, and board members. I respectfully request that each board member attend one of the possible meetings- there are 4 options:

4:30 on 10/3 or 10/4

7:00 on 10/3 or 10/4

-The committee reviewed Dawn and Libby's initially proposed focus areas and asked for some tighter focus/recalibration around:

- Clarified articulation of our financial priorities for the future with the role of fundraising outside of the traditional state funding (what is most important to our full community to focus our efforts? And what do we need and how do we know?)
- How does our Reggio inspiration connect to curriculum and systemic collaboration, including our connection with GRPS and role in the broader community? How will our plan connect emotion with an action orientation?
- What is the role of growth in our future- preschool, middle school, more classes, etc.?

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zA9sFQarAM3gyI801-5_QyDDb-rSulGI/view?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zA9sFQarAM3gyI801-5_QyDDb-rSulGI/view?usp=drive_link)

Safety committee meeting October 18th. All the same folks from last year are on the committee.

Miscellaneous discussion:

Stephen T. has some engineering/road architecture professionals he knows who are willing to help consult about road architecture during this building/construction process to give us advice.

- MFB wants to turn Cass into a 2 way street. They also have a traffic engineer working on this from their side. Street will need to be widened. Whose property does this take away from?

Lisa would like to occasionally do some celebrations about good things happening in our school at board meetings.

<p>Spotlight on a student etc. Idea came from GRPS board meeting. Will discuss more at our retreat.</p> <p>Talked about pamphlets (trifold), bookmarks, stickers, swag, etc. needed for the GRCDC table at GRPS expos. Abby OK to be in charge of this. Stephen will reorder the needed printed materials.</p>			
12.	<p>Family Team Report (Quarterly)</p> <p>Stephen - can we put family team meetings on the GRCDC google calendar? Make Google calendar easy to find on website.</p> <p>Lisa will look into it - new co-stewards for Family Team this year.</p>		Report
Business			
13.	<p>Old Business (previously moved)</p> <p>.1 N/A</p>	6:39 pm	Action
14.	<p>New Business</p> <p>.1 Authorization of 2023-2024 school calendar. 1st- PS 2nd - AS All - Aye</p> <p>.2 Advancement of 2 new board members to GRPS for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviewed 8 candidates for these positions. All of them were great. Interviewing committee is putting forth Justine Burdette and Courtney Myers-Keaton as candidates to forward on to the GRPS board to approve for service on the GRCDC board. They each introduced themselves. - Justine Burdette - Owner of a PR firm. GR resident for 10 years. Worked for the Right Place and MI Biz previously. One child at GRCDC (1st grade). Glad to be part of this community. Loves the values of the school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kevin asked if her only PR experience was with her own firm? Worked with a lot of PR firms when she worked at MI Biz - so was on the other side. - How would use her experience for GRCDC? Story creation - what media is looking for. - Courtney Myers-Keaton - Director of The Coalition to End Homelessness. Has increased staff from 1.5 to 7 people in her tenure. Increased funding in various ways.. Background in public health. Worked at Healthy Homes coalition of West MI, and Great Start Parent 		Action

coalition. Developed a manifesto on race and equity in early childhood systems. Passionate about diversity and equity. 1 kid in GRPS (GR Montessori) and one child at GRCDC. Very interested in strategic planning component.

- Kevin asked about grant writing.

Courtney states grant writing is not hard if you have experience (she does) the hardest part is finding the grants to apply to. Happy to lend these skills to GRCDC.

Vote to approve candidates:

Abby S. - moves to go to a vote to approve Justine Burdette as a new board member

Phil S. - seconds.

All - Aye

Abby S - move to vote to approve Courtney

Myers-Keaton as a new board member.

Kevin D. Seconds.

All - Aye

Closing

15.	Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) Doug - feels we have picked excellent board members. Happy Lisa is going to continue to report our academic data 3x a year. Feels it was a misstep for the legislature to overturn that law. Likes coming to board meetings to hear what is actually going on at the school. Finds it refreshing. Feels much of this is not being communicated to the parents. Likes when the board agenda is in the Link Letter. Abby - reiterated how many great candidates we had interested in the board openings. Happy we have such amazing skill sets in our community and feels we should tap into this in other ways - place on committees etc.	Comment
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16.	Adjourn	Abby	7:04	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- PS