

APPROVED



Explorations Charter School

Minutes

Governing Board Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday March 18, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location

Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 18 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gft-zxrx-ubj>

Or dial: (US) +1 414-882-6356 PIN: 101 328 842#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/gft-zxrx-ubj?pin=7003446546242>

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Robert Peterson

Guests Present

Cat Raydenbow (remote), 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 Mar 18, 2025 at 5:34 PM.

C. Approve Minutes - 2/25/2025

Ginni Block made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 02-25-25.

Hilary Paden seconded the motion.

Lori Noto - Motion to accept financial report instead of (3A) Motion to accept the minutes.

Sarah Haynes - Discussion about electronic (Board to reconvene to discuss at Board retreat).

Motion to approve with changes noted.

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

Roll Call

Sarah Annis Haynes Aye

Bryan Raydenbow Aye

Julie Luby Aye

Ginni Block Aye

Robert Peterson Aye

Hilary Paden Aye

Lori Noto Aye

Greg Skinner Aye

Kali Blakeslee Aye

II. Financial

A. February Monthly Report

Jill Johnson: Update on insurance payouts. Goal is to have it done before April vacation.

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve the financial statement for February.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

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

B. ERTC Update

Jill Johnson: Emailed case manager (Deborah) from Johanna Hayes 3/18/2025. Program not in line to be cut by DOGE department, as of 3/18/2025.

III. Public Comment

A.

BOE Meeting 3/19/2025

Implications for ECS?

Focus on promoting what ECS can offer.

Prioritize the UELP and CTE courses.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee

Joe White: No update.

B. Finance Committee

Jill Johnson: No update.

C. By-Law Revision Committee

By laws approved by Attorney.

Posted ASAP.

D. Personnel Committee

Sarah Haynes: Employee handbook.

Jill Johnson: Lori posted comments. Answered by Jill.

Lori Noto suggested "When appropriate, staff will report PD..."

Jill Johnson suggested "Upon request from Administrator..."

Sarah Haynes brought up accountability for PD expenditures.

Ginni Block agrees with Sarah Haynes about sharing PD learning with general staff.

Lori Noto suggests creating a sample lesson plan incorporating PD learning and share said learning with staff.

Jill Johnson brought up eligibility for benefits and work hours. A suggestion was made to change it to 24 hours (.6 FTE to get benefits).

Lori Noto asked a question about buy in options for staff under 24 hours.

Julie Luby noted WPS is .5 FTE.

Jill Johnson will look into a tiered system and report back.

Jill Johnson brought up FMLA section. Exemption to FMLA and pay into unpaid leave fun may need updates to 2025 - 2026.

Jill to send Employee Handbook to Mark then to Board for final review before vote. Lori Noto reminded the group that Jill Johnson's administrator evaluation is coming up. Please contact Lori with ideas or changes to last year's evaluation.

V. School News

A. General Updates

Calendar updates:

- March 20: WZBG interview to promote ECS.
- March 26: Open House for prospective students, 5:00-7:00.
- April 3: 6:00 - 8:00 Karaoke Fundraiser at Cajun Boil to benefit the class of 2025.
- April Board Meeting falls during Spring Break. Board members agree to move the meeting to Tuesday, April 22, 2025.
- Board retreat August 2025: Saturday, August 9, 2025 tentatively. Conform in April 2025.

Jill Johnson: Enrollment is at 75.

Attendance rate: 47.3% as of the end of February 2025. Targeting students who can come off the chronically absent (CA) list with interventions to help them come off the CA list.

EdSight data shared: Overall statewide CA data is up.

Charter School reporting: What are we doing? What is our CA plan? What are the strategies we are implementing? What are we doing that is working? What is our plan? Feeling is we are making progress.

B. School Climate Survey

Joe White: EdAdvance consulted. Sent survey to parents, staff, students. Student focus groups 3/19/2025 at ECS with EdAdvance.

Take aways: Parents' results overall were very positive. Students' reported connectedness, respect, and having access to safe adults, and identifying the rules as fair. Condition of the building reported by teachers. The hiring of a cleaning crew is underway.

C.

Upcoming Events

See "Calendar Updates" above.

College and Career Accelerator representatives coming on April 2. Parent night TBD.

Graduation date?

Last day of school before June 13.

Graduation before June 14.

Northwestern CT Community College is the preferred location.

D. Discussion of Student Representative to Governing Board

Jill Johnson and Sarah Haynes to meet with student representative to governing board to gauge interest in continuing on board. Board members recognize the enthusiasm of prospective board member.

VI. Closing Items

A. Meeting Schedule

B. Adjourn Meeting

Lori Noto made a motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Hilary Paden seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kali Blakeslee