



Explorations Charter School

Minutes

Governing Board Regular Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location

Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 20 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/yhe-pvbv-cgj>

Or dial: (US) +1 612-440-1392 PIN: 801 890 017#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/yhe-pvbv-cgj?pin=2009240128127>

Directors Present

Ginni Block (remote), Julie Luby (remote), Kali Blakeslee (remote), Lori Noto (remote), Robert Peterson (remote), Sarah Annis Haynes (remote)

Directors Absent

Bryan Raydenbow, Greg Skinner, Hilary Paden

Guests Present

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

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

Robert Peterson called a meeting of the board of directors of Explorations Charter School to order on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 5:34 PM.

C. Approve Minutes - 04/22/2025

Robert Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 04-22-25.

Ginni Block seconded the motion.

Correction - Change language to reflect that parent and student surveys have not gone out.

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

II. Financial

A. April Monthly Report

Susan O'Rourke updated the Board:

- Profit/Loss year to date
- Still waiting for a disbursement of Special Education money
- Still waiting for insurance money from flood
- Line of credit is zeroed out
- Temporary line of credit is paid off

Ginny Block updated the Board:

- Employee retention check received
- One more check expected (4th Quarter 2020)

B. ERTC Update

III. Public Comment

A. Calendar update Student orientation

Jill Johnson provided a calendar update:

- Professional development - 3 days (August 20 - 22)
- New student orientation (August 25)
- First day of school for all students (August 26)
- September curriculum night
- October parent meeting
- Last day of school is June 5, 2026

Sarah Haynes asked a question:

- December 22 - 23 - No school?
- Decision to keep school open

Julie Luby commented

- EdAdvance calendar model

Lori Noto commented on Winter Break

Robert Peterson commented on Winter Break

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve the 2025 - 2026 School Calendar as presented.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

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

IV. Committe Reports

A. Policy Committee

Joseph White presented information:

- Student handbook
- Technology policy
- Truancy policy - Making up seat time a success, changes to strengthen
- Grade reduction for unexcused absences - changing from 65 to 55%

Lori Noto commented

- PPT for absences for non-Special Education students?

Julie Luby commented

- Schedule a PPT for significant attendance issues to get to the root of the issue

Kali Blakeslee commented

- Parent education re: attendance policies

Jill Johnson commented

- Re: Data collection

Joseph White commented

- Re: language for policy re: goal setting

Sarah Haynes commented

- Lunch make up time

B. Finance Committee

Jill Johnson updated the Board:

- Re: EdAdvance lunch changes
- Re: State per pupil for Charter Schools (Level funding? Increase in funding? Many unknowns.)
- Consolidated grants?
- Title funding?
- SRSA?
- Special Education - TBD
- State per pupil allocation - TBD
- Teacher contracts - Salaries frozen for next year based on finance committee recommendation.
- Apex? Awaiting cost from SDE
- Funding cut for part-time school counselor effective 12/2025 (appeal pending).

Lori Noto asked a question re: Apex cost

Sarah Haynes asked a question re: budget

Joseph White commented

Jill Johnson commented

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve the proposed budget for 2025 - 2026 as written with the understanding that we will change it as more definite information comes our way.

Sarah Annis Haynes seconded the motion.

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

C. CEO Support & Evaluation Committee

Lori Noto presented information:

- Faculty list on BoardOnTrack to be updated to include new members of Art and Counseling department
- Evaluation coming ASAP

D. Personnel Committee

V. School News

A. General Updates

Jill Johnson commented:

- Enrollment currently at 74
- 19 seniors graduating, June 12 at 6:00 at Thomaston Opera House
- 31 accepted students (letters went out May 1)
- Expected to be at full capacity 2025 - 2026 school year
- CA stayed constant from March to April: 47.3% as of April 30.
- CTSDE - Surprise visit Monday, May 19 - Overall visit was a success

B. Upcoming Events & Teacher Report

June meeting moved to June 24.

Kali Blakeslee commented:

- Poetry Slam trip a wonderful experience! Watch our star Jeff on YouTube.
- Senior activities make school exciting!
- Erin and Erika did an amazing job working with the student to paint the rock - a cherished tradition.
- Picture Day 2025 was awesome - Kudos to Erika!
- The yearbook is looking beautiful - thank you Erin!
- Mile Run set for Friday, May 22 - the staff and students are prepared for the best year yet.
- Prom on May 30 shaping up to be a fabulous night - ticket sales surpassed expectations!
- Spring STAR 360 testing reflected gains in reading and math - we are so proud of the students!

VI. Executive Session

A. For the purpose of discussion of attorney privileged communication

Board entered Executive Session at 6:45PM, Kali was excused from participation in Executive Session.

Board returned to Regular Session at 7:04 PM.

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 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Johnson

Documents used during the meeting

- Monthly Report April 2025.pdf
- 25-26 Calendar.pdf
- 5131.81 - Use of Private Technology Devices by Students (2025-2026).pdf
- 5113.2 - Unexcused Absences-Truancy (2025-2026).pdf
- 2025-2026 BUDGET-052025.pdf