

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 12, 2024

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

Location: Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center

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

Agenda	Person	Time	Purpose
<b>Opening</b>			
1. Call to Order	Stephen	6:05	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: ST, TL, JB, PS, DM, KD, AG .2 Absent: CMK, AS. .3 Guests: Tommy Fitzgerald, Parent. Sana Amash, Teacher.	Stephen		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- PS 2nd- KD All- aye	Stephen		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- JB 2nd- TL All- aye	Stephen		Action
5. Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) Tommy F.: Very committed to GRCDC. Had a personal reaction to strategic planning e-mail that came out a few weeks ago (about strategic planners wanting to engage communities of color and non-conforming families). Hard time with labels. Felt not included. Families here chose this school due to diversity. Believes it came from a great place but felt excluded. Would like better communication. Really loved the movie night.		6:05	Comment
<b>Reports from the Board</b>			
6. President's Report Nothing to report today	Stephen	6:14	Report
7. Executive Committee Report Nothing	Anne		Report
8. Finance Committee Report Budget amendment Overall in a great position Revenue increased - local, state, and Federal all increased Mental Health Grant - carry over from 2023 Interdistrict sources also increased Medicaid estimated reimbursement Special Ed. Millage revenue came in	Kevin		

More revenue than our original June budget.  
 Some increase in expenditures as well, mostly for staff.  
 Some increase in maintenance (including boiler), safety changes.  
 Budget positive by \$43,282  
 Fund Balance \$884,391  
 Cut it close with budget approved in June - we knew we would probably have more revenue and that proved to be true. We are required to have a balanced budget by June 30th but we do not know revenues from all sources until later than that (usually late fall).  
 No plan to do big projects until we learn more from the strategic planning process.  
 \*Budgets are available on the GRCDC website by clicking on the "transparency reporting circle" at the top right corner of the webpage.

9. Secretary's Report None	Amelia
10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports .1 Marketing/Advertising- Travis - website launched! Send any feedback to Stephen/Travis for improvements. What do we have to publish about salaries on the transparency page? Kevin will look into this. Responses from teachers on bio questions? - Lisa has not talked to them about this yet. - Will create a google doc with the questions. - Have intro videos for each teacher -not on the website yet. Want to add a few more fun things for teachers to answer. .2 Strategic Planning Committee- Philip No major updates. Interested in feedback from families about the outreach Consultants led the way in reaching out to families. Will share feedback with the full committee. Should get a first draft of the strategic plan and hope that will align with what families want. Will be interesting to see what the family engagement has produced. Lisa - we usually do a spring survey of all families and will do that again this year. Did not do it last year because were doing strategic planning listening groups and did not want families to get fatigued. .3 Reauthorization- Abby .4 Evaluation/Leadership- Amelia - Plan to move closed session for initial rating of Lisa to after May meeting. Give better feedback to Lisa after June meeting.	All 6:25 Report

.5 Policy- Travis

- Policies we voted on last time have been submitted.

Reports to the Board

11. Executive Director's Report

Lisa

6:38

Report

**Current updates and issues:**

- Music program continues to grow! Ukuleles and recorders have begun. Jacklyn has been a dream hire! Building this program from scratch.
- Enrollment application updates for 2024-2025: We won't know the spots for 1st - 5th until the end of the enrollment period. We have 85 apps for Kinder with 32 of those being siblings, 18 apps for 1st, 6 apps for 2nd, 2 apps for 3rd, 6 apps for 4th and 1 app for 5th. Anticipate being fully enrolled next year.
- Lisa has been thinking about her own vision for this school. Always feels bad about the number of students we have to turn away at kindergarten. Could add an extra class each year starting in kindergarten (no space in this building) and moving up to 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. as that class moves up.
- Does Grand Rapids shift in approach this year to their recruitment change what we do? Do we want to do something different next year for recruitment and enrollment in our timeline (more than one round, later date to get application in?). Lisa, Rachel, and Stephen will talk about this more.
- Doug thinks we should move our application timeline back to give people more time.
- Lisa - we have to hold an open lottery and we have to prioritize siblings. Other than that have some room to move things time wise. Do not need board approval for this. Michigan has some strict rules when it comes to lotteries and charter schools that we need to follow.
- Is there a training for charter school boards we can do?
- How to retain diversity in our school?

