

APPROVED



# Explorations Charter School

## Minutes

### Governing Board Regular Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Tuesday April 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM

#### **Location**

Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 21 · 5:00 – 6:30pm

Time zone: America/New\_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ipp-eipw-uni>

Or dial: (US) +1 415-662-0165 PIN: 843 231 782#

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#### **Directors Present**

Bryan Raydenbow (remote), Ginni Block (remote), Greg Skinner (remote), Julie Luby (remote), Kali Blakeslee (remote), Lori Noto (remote), Marc Pruchnicki (remote), Robert Peterson (remote), Sarah Annis Haynes (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

Hilary Paden

#### **Guests Present**

Jill Johnson (remote), Joe 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 Apr 21, 2026 at 5:02 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes - 03/17/2026**

Lori Noto made a motion to approve the minutes from Governing Board Regular Meeting on 03-17-26.

Bryan Raydenbow seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Financial**

### **A. March Monthly Report**

Jill reported on March report from Susan.

- 2026 - 2027 Budget to be finalized next week.
- Line 4030 - represents billing from Q1-2.
- Per pupil does not include April 1 payment.
- Budget freeze/necessary items only status.

Robert Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 03-16-26.

Lori Noto seconded the motion.

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

## **III. Action Items**

### **A. 2026-2027 School Calendar**

Jill reported Draft for 2026 - 2027 school calendar.

- September curriculum night returns.
- Parent teacher conferences November, 12:30 dismissal and March, teacher 1/2 day PD with conferences after.
- Winchester and Torrington holiday/schedule alignment considered.
- New student orientation August 26.
- Last day of school June 9.
- Parent nights included, content/presentations to be set by team.

Marc Pruchnicki made a motion to Approve the 2026 - 2027 Draft Calendar.

Sarah Annis Haynes seconded the motion.

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

### **B.**

### **Set Graduation Date**

June 19, EdAdvance Community Room

6:00 pm

Robert Peterson made a motion to Approve graduation date and location.

Sarah Annis Haynes seconded the motion.

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

## **IV. Committe Reports**

### **A. Policy Committee**

No discussion.

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

Lori Noto reported on Board on Track admin evaluation completion status:

- 1/2 staff
- 1/2 board
- 9 parents
- 25 students
- Goals set based on results
- Feedback important

### **C. Personnel Committee**

Sarah Haynes reported on Employee Handbook.

- Bill and Sarah met and updated employee handbook.
- Final policy changes pending communication/confirmation with Mark (lawyer).
- Policy to be submitted to Board at May 2026 meeting.

### **D. Finance Committee**

Jill Johnson reported budget to be presented at next Board meeting.

### **E. Staff Appreciation**

Sarah Haynes reported on lunch/snack that was provided to staff in April.

- Very appreciated!
- Very well received.
- Teacher Appreciation week May 4 - 8.
- Send ideas to Sarah or Lori.

## **V. School News**

### **A.**

## General Updates

Jill Johnson reported on enrollment, attendance, and renewal updates:

- Current enrollment is 75.
- Chronic Absenteeism as of March 31 was 52.1% (slight increase from end of February 2026).
- Lori suggested students write letters to legislators re: attendance.
- New student Enrollment Open House held on April 8 was a major success (17 families).
- Current applications on 16/17 families.
- CT State marketing professor working with students came and was impressed.
- TPS employee came and was impressed.
- Grant update: Draper Grant request to apply was accepted. Jill working on gathering materials for application, due May 4.
- DRIP Funding anticipated for May 2026.
- Updates to renewal and corrective action: On April 1, 2026, the State Board of Education granted ECS a 3-year renewal.
- Fundraising updates: Stuffed Bread fundraiser, May 2026.
- Marketing, Website and Social Media update: Bill and Emma working collaboratively.
- Testimonials added to Website, photos added, networking with Chamber of Commerce.
- Field Trip to Warner Theater.
- Thursday, April 23 NWCT Housing and Innovation Center walk-through with Engineering CCA program.
- Community Groups recommended from marketing Professor, Jill to hold upcoming sessions.
- Vaping Awareness Poster Contest, due to Jill on April 30.

## B. Teacher Report

Kali Blakeslee, Greg Skinner, and Jill Johnson reported on school events/initiatives:

- Adventure Ed/Friday Program up and running.
- High Ropes with Wilderness School scheduled for grades 12 and 9.
- Rock Climbing field trip to be held in May, sign-ups forthcoming.
- Overnight Camping Trip in Peoples State Forrest.
- Kayak and Fishing Club returns in May.
- Susan B. Anthony educators teaching SEL lessons.
- Students completing Talking Safety Curriculum for participation in Internship Program.
- April 9 GSA Day of Silence/Break the Silence Rally well attended.
- Attendance incentives week a success.
- Spring Fling, Friday, April 24, 12:30 - 2:30.
- Community Tag Sale, April 25, 9:00 - 3:00.

- Prom scheduled for June 5.
- May 16 Pet Parade and Car/Pet Wash.
- Handle with Care Train the Trainers Program with McCall.
- Student Support Team program in development.

### C. Teacher Meeting with Board Members

Sarah Haynes and Lori Noto reported on March 18, 2026 meeting with staff:

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10ww68CrUjy8pu7E15iMv8N74O9kKGwuY/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103081152426392811659&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Many great ideas shared.
- Productive meeting.
- To be discussed in greater detail, after Board contemplation, at next meeting.
- Lori highlighted Jill's interview on WZBG in connection with ideas, re: video testimonials.

## VI. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

Robert Peterson made a motion to Adjourn meeting.

Lori Noto 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 6:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kali Blakeslee

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### Documents used during the meeting

- Monthly Report March 2026.pdf
- 2026-2027 Explorations Calendar - DRAFT for approval.pdf