



The Exploris School

Education Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday September 11, 2018 at 4:00 PM EDT

Location

Elementary School

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			4:00 PM
A. Record Attendance and Guests		Keely Byars-Nichols	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Keely Byars-Nichols	1 m
C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Keely Byars-Nichols	2 m
Approve minutes for Education Excellence Committee Meeting on November 14, 2017			
II. Set Committee Work for this Academic Year			4:04 PM
A. Review Work to Date and Charge	FYI	Keely Byars-Nichols	45 m
Discussion Questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we need to refine or revise our definition, goals or measures of Educational Excellence? What sort of information does the Board need to be presented with to assure we are meeting standards for Academic Excellence? What sort of (if any) Board training on issues related to academic oversight and educational achievement is needed this year? LETTER GRADE SYSTEM? EVAAS? 			
B. Elect Committee Chair	Vote	Keely Byars-Nichols	5 m

C. Equity and Diversity Subcommittee Update	FYI	Keely Byars-Nichols	5 m
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III. Closing Items

4:59 PM

A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote		
B. Items for Next Meeting	Discuss	Keely Byars-Nichols	5 m

Cover Sheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items

Item: C. Approve Minutes

Purpose: Approve Minutes

Submitted by:

Related Material:

Minutes for Education Excellence Committee Meeting on November 14, 2017



The Exploris School

Minutes

Education Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday November 14, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Location

Elementary School

Committee Members Present

F. McKay, J. Frawley, K. Byars-Nichols, M. Mitchell-Neal

Committee Members Absent

A. Northrup, J. Martinez, K. Johnson, M. Parkerson

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Byars-Nichols called a meeting of the Education Excellence committee of The Exploris School to order on Tuesday Nov 14, 2017 @ 5:00 PM at Elementary School.

C. Approve Minutes

K. Byars-Nichols made a motion to approve minutes from the Education Excellence Committee Meeting on 09-12-17.

J. Frawley seconded the motion.

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

II. Education Excellence

A. Review Work to Date and Charge

The group present discussed the issue of ED Evaluation and Support, since EEC was tasked with it for the last two years but it is not part of our formal charge. We agreed to recommend to the board that a separate committee be formed to do this work. We do recommend that the ED be perhaps evaluated in Spring, only by her direct reports using a tool created by the new committee or group.

B. Subcommittee on Diversity

Frank summarized for the group the work we did in the Diversity Subcommittee last month, including plans to create an Exploris definition of diversity, conduct research on weighted lottery, recruiting, and parent/community communication. The group discussed that the subcommittee will have to do some work in educating the board, parents, and staff on the importance. The subcommittee will be able to make such a presentation to the Board in January.

III. 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 5:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Byars-Nichols

B. Items for Next Meeting

Before next meeting, Keely will work with Michelle and Amanda to coordinate goals and measurements with the staff team working on same, just so this work can be documented and recorded in BoT, as part of work that Board is keeping a record of.

Cover Sheet

Review Work to Date and Charge

Section: II. Set Committee Work for this Academic Year
Item: A. Review Work to Date and Charge
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: EEC_Data_Sources_Proposal.pdf
EE_Definition_and_Vision_Statement(1).pdf
Exploris_EEC_Job_Descript.docx

The Exploris School Measures of Educational Excellence

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rigor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students engage in tasks that are active, interactive, and appropriately challenging ● Models of excellence, critique, and multiple drafts support all students to produce work of exceptional quality and craftsmanship ● Curriculum, instruction, and assessments are integrated and aligned with standards and foster growth for all students ● Teachers design innovative projects and tasks that encourage divergent thinking, creativity, ideation, and risk-taking 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Relevance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assessment practices position students as leaders of their own learning through reflection and goal setting ● Students have opportunities to have a voice and leadership across the school ● High quality teachers are committed to global education, the Exploris vision, and our hallmark instructional practices ● Students engage in tasks that are purposeful, empower students to change their world, and are connected to student interests, global issues, and the local community 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults nurture belonging, significance, and emotional safety ● Teachers, staff, and students intentionally foster a culture of respect, inclusivity, collaboration, and communication within the school and in the broader the community. ● Teachers prioritize social and emotional learning including daily, intentional crew meetings ● We equip students to work both independently and interdependently
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Possible Data Sources for Rigor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artifacts from showcases and presentations of student work ● Disaggregated growth, proficiency, progress monitoring, and diagnostic data (MAP, EOG, EVAAS, mClass, Fountas & Pinnell) ● JumpRope Reporting ● Instructional rounds data ● Professional development plan ● Teacher Growth Process ● Expedition Snapshots 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Possible Data Sources for Relevance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artifacts from student portfolios ● Expedition Overviews ● Artifacts from service learning activities ● Participation in ambassadors, international experiences, clubs, and other activities ● Survey data ● Student presentations in community outlets (conferences, newspapers, television, radio, etc) ● Teacher leadership: conference presentations, workshop leading, after school clubs and competitions 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Possible Data Sources for Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artifacts from Morning Meeting and Community Circle ● Attendance and behavior records ● Communication records (Weekly What's Up, grade level blogs, Executive Director's monthly newsletter) ● Teacher Working Conditions Survey ● Survey data ● School sponsored events (Meet & Greet, Parent University, Curriculum Night etc.) ● Demographic data

Vision of Excellence: Exploris’s vision of excellence takes a holistic view of educational quality. The hallmarks of an Exploris education are rooted in rigor, relevance, and relationships.

