

APPROVED



# Explorations Charter School

## Minutes

### Governing Board Regular Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Tuesday March 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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#### **Directors Present**

Ginni Block (remote), Hilary Paden (remote), Kristin Peterson (remote), Lori Noto (remote), Sarah Annis Haynes (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

Bill Hallam, Melony Brady-Shanley, Robert Peterson

#### **Guests Present**

Jill Johnson (remote), Joe White (remote), Susan O'Rourke (remote)

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### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Record Attendance**

#### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Sarah Annis Haynes called a meeting of the board of directors of Explorations Charter School to order on Tuesday Mar 19, 2024 at 5:37 PM.

#### **C. Approve Minutes - 2/20/2024 Regular Board Meeting**

Ginni Block made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 02-20-24.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Kristin Peterson	Absent
Lori Noto	Aye
Bill Hallam	Absent
Sarah Annis Haynes	Aye
Melony Brady-Shanley	Absent
Hilary Paden	Aye
Ginni Block	Aye
Robert Peterson	Absent

**II. Financial**

**A. Monthly Report**

Discussion held. 8 months into the school year. 67% of the budget used.

Lori Noto made a motion to Approve the monthly financial report.

Ginni Block seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Ginni Block	Aye
Melony Brady-Shanley	Absent
Robert Peterson	Absent
Lori Noto	Aye
Bill Hallam	Absent
Hilary Paden	Aye
Kristin Peterson	Aye
Sarah Annis Haynes	Aye

**III. Committee Updates**

**A. Finance Committee**

No update

**B. CEO Support & Evaluation**

Evaluations went out to the Board, staff, student and parents. Gave 3 weeks for them to complete. Board and staff evaluations were sent out on Board on track.

**C. Personnel Committee**

Employee Handbook was sent to the administration for review. Sarah will send to the Board for review. Sarah to send Grievance Policy to Joe and Ginni to review/update.

**D.**

## **Policy Committee**

No update

## **E. By-Law Revision**

Bylaws were sent to Bob and Kris as well as some examples. Committee needs to meet.

## **IV. School News**

### **A. Attendance/Chronic Absenteeism**

February:

CA (ytd) = 45.9% (was 51.7% last year)

Avg Daily Attendance = 87.08% (up from 86.22% last year)

Grade Level - Avg. Daily Attendance / CA

9th - 82.81% / 58.8%

10th - 90.99 / 34.8%

11th - 85.94% / 42.9%

12th - 87.85% / 46.7%

Discussion held. Causes of school avoidance: Anxiety, School Avoidance and Illness.

### **B. General Updates**

Student Enrollment: Currently 83 students. There is an Enrollment Committee meeting weekly on Fridays. Jill be on on the local radio station on April 8th to publicize Explorations School and that they are accepting applications for next year. Currently have 16 applications for next year.

## **V. Other Business**

### **A. Flooding Emergency Update**

Insurance money is slowly coming in. All the walls have been painted. Traps have been removed. Concrete poured. Dumpster delivered.

### **B. Healthy Food Certification**

Ginni Block made a motion to approve the following Healthy Food Certification Motion #1. Lori Noto seconded the motion.

Motion that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, Explorations Governing Council certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State

Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Ginni Block	Aye
Lori Noto	Aye
Sarah Annis Haynes	Aye
Hilary Paden	Aye
Kristin Peterson	Aye
Melony Brady-Shanley	Absent
Robert Peterson	Absent
Bill Hallam	Absent

Ginni Block made a motion to approve below Healthy Food Certification Motion #2.

Kristin Peterson seconded the motion.

Motion that the Explorations Governing Council will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Ginni Block	Aye
Robert Peterson	Absent
Lori Noto	Aye
Melony Brady-Shanley	Absent
Sarah Annis Haynes	Aye
Hilary Paden	Aye
Bill Hallam	Absent
Kristin Peterson	Aye

**C. Discussion of rescheduling April Board Meeting**

Hilary Paden made a motion to to reschedule our next board meeting to Tuesday, April 23rd as our originally scheduled meeting conflicts with the schools April break.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Hilary Paden	Aye
Sarah Annis Haynes	Aye
Melony Brady-Shanley	Absent
Bill Hallam	Absent
Ginni Block	Aye
Robert Peterson	Absent
Kristin Peterson	Aye
Lori Noto	Aye

**VI. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hilary Paden

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- Monthly Report February 2024.pdf