**Continuous Improvement Plan:**

- The 4 advisory councils have begun meeting in Jan this year (equity, reading, math, SEL and district processes). Each council is looking at their goals through the lens of "adaptive vs. technical changes"- more on that below.
- The purpose of moving the Advisory Councils and away

from the TC/A Team was to increase the capacity of our current staff to do the work that we were sometimes missing or that was taking a very long time. We are using existing staff and time in a new way. This has been working well so far and staff feedback has been good.

Have a document so all staff can see what other advisory committees are working on each month.

### **Committee Updates:**

**Finance-** Amendment to be voted on tonight

**Facilities-** No new changes or updates at this time

**Evaluation-** We had a meeting on Friday and did a run through of where I am with this year's goals. We talked through a mid-year checkpoint and also is slightly altering the timing of how my final evaluation is handled.

Looking at a "cycle of feedback" where evaluation from one year dovetails into goals for the next year.

Lisa is meeting a lot of her goals and is aware of places she needs to move forward and has plans to do so:

I have communicated monthly "Dialogue with the Director" dates for the remainder of the year.

- February 2/28 from 8:30-9:15am
- March 3/4 (in person, 6-7:30pm) and 3/7(virtual, 7-8:30pm) for the Community Safety Conversation
- April 4/11 after community meeting 8:45-9:30am
- May 5/20 from 6 to 7pm

**Marketing and Tech-** Marketing supported in the Expo and launched the new website

**Safety committee (this is a parent/school based committee, not a board committee):** We set our dates as a committee for our community conversations where we will share the results of our [needs assessment](#), share our priorities as a committee and lead some small group discussions around: designing our approach to anti-bullying education, first responders' role in drills/school community, parent complaint process/mediation

- Also Equity strategic planning process going on with Indiana University partnership. Looking at disproportionality in reading/math scores around

various subgroups - racial, free and reduced lunch etc. Gaps have stayed the same (many other districts gaps have widened) even though we have had a lot of growth.

Adaptive vs. technical challenges.

**Moving Forward:**

Next Open House for new families: March 12 from 5:00-6:30pm- the Board is invited! Decided not a good use of time to have a table for the board. But board should attend and take a tour - especially the marketing committee.

Meetings that Board Reps could visit to celebrate the work of the staff: 3/5 at 3:15 (full staff CP-opp thrive) or 3/26 at 3:15 (all staff portfolio day prep).

Board has a survey from Dawn and Libby we each need to take.

Philip - as we get further in the strategic plan and get to these big decisions we may need to schedule some special board meetings to discuss these specifically.

Lisa had a document from Plante Moran about how many spaces we would need if we added a class each year and what schools are opening up and how many classrooms they have etc.

Stephen - can help with noise dampening if music class is too loud for Lisa or Sarah in their office.

Speaker at movie night was good.

12.	Family Team Report (Quarterly)		Report
Business			
13.	Old Business (previously moved) .1 N/A	7:14	Action
14.	New Business .1 Vote on Budget Amendment 1st- KD 2nd- PS All- aye		Action
Closing			
15.	Public Comment (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) Tommy - have we thought about fundraisers for foundations for whatever we need? Tommy is "more than happy" to help with this. Sana - school is growing. Wondering about evaluations for the other adults/staff that are not teachers or Lisa. Feels no		Comment

way to give feedback for paras, other staff. Used to have this and do not anymore.

16.	Adjourn	Abby	7:19	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- Amelia Grayson- AG

**Members at Large:**

Abby Sutter - AS

Justine Burdette- JB

Courtney Myers-Keaton- CMK

Philip Strom - PS