

APPROVED



Explorations Charter School

Minutes

Board Retreat - Summer 2024

Date and Time

Saturday August 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Location

The ARC - Litchfield County

314 Main Street

Torrington CT 06790

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Kristin Peterson

Guests Present

Greg Skinner, Jill Johnson, Joe White

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 Saturday Aug 3, 2024 at 9:09 AM.

C. Greetings / personal news

Board members shared personal updates and what they did this summer.

II. Appointment of New Board Member/Resignation of Board Member

A. New Member to Board: Parent, Brian Raydenbow

Ginni Block made a motion to Appoint Brian Raydenbow as a new Board Member.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Resignation of Kris Peterson due to time constraints

Ginni Block made a motion to Accept Kris Peterson's resignation from the Board.

Hilary Paden seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

III. Renewal / Corrective Action Plan Review & Discussion

A. Meeting with Rob, Irene, Melissa & Shakira - 7/26/24

Jill felt that their was a good discussion with the state.

Discussion was held in regards to Course Offerings, Plan of Course Study, Float teacher, Choice units. Discussion of offering a Chemistry class which is unable to be offered at this time.

This coming year, there will be the first year of EdAdvance's Partner in College/Career Partnership. Discussion held of alternatives for Chemistry class. Discussion held of other locations for school.

IV. Discussion: General

A. Board on Track

Discussion held to continue using Board of Track. Hoping to get a grant from the bank to cover the cost of the program.

B. Meeting Dates/Times

Board will continue to meet 3rd Tuesday of the Month

C. Officer Elections

Officer elections are to be held the last meeting before summer.
Officer elections will be held at the August Meeting.

Officer Nominations:

Robert Peterson: Chair

Sarah Haynes: Co-Chair, Secretary

Ginni Block: Treasurer

D. Dual Credit

If a student decides to take a Community College class, that student can now receive dual credit for both College and Highschool. Previously if a student took a college course, they were not allowed to receive high school credit for that class.

Incoming freshman, need 25 credits to graduate.

E. Staff updates

Math teacher, John Stepney just took his Praxis. Waiting on score

Currently interviewing for the art teacher position. Sara Gubetta will not be returning.

Greg Skinner will be teaching CPI training this fall.

V. Discussion of 2023-2024 Data

A. Chronic Absenteeism

Ended the 2023/2024 school year with 37.3%

Board continued to discuss attendance issues. Explorations is a school of choice. Discussed that students would have to agree to a 90 day probation period for attendance and discipline. Failure to comply with attendance may result in a referral to DCF.

B. Discipline

Discipline rates continue to be low thanks to the hard work of the administration.

C. Academic

Discussion tabled.

D. Special Meetings

We need to schedule separate meetings to discuss the following:

- Bylaws
- Employee Handbook
- Update definition of Treasurer

VI. Committee Updates

A. Policy

Hilary Paden made a motion to approve Policy 5141.21 Administer Medications with edits as needed by the nurse.

Ginni Block seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Additional policies tabled to August meeting

B. Finance

Jill, Bob and Ginni met with Christine Spencer, a grant consultant. Christine would create a 1 pager about the school and help us find grants that we could apply for.

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve administration to spend up to \$3 thousand to find/hire a grant writer.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

Discussion held

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

Roll Call

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

C. CEO Support & Evaluation

Board reviewed Director's goals and tweaked Goal #3.

2024/25 Evaluation to be sent out March 1st, due either March 30th or April 15th.

Discussion of Goal #4, no changes made.

Lori asked the board to send any edit suggestions for next years evaluation.

Board discussed when to send out the evaluation - plan is to send 2024-2025 evaluation on March 1st and potentially due March 30 or April 15.

D. Personnel

No Formal Discussion

E. By-Law Committee

Board discussed needing a separate meeting to develop and finalize new ByLaws (Board Policy and Procedure Manual)

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 12:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Noto

Documents used during the meeting

None