

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: April 14th, 2025 6:00-7:30 pm, Monday,

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	6:02	Action
2. Roll Call .1 Present: ST, JB, TL, KD, PS, DM, CMK .2 Absent: .3 Guests: LN	Stephen		Action
3. Approval of Agenda 1st- JB 2nd- CMK All- aye	Stephen		Action
4. Approval of Minutes 1st- JB 2nd-KD All-aye	Stephen		Action
5. Public Comment on agenda items (Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes)		6:02	Comment
Reports from the Board			
6. Ad Hoc Committee Reports- .1 Marketing/Advertising- Justine - Nothing to report .2 Strategic Planning Committee- Phil - Nothing to report .3 Reauthorization- NA .4 Evaluation/Leadership- Doug	All	6:03	Report

- Need to do a refresher on our training. Doug has a couple potential dates. April 16, 17, 21, 28, or 30th.
  - Wants at least three in a session, but would prefer to do it all together (they are doing a special session for us). 5:30–8:30, but probably will be only 2 hours with the smaller group.
  - \$150 / per person. Legally required to do training every 3 years.
  - Refresher on existing training, focused on the new rating scale (3 down from 4).
  - Potential for just the eval committee to get retrained and then the board accepts their recommendation
  - Planning on April 21st. Doug to send out next steps.
- .5 Policy- Travis
- Big update to consider next, but unsure how much will actually impact us. Will be meeting with NCSI in early May to get the details
- .6 Fundraising- Courtney
- No update

#### Reports to the Board

##### 7. [Executive Director's Report](#)

Lisa

6:55

Report

#### **Current Significant Issues:**

Staff Intent to return form has been issued- right now, we currently have 38 staff employed by GRCDC, including building sub Liz and temporary para, Amy B. So, far 27 individuals have indicated their intent to return- the others have not yet filled out the survey

#### **Continuous Improvement Plan:**

We had our Data Day for the 3rd cycle on the day before spring break

Headlines: we are seeing measurable data supporting the continuation of the Math Pilot, racial disproportionality is improving in all measures

We will present the data at the May Board meeting

#### **Committee Updates:**

##### **Finance-**

- We need to clarify/solidify all budget posting and approval dates and post those publicly

- Discussed always including the previous month's financials in the board report for that month. Our up to date financial reports can also always be found in our compliance folder for GRPS [FOUND HERE](#).
- Committee discussed asking the board for a statement for next year in terms of what the commitment is regardless of federal funds- Courtney will discuss further
  - Courtney: committee was aligned on supporting this, want to make sure the board is aligned.
  - Lisa / Courtney: Also recommend putting out public statement affirming our support for our core values / DEI while still following the law and civil rights legislation, in light of federal funding uncertainty.
  - Doug: I feel like we are in compliance...
  - Lisa: we are being asked to sign a memo re-affirming our compliance with Title VI
    - Lisa: recommend reading the memo as well as Dr. Michael Rice's response
  - Phil: should we put together a policy that guides the board on putting out public comments / taking public positions on. What is the board's role, what does the decision tree look like?
- Don't need to vote to put out a statement that says we are committed to the values of GRCDC and refer people to the strategic plan.
- Doug: concerned about fiduciary responsibility of the board making blanket statements that we will make up the gap in funding. Preference for pointing to our strategic plan.
- Lisa: not asking for a commitment/decision right now, but for the board to be informed and educated and take an active voice in these issues.
- Justine: I can draft a letter for Lisa to use with staff and another version for the Link

Letter. Also recommend planning some feedback/listening sessions for families/parents to ask questions.

**Fundraising/Development:** Jill updated her contract and is getting to work, started needs assessment, ongoing contact with Lisa

**Facilities-**

- Pods: Justine connected me with one of her contacts who connected us with 2 possible contractors for pods. We went with one who is local in Flint and will be installing the pod on April 21. They worked with us as a non profit to access some gently used materials and were able to bring the cost down by about 17%- the total cost coming in just over 10000 with delivery and installation.
- Bathrooms: New toilets were installed in the main floor boys bathroom over spring break. After having the drains snaked and a camera put through we were able to discover that drainage is not the actual problem with some of the smells from the bathrooms and that the toilets, being as old as they were, may not have been flushing as forcefully as needed.

**Evaluation-**

I will have my draft ready for the Board to review at the May meeting, schedule for a follow up convo with Stephen and Doug, and then the final for the June meeting.

**Marketing and Tech-** We have reached out to the three companies suggested by the committee to schedule demos. Also Remind was bought and may have additional capabilities coming, so we will be looking at them as well.

**Safety committee (this is a parent/school based committee):**

-Nothing new at this time

### Strategic Planning Update:

Update of the work plan for the Strategic Plan- the Advisory Councils have identified their action steps/what they own and given input to the work flow between year 1 and year 3. Spreadsheet to be updated. Getting very close to having year 1 tasks all mapped out with ownership of tasks.

8.	Family Team Report (Quarterly)	Report
Business		
9.	Old Business (previously moved) .1 N/A	7:15
10.	New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Guidelines Amendment: Expansion of board total from 9 to 11 seats.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Justine: Current policy is “max of” – we don’t need to have every seat filled.</li><li>- Courtney: how do we know when we have the right number of seats, which could be an argument for having a specific number.</li><li>- Stephen: historically, we have had trouble filling seats and now we have a good number of high quality candidates</li><li>- Phil: currently max of 9, no less than 3.</li><li>- Phil: big boards are not necessarily good boards.</li><li>- Douglas: there is also recommended guidance on qualifications (e.g. having educational experience, including a non-parent)</li><li>- Justine: there’s a lot of work in front of us with the strategic plan implementation and we need more hands</li><li>- Douglas: we can’t have a majority of the board on each committee (open meetings act). Executive committee cannot meet in full right now given our total size. Benefit in a larger board is having more active committees.</li></ul></li></ul>	7:15 Both Motions Passed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Courtney: motion to expand number of seats to “up to 11” with additional statement to the effect of: the board shall attempt to have the board fully seated. Doug: 2nd. All aye</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Open Board Seats: Vote on Tiffany Falcon-Ewgleben, Jennifer Tanis, Samantha Taylor, Jevon Willis               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Douglas: motion to vote on approving the slate above as a group. 2nd: JB all. Aye</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
Closing			
11.	Public Comment Open(Please limit comments to 3-5 minutes) N/A	7:06	Comment
12.	Board Comment period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kevin appreciates the great candidates we are bringing in.</li> </ul>		
13.	Adjourn	Stephen 7:07	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 Dais - KD

Philip Strom - PS

Douglas Meeks - DM