

APPROVED



Explorations Charter School

Minutes

Governing Board Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Location

Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 21 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/unt-apux-yjj>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-329-1996 PIN: 460 558 061#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/unt-apux-yjj?pin=8563477665783>

Directors Present

Ginni Block (remote), Hilary Paden (remote), Kali Blakeslee (remote), Kristin Peterson (remote), Lori Noto (remote), Robert Peterson (remote)

Directors Absent

Melony Brady-Shanley, Sarah Annis Haynes

Guests Present

Bryan Raydenbow (remote), Greg Skinner (remote), Jill Johnson, Joe White (remote), Susan O'Rourke (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Approve Minutes - 4/23/2024 Regular Board Meeting

Ginni Block made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 04-23-24.

Hilary Paden seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve Minutes - 4/26/2024 Finance Committee Meeting

No vote taken, approval needs to happen in subcommittee.

E. Approve Minutes - 4/30/2024 Finance Committee

No vote taken, approval needs to happen in subcommittee.

F. Approve Minutes - 4/30/2024 Special Executive Session Meeting

No vote taken, approval needs to happen in subcommittee.

II. Financial

A. Monthly Report

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve April 2024 Montly Report.

Robert Peterson seconded the motion.

Susan O'Rourke presented. Duscussion was held related to insurance money and the flood damage on the ground floor.

Jill Johnson notified the board that Chris King will present the 2022-2023 Audit Report to the board at the May meeting.

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

B. 2024-2025 Budget

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve the 2024-2025 Budget.

Robert Peterson seconded the motion.

Jill Johnson and Susan O'Rourke worked together to put finishing touches on the budget.

Adjustments were made to unemployment and elevator contract.

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

III. Committee Updates

A. Finance Committee

Jill Johnson reviewed adjustments that were reflected in the approved 2024-2026 budget and the possibility of future changes due to possible staffing changes.

B. CEO Support & Evaluation

The evaluation is complete. Lori Noto plans to have a preliminary discussion with Jill Johnson. Ginni Block suggested that we discuss this further at the Summer Board Retreat and Lori Noto said that the evaluation would be discussed later in the meeting in Executive Session.

C. Personnel Committee

Nothing new to report.

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee hasn't met. and has nothing to report.

E. By-Law Revision

Robert Peterson, Kris Peterson and Jill Johnson plan to meet on Monday, June 3rd to discussion revisions to the By-Laws.

IV. School News

A. Attendance/Chronic Absenteeism

Current attendance is getting closer to the numbers at this time last year. Beth Kelley, Joe White, along with Dylan Duclos (school counselor) and Katie Wallace (social worker) have been working daily with students.

Recently, a few chronically absent students have chosen to pursue education opportunities through EdAdvance or homeschooling.

The enrollment committee has added a supplemental questionnaire that will now be sent home to all accepted students that asks questions about the school Core Values.

Bryan Raydenbow suggested finding ways to involve parents more in approving attendance and the board discussed altering the supplemental questionnaire so one could be sent to parents. Kali Blakeslee said the changes could be made to the current form and discussed forming a PTO and holding events to engage parents and students.

Further discussion included monthly vs. quarterly meetings (Kris Peterson), holding a parent appreciation night (Greg Skinner), not asking too much of parents at the events (Lori Noto), and managing parent past experiences with other schools (Robert Peterson).

B.

Charter Renewal Update

Wednesday, May 29 the State Charter School Office would like to meet virtually with the representatives from Explorations that are attending the Charter School Hearing at 2:45.

The renewal hearing is Wednesday, June 5 in Hartford with the State Board of Education.

C. 2024-2025 Explorations Calendar

Lori Noto made a motion to Approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar.

Ginni Block seconded the motion.

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

D. General Updates

Enrollment - The lottery was held and acceptance letters were sent out. In the past week, we have had 7 new applications.

Troutbeck Symposium - Explorations was invited to participate in the 3rd annual Troutbeck Symposium. Students from local middle and high school (both public and private) created and presented a variety of projects. Kali Blakeslee's Black and Latin Studies class did their project on former Winsted resident Daniel Smith, who is believed to be the last person in the United States who was the son of a slave.

Manufacturing Roadshow - Dylan Duclos and Greg Skinner took 13 students to a manufacturing fair in Waterbury.

Jill Johnson and Dylan Duclos met with representatives from EdAdvance about their new College and Career Accelerator (CCA) program that is starting in the fall.

Jill Johnson and Joe White met with Kris Griffin, the Executive Director of Winsted Health Center. Discussion was held regarding their plans to offer a variety of programs that will be housed after their renovation of the Winsted Health Center. This will open educational opportunities to our students.

V. Other Business

A. Upcoming Events

5-24-2024 - Prom - Crystal Peak, 6pm - 10:00 PM

6-5-2024 - State Board of Education Meeting - 9:30 AM

6-12-2024 - Graduation - Five Points Art Center - 6:00 PM

B. Board Retreat Date

Summer Board Retreat Agenda - The date of the retreat is set for Saturday August 3, 2024 at 9 am. The location is to be determined.

VI. Executive Session

- A. Robert made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director Evaluation. Ginni Block seconded the motion. The board VOTED unanimously to enter Executive Session.**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:45PM

VII. 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 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe White

Documents used during the meeting

- Monthly Report April 2024.pdf
- 4-30-2024 Budget.pdf
- 2024-2025 School Calendar.xlsx - Google Sheets.pdf