



# Explorations Charter School

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday September 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM

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<https://meet.google.com/kad-xkcj-ypx>

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#### Directors Present

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

#### Directors Absent

Julie Luby

#### Guests Present

Cat Raydenbow (remote), Joseph White (remote)

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### 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 Sep 23, 2025 at 5:17 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes - 06/24/2025**

Hilary Paden made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 06-24-25.

Robert Peterson seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Financial**

### **A. Finance Check In**

Update provided by Ginni Block:

- New budget pending.
- Employee Retention Credit check received.
- Grant writer pendind
- Board on Track renewal pending

Ginni Block made a motion to Renew Board on Track for another year.

Robert Peterson seconded the motion.

Kali Blakeslee and Lori Noto noted Board on Track's helpfulness and usefulness and voiced support for renewal.

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

## **III. Action Items**

### **A. Planning Board Retreat**

Joseph White shared the following dates:

- September 30: CTSDE Site Visit
- October 9: Public hearing for Charter Renewal.

Financial report for September 30 TBD. Request for Susan to be available to answer questions per CTSDE request.,

Board Representation available for CTSDE Site Visit. Sarah Haynes will be available.

## **IV. Committe Reports**

### **A. Policy Committee**

Joseph White spoke about the following information:

- Climate Legislation

- Climate plan
- Teacher evaluation
- SEL component
- Climate Policy - CAFE Policy with updates

Lori Noto asked a question re: School Climate Specialist.

Bill Hallam is the School Climate Specialist.

School Climate Committee in progress.

Ginni Block made a motion to Approve the School Climate Policy.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

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

## **B. CEO Support & Evaluation Committee**

Lori Noto provided the following update

- Evaluation done
- Goals pending
- Draft memo from Board on Track forthcoming

Robert Peterson asked a question re: Executive Director and CTSDE renewal.

Joseph White commented.

Kali Blakeslee commented.

Ginni Block commented.

Lori Noto commented.

## **C. Personnel Committee**

Sarah Haynes opened discussion about the Staff Handbook.

Joseph White commented.

## **D. Finance Committee**

Ginni Block provided update.

## **V. School News**

### **A. General Updates**

Sarah Haynes opened discussion re: support for school.

Joseph White commented.

- Enrollment nearing capacity (mid-80s).
- Attendance impacted by seasonal illnesses.
- Portrait of a Graduate
- Portrait of an Explorations Charter School student
- Connection to marketing/branding
- Allocation of money for new sign outside?

Lori Noto commented:

- Suggestion for magnet signs for vans
- Student excitement for Adventure Education

Bob Peterson commented:

- Absenteeism re: Adventure Education

Sarah Haynes commented

## **B. Teacher Report**

Greg Skinner commented:

- Adventure Education program
- Proposed manual based on Experiential Education standards
- Draft policy forthcoming
- Student reflections driving data for grading
- Anecdotal data supports increased student engagement
- Safety a priority
- Policy and procedures outlined
- Consistency
- Potential to lease vans
- Partnership with EdAdvance?

Kali Blakeslee commented:

- Academic enrichment update
- Student choice
- In person Health Curriculum
- Library
- Care Closet

- Erika and Erin's co-taught class
- Brisk Training
- Teacher PD
- Eversource Grant for new computer's and Maker's Space
- Internship opportunities/Experiential Learning Program

Sarah Haynes mentioned a grant for agriculture - will follow up.

Lori Noto commented.

Joseph White commented.

## VI. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

Lori Noto made a motion to Adjourn meeting.

Sarah Annis Haynes seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously 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 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kali Blakeslee