

River Grove
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2023 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order: Chair Bruns called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

1.1 Roll Call: Board members present: Katie Bruns, Eric Olsen, Lisa Dochniak, Angie Hong, Breena Slivik. Also in attendance: Sarah Godsave and Drew Goodson.

Our mission is to utilize the natural resources, history, arts, and civic stewardship of the community as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, art, and other curriculum subjects. The place-based learning environment will be student centered, designed by teachers, and reinforced and supported by the local community.

Conflict of interest: Bruns asked board members to verbally affirm that they have no conflict of interest with the topics on the agenda. All members affirmed no conflict of interest.

2.0 Approve Agenda Motion to approve the agenda by Slivik. Second by Olsen. All in favor. Agenda approved.

3.0 Approve Minutes: July 2023 Board Minutes Motion to approve the agenda by Slivik. Second by Dochniak. All in favor. Minutes approved.

4.0 Community Discussion

4.1 River Grove Community Updates

4.1.1 Authorizer Comments: The Minnesota Guild was not in attendance. Goodson spoke with Jim Zacchini this week and he expressed his support for River Grove in this time of transition.

4.2 Community Comments: A new parent attended. His daughter will be joining River Grove this year for 5th grade.

5.0 Finance Reports & Actions

5.1 Financial Service Provider update: At the last meeting, the board approved a change from EdVision to Bergen. Bergen is now called Creative Planning. Goodson is meeting with the financial advisory team this week. We do not have a financial report from July due to the transition. The official transition will happen on September 1.

By the end of the month Goodson will be working with Creative Planning to submit an application for new employee retention credit. All schools but one that have applied received the credit. The funding, if approved, will come in the spring.

6.0 Admin Report

6.1 Building Update: Things are moving fast. They have begun landscaping. The plan is to begin the school year with field visits while the weather is nice.

There may be a need for the board to adjust the school calendar to add an extra day or two off in September/October to provide time for staff to move into the building once it is complete.

Dochniak noted that River Grove should find a different name for the afterschool program so people don't confuse it with the school district's program.

6.2 Enrollment Update: River Grove is currently looking at having 140-150 students for the 2023-34 school year. The budget committee will review the budget in October once we have a better understanding of transition costs and total number of students to determine if adjustments are needed.

River Grove sent out an email yesterday and got a number of emails back from parents who expressed their support for River Grove and excitement for the coming year.

The school is planning for two sections of K and 1st, one section of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

6.2.1 Marketing Update: Ele Anderson has led numerous marketing initiatives this coming year.

6.3 Staffing Update: Sarah Misner was hired on as a school counselor, with new grant funding. Mr. Sal will be leading an after-school adventure club. We have three bus drivers for the coming year, which will be enough to accommodate all families in the coming year.

6.4 Academic Planning for SY24: The academic team has been meeting since June to plan field days and curriculum. The first in-service day for teaching staff was today. Wild Rivers Conservancy and Jeffers Foundation are both leading teacher training.

7.0 PTO Report: Steph Leonard is out of town and was not able to provide a report. There will be a back-to-school event and Open House at Pioneer Park tomorrow night.

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Board Director Eval Review: Board members met on Thursday, Aug. 17 to review the past year and discuss current and short term challenges, opportunities, and goals. The group also discussed the need to define job roles with new administrative positions. The board amended Goodson's current contract to define his job based on goals vs hours and to allow for remote and/or off-site work during the 23-24 school year.

Bruns expressed her appreciation for Goodson's work to lead River Grove over the past seven years.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Board Appointment:

- Greg Beaumont resigned from the board because his family is moving their son into a school closer to their home. He wishes River Grove the best as it continues to grow.
- Bruns nominated Sarah Godsave to join the board to fill the vacant position. Hong seconded the nomination. All in favor. Motion approved. Godsave moved to Marine two years ago so that their kids could attend River Grove. She is the veterans' services coordinator at Century College. They have kids in 2nd and 5th grades. She has a Masters in Education.
- Annie Beck's term ended on June 30 and she has chosen not to seek re-election.
- The school will be holding elections in October. River Grove board needs to have at least one parent, one teacher, and one community member but none of those categories (parent, teacher, community member) can comprise a majority. So, the board will be seeking nominations for a community member or teacher to run for election in October.

9.2 Board Election Timeline

9.3 Revisit Board Calendar: The next two board meetings will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14 and Thursday, Oct. 12. Bruns expressed her appreciation to Surf Yogurt Shop and the Stillwater Co-Work office for providing meeting space for River Grove so frequently this summer.

10.0 Next Board of Directors Meeting (s): Thursday, Sept. 14 at 5pm. Location TBD.

10.1 Regular Board Meeting: Bruns will send out an email to find a best time/day for the regular board meetings moving forward. She will also ask about availability for special meetings in the coming months when issues related to the move might need approval.

11.0 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.