



Explorations Charter School

Minutes

Governing Board Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday September 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Location

Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 17 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fbj-mbwp-jfs>

Or dial: (US) +1 650-667-3454 PIN: 919 698 074#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/fbj-mbwp-jfs?pin=6246267506350>

Directors Present

Bryan Raydenbow (remote), Ginni Block (remote), Greg Skinner (remote), Hilary Paden, Kali Blakeslee (remote), Lori Noto (remote), Robert Peterson (remote), Sarah Annis Haynes (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Jill Johnson, Joe White (remote)

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 Sep 17, 2024 at 5:36 PM.

C. Approve Minutes - 08/20/2024

Ginni Block made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 08-20-24.

Robert Peterson seconded the motion.

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

II. Committe Reports

A. By-Law Committee

Met 2x to work on bylaws; progress made. More meetings required.

Saturday, October 5 from 9 - 11 am is tentatively scheduled as a bylaw committee work day. Board members welcome to come.

Lori asked about possible student representatives. No current leads on students. No specific wording in the bylaws re: students.

Robert Peterson made a motion to Approve Kali Blakeslee as Board Secretary as a result of CABE Best practices for Checks and Balances. Want 4 officers (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).

Ginni Block seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Greg Skinner	Aye
Ginni Block	Aye
Kali Blakeslee	Aye
Hilary Paden	Absent
Bryan Raydenbow	Aye
Robert Peterson	Aye
Lori Noto	Aye
Sarah Annis Haynes	Aye

Robert Peterson made a motion to Appoint Greg to full position on the Board and change the wording in the By-Laws to "Up to 2 Faculty members".

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

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

B. Policy Committee

1. Policy 4118 - Grievance Procedure." Ginni motion to reaffirm policy (5:56 pm).

Discussion initiated by Sarah H., Ginni B adds to discussion. Bob adds to discussion. Jill suggests we bring Policy 4118 back into committee. Motion withdrawn and Policy tabled.

2. 4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers.” Waiting to hear from attorney on language. Policy tabled.
3. Policy 5112 - Ages of Attendance.” Discussion on language of 17 year olds. Policy tabled for further discussion. Sent back to policy committee for further discussion.
4. Policy 5131.6 - Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances) (New Version, January 2023).” Lori asks question. Joe responds. Alternative language discussion. “Any other device that is made to distribute” suggested by Lori. Discussion ensues. Alternative language to medical marijuana discussed and preferred. Voting next time.

Ginni Block made a motion to Reaffirm Policy 5141.4 - Students - Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault.

Robert Peterson seconded the motion.

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

III. School News

A. Charter Renewal Update

Jill Johnson provided updates. Correction Action Plans (CAP) submitted in July for four areas. No word from the State of Connecticut as of yet. Clarification requested from SDE. None received.

Corrective Action Plans have been submitted for College and Career Readiness (including Arts Access & Accountability Index), Chronic Absenteeism, ELA and Math...set targets to get to the state guideline. Confident we got a good plan.

Board members asked How are we being evaluated? when it comes to College and Career Readiness, Jill indicated that they have not yet provided guidance. There was a State visit in July where discussion was held regarding the College and Career Readiness Program of Studies.

There will be a meeting with the Support and Accountability Subcommittee of the State Board in mid-October and a second meeting in March. Yearly progress meeting in May.

B. General Updates

1. Staffing: 2 art teachers added to staff in part-time capacity. Both have a Masters Degree in Art. Public Comment from Cat Raydenbow (student). Erin and Erika. Lots of positive feedback from students.
2. Enrollment: 78 students as of 9/17/2024.
3. Attendance: Returning students attendance higher than new students. Some improvement from last year for returning students. Jill working with Marc Pruchnicki from Northwest Connecticut YMCA. Working with us to find solutions to help students/families experiencing challenges with their attendance.

4. McCall Wellness Program: Meeting with Dylan and Jill with Andrew and Kevin from McCall. Insight program with Kevin grade 9. For What's Next program with Andrew in the spring with Andrew.

IV. 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 6:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kali Blakeslee