

# Greenwood School

## Notes of the Board of Directors

February 11, 2009

Attendance: Frank Anderson, Brian Chadbourne, Scott Hamilton, Colleen Kane-Dacri, Merel Kennedy, Danica Remy, Peggy Rock, Patricia Rudd, Robert Schiappacasse, Carl Spitzer, Marcy Summers, Cynthia Ulman

Guests: Dan Fost and George Veh, representing the Parent Circle  
Patty Wrench, Business Manager

### 1. Minutes

Minutes of January 14 meeting were previously approved electronically and posted. Approval for January 27 conference call minutes was completed, and they will now be posted.

### 2. Announcements

At Scott's request the Board accepted his request to no longer recuse himself from discussions regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> grade parent situation.

### 3. Parent Circle

George Veh and Dan Fost presented background about the formation and purpose of the Parent Circle, which held its first meeting and a successful folkdance/potluck last week. While the focus is on building community, creating educational content for parents, and surfacing and nurturing good ideas from the parents, meetings can also create a regular forum for parent dialog with Robert, the Board, and the faculty. Now that the Parent Circle is formed, George Veh will step out of the chair role, and a new chair will be named. Monthly meetings will be reported in the Update. The Board expressed appreciation for the organizing efforts that created the Parent Circle to fulfill this very important role at Greenwood.

### 4. Board Study

The Board continued its study of Creativity in Education: The Waldorf Approach (Rene M. Querido). Discussion points included:

- Relationship of the article to Dennis Klocek's talk about the evolution of human relationship to nature over the ages – from being one with nature (hunter/gatherer) to being married to nature (agrarian) to being a steward of nature (creator). This connects to Greenwood's commitment to changing children's relationship with nature through direct experiences and development of increased consciousness and connection.
- Board members' sense that cultivating wonder and gratitude is an important aim of Greenwood's education and is modeled by the faculty. Wonder and gratitude are part

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of developing the child's sense of the impact of their actions in the world, foster connection with natural forces, play an important role in developing critical thinking, and contrast with the mainstream emphasis on judgment exemplified in early grading.

- Observations of how wonder and gratitude create a foundation and evolve in the development of the children from kindergarten through adolescence.
- Wonder and gratitude are related to a view that genius and creativity are inspirations versus inherent characteristics that a child can possess and consistently demonstrate. This view and the Waldorf teaching approach opens children to love learning for its own sake and welcome creative inspiration when it comes to them.

Board study will continue with this article, focusing on the discussion of responsibility.

### **5. Finance Committee Report**

\$119,667 currently received on Giving Tree.

Scott and Patty reviewed financial results through second quarter of 2008 – 2009 fiscal year. They discussed areas of variance between budget and actual expenses, areas of projected cost savings, and the expectations for the remainder of the year.

Scot presented the Finance Committee's tuition increase proposal for 2009 – 2010. The Board discussed goals of supporting program quality, increasing school enrollment, maintaining equity among classes, and raising tuition in a difficult economy. Tuition assistance will play an important role in enrollment and may need to be increased as a percentage of revenue.

**CONCORDANT DECISION** – Approved increasing tuition for Kindergarten and every grade level by 6.67%.

### **6. Director's Report**

During February vacation the Director and several teachers will attend the Waldorf conference at Rudolph Steiner College.

Ana Bravo has returned as Spanish teacher for the 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades. A singing teacher is being sought for grades 1-3 pending hiring a lower-grades Spanish teacher.

Middle School Committee of the faculty is reviewing Greenwood's program and structure to make recommendations for future development.

The marketing task force led by Jen Jerde and Susan Gladwyn is interviewing faculty, current parents, and families who applied but chose not to come to Greenwood to identify perceptions and messages about the school. Interviews should be complete this week.

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The Director provided an update on the task force's work and his actions regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> grade situation.

### **7. Site Committee Report**

Brian reported that the committee has identified 2 options to create additional classroom space within the building and will report further progress at the next meeting.

Carl Spitzer has joined the committee.

### **8. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee has been meeting on a regular basis on Wednesdays with Robert.

### **9. Governance Committee Report**

Work is on hold for the moment.

### **10. Development Committee Report**

Patricia reported that 5 members now serve on this committee. All Greenwood families have been approached and 99+% have donated to Giving Tree. Results to date total \$119,667.

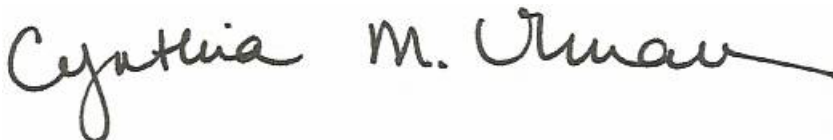
Major focus moving forward is:

- Business Partners program.
- Auction planning and preparation.
- Long-term cultivation of a major donor group.

### **11. Executive Session**

The Director was excused and the Board went into executive session to review its 90-day evaluation of the Director and to consider his proposed goals for the remainder of the school year.

Submitted by



Cynthia Ulman  
Board Secretary