

River Grove Elementary  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, February 29, 2023

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:01pm by Board Chair Katie Bruns.

1.1 Roll Call In attendance: Eric Olsen, Breena Slivik, Sarah Godsave, Katie Bruns, Lisa Dochniak, Angie Hong. Madison Boesel was absent. Also in attendance Jessica Hansen and Drew Goodson.

1.2 Mission Statement

*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.*

1.3 Conflict of Interest Statement

Please state now if **any members disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts.**

- Slivik noted that she is a parent and that the board will be discussing class sizes, which will affect her child. The board and Director Goodson acknowledged that there are several parents on the board and that the board always considers class sizes every year. Parent and teacher board members will both have a vested interest in the class size conversations.

2.0 Approve Agenda - Dochniak motioned to approve the agenda. Olsen seconded. Agenda approved.

3.0 Approve Minutes

3.1 January 2023 Minutes Approval - Motion to approve the minutes by Godsave. Second by Slivik. Minutes approved.

4.0 Community Discussion

4.1 River Grove Community Updates

4.1.1 Authorizer Comments - Jim Zacchini spoke with administrative staff earlier this week and expressed his excitement about River Grove's recent move to the Manitou Fund Education and Arts Center (MFEAC).

4.2 Community Comments - None

5.0 Finance Report

5.1 December 2023 Financial Packet: Goodson noted that the State is rectifying our 2023-24 payments due to less than anticipated enrollment. There was also a mix-up where the state paid us for a different charter school's enrollment. That has been corrected. Cash flow is currently good. We received a rural school grant. Finances will be tough due to the property change and enrollment loss this year but the board has discussed solutions and expect to be ok. We are still waiting to learn if we'll get ERC funding. It would be \$375K.

Motion to approve December 2023 Financial report by Olsen. Second by Dochniak. All in favor. Motion approved.

#### 6.0 PTO Report - Nik Ondracek

- Feb. 22 River Grove Night Out was a great success. Picking up the checks tomorrow.
- Chipotle Give Back Night will be next week.
- \$4050 raised so far for the Get Outside Challenge. Goal is \$5000 with a fundraising deadline of tomorrow at midnight.
- April Martell will be joining Steph Leonard as PTO co-chair with a goal of her becoming chair in 2024-25.

#### 7.0 Director's Report - Goodson

7.1 Enrollment/Update - 117 students currently enrolled. Our ADM is 119.

Current Enrollment:

- K:20
- 1:20
- 2:24
- 3:16
- 4:17
- 5:20

We have 75 pre-enrollment applications for new students for next year.

- K:40
- 1:7
- 2:11
- 3:6
- 4:8
- 5:3
- Total 75
- Current students will be automatically re-enrolled for next year unless they choose to leave. Traditionally, in "normal years" the school has had a 96% retention rate in grades K-4 and a 68% acceptance rate on new student applications.
- The school officially started at the MFEAC on Wednesday, Feb. 21.
- Shout out to teachers for their flexibility in changing locations several times this year. There will be a professional development day on March 8 for the staff and teachers to catch up and plan outdoor learning connections for the spring at our new location.
- Parents have been very good about following traffic patterns correctly. The busses are working well too.
- Katie Bruns will be leading 3rd-5th grade kids in a ski trip at Afton Alps tomorrow.

#### 8.0 Academic Update - Hansen

- Testing has been happening during the last couple of days. Since moving into the Stillwater building, kids have been exploring the new neighborhood and have already

walked to Pioneer Park and across the bridge to Wisconsin. They are also discussing future opportunities to connect with downtown businesses.

- Everything has been going well at the new space.

## 9.0 Old Business

9.1 2023-24 School Calendar - The board voted to officially change the school calendar to make Feb. 20 a non-instruction teacher in-service day. Motion by Slivik. Second by Godsave.

9.2 FY 23 Audit - Motion by Olsen to approve the audit. Second by Dochniak. All in favor. Motion approved.

9.3 Curriculum Committee Update - the curriculum committee wasn't able to meet but will talk during the March 8 professional development day

9.4 Development Committee Update - Godsave and Hong met on Feb. 7 to discuss ideas. Godsave development a comprehensive plan and calendar for different types of fundraising activities. Would like to kick-off the development campaign with a spring fling type of event. Also plan to coordinate with PTO on fundraising, in terms of which activities will be board-led vs PTO-led.

## 10.0 New Business

### 10.1 Planning for 2024/25

10.1.1 Calendar - Goodson presented the board with a draft calendar to consider. Stillwater District 834 School board voted to change start times in the coming year. River Grove will continue to have school start at 8:30am. First Day of school next year would be Tue., Sept. 3. Christmas Break would be Dec. 23 - Jan. 3. Spring break, March 21 - 28. Plus additional days off for teacher in-service and holidays. Last day of school, Friday, May 30. 163 total school days. No early release days.

- The board made some recommended changes to teacher in-service days. Feb. 18 added as a day off. April 18-21 as conference days.
- Slivik motion to approve calendar as amended. Second by Dochniak. All in favor. Calendar approved.

10.1.2 Class Sizes - Goodson shared a memo with information about current and prospective enrollment for 2024-25. He also shared his recommendations for class size caps:

- Kindergarten up to 40 (2 sections)
- 1st Grade up to 40 (2 sections)
- 2nd Grade up to 40 ( 2 sections)
- 3rd Grade up to 20 ( 1 section) - \*Note there are currently 24 kids in 2nd grade that will be moving up to 3rd. All will be able to stay, but there will be no "backfill" above 20 if any choose to leave.
- 4th grade up to 20
- 5th grade up to 20

Overall student capacity of 180 students

River Grove plans to return to the Forest during the 24-25 school year, but the timeline is TBD. Deferred maintenance and upgrades are currently underway at the forest campus. New septic systems were already installed ,plus new security and gates. More planned. The MFEAC is available for the school to use in the

fall, if needed, until it moves back into the forest. This limits enrollment capacity for next year. The proposed class sizes will allow the school to build a strong base of students in grades K-2 and navigate classroom capacities for potential use at the MFEAC. It will also help standardize future growth and spaces. Once back in the forest, our enrollment can grow as large as 225, per our May Twp. CUP.

Class sizes at River Grove will continue to be substantially smaller than in the Stillwater 834 District, which is considered an asset to most families.

Motion by Hong to approve the recommended class size caps, with the clarity added that all current students will be allowed to return for the coming year.  
Second by Dochniak. All in favor. Motion approved.

11.0 Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thu., March 21st at 5pm.

12.0 Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.