Rigor – Student-centered activities aimed at engaging students in higher order thinking and complex problem solving in order to actively demonstrate learning

- Students engage in learning that is active, interactive, and appropriately challenging
- Models of excellence, critique, and multiple drafts support all students to produce work of exceptional quality and craftsmanship
- Curriculum, instruction, and assessments are integrated and aligned with standards
- High quality teachers design innovative projects and tasks that encourage divergent thinking, creativity, ideation, and risk-taking

Relevance – While much of the educational literature characterizes relevance as a component of rigor, Exploris distinguishes relevance as real-world application that contextualizes learning

- Students have opportunities to have a voice and for leadership in and across the school
- High quality teachers are committed to global education, the Exploris vision, and interdisciplinary instructional practices
- Students engage in tasks that are purposeful, empower students to change their world, and are connected to student interests, global issues, and the local community
- Assessment practices position students as leaders of their own learning through reflection and goal setting

Relationships – Relationships are central to the Exploris learning community. Our school environment is one where students and staff are encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with their teachers, guardians, peers, and community.

- Adults nurture belonging, significance, and emotional safety
- Teachers, staff, and students intentionally foster and support a diverse community of respect, inclusivity, collaboration, and communication.
- Teachers prioritize social and emotional learning through daily, intentional crew meetings
- Adults equip students to work both independently and interdependently

Adopted by Exploris Educational Excellence Committee March 2017

The Exploris School Educational Excellence Committee – Job Description

General Purpose

The Educational Excellence Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to assume the primary responsibility for working with the Executive Director (ED) to define educational excellence, ensure that all board members know the charter promises that were made to the community and the authorizer and to devise clear and consistent measures to monitor these goals.

Appointments and Composition

1. Appointments of the chair and members of the Educational Excellence Committee shall be made annually by the chair of the Board with the advice and consent of the Board and the ED and in accordance with the bylaws.
2. The chair of this committee shall be a member of the Board.
3. The committee shall consist of both Board members and non-Board members, subject to the conditions stated in the bylaws. Additional committee members may be appointed and need not be members of the Board.
4. Members of this committee do not need to have an academic background. Our experience has shown that the best educational excellence committee members are those who are very analytical, are great at digesting data and who ask good questions regardless of background.

Responsibilities

It is important to note that this is a governance function, not a management function, and it is anticipated that the ED will have a great deal of input into the work and composition of this committee. The committee's main role is to assure that educational excellence is defined, and that the board approves annual goals to attain educational excellence.

1. Define and continue to refine what educational excellence means for our charter school.
2. Ensure that all board members understand the key charter promises we have made to our community and to our authorizer.
3. Work with the ED to set annual educational achievement goals (related to rigor, relevance and relationships), to be presented to and approved by the full board.
4. Work with the ED to devise clear and consistent ways to measure progress towards stated goals.
5. Work with the ED to share with the board annual successes, barriers to reaching educational excellence, and strategies to overcome these barriers.
6. Arrange for Board training on issues related to academic oversight and educational achievement, as needed.
7. Create specific measurable board-level goals for the year as part of the full board planning process.
8. Report to the Board at regular Board meetings in a manner determined by the Board.
9. Annually evaluate its work as a committee and the objectives it has committed itself to and report on same to the Board of Directors.

Cover Sheet

Equity and Diversity Subcommittee Update

Section: II. Set Committee Work for this Academic Year
Item: C. Equity and Diversity Subcommittee Update
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: EEC_ED Update Sept 2018.docx

The Exploris School

Educational Excellence Committee's Equity and Diversity Subcommittee (Frank McKay, Chair): Update and Summary of Activity 2017-2018

- *In monthly meetings over the 2017-2018 school year, we discussed and developed shared norms and values and visions for this work.*
- *Facilitated 2 meet-up play dates over Summer*
- *Secured Melany Paden as facilitator for the fall town hall meeting on October 25*
- *Met with new PTO president, Kimberly Harris to facilitate work between PTO and committee; Amy has volunteered to be the E&D liaison with the PTO to keep communication open and to offer support*
- *Developed suggestions about making it clearer online and in handbook that there is financial assistance available for those who qualify*
- *Researched and secured a new lunch program for ES to better serve FRL qualifying students*
- *Researched, drafted and developed Priority Lottery policy. On 9/10/18, the CSAB voted to recommend the lottery policy for approval to the SBE with one recommended change.*

Michelle Parkerson shared with the committee the following developments within the school that will further our mission of access and equity (update provided August 2018):

- *Exploris was awarded a grant for another counselor to help with our support efforts.*
- *Fletcher Academy is providing us with reading intervention support for ES.*
- *Michelle D., Amanda, and Michelle P. picked up about \$250.00 worth of donated school supplies to pass along to children with needs. This was a joint effort from SECU and Communities in Schools.*
- *We provided free lunches for students that we knew had a need starting on day 1. (Not all forms are returned so we anticipate more in the future.) Spicy Green went back to Durham Day 1 to get more food to ensure needs were met at ES. Jersey Mike's went back and made extra sandwiches for MS on Wednesday, A Place at the Table provided emergency lunches on Thursday, by Friday My Hot Lunch Box was set up to provide donated lunches.*
- *Communities in Schools is working on a grant. We will be named as one of the schools to receive a graduation coach if they are awarded the funds.*
- *We are working with Communities in Schools and Interfaith Food Shuttle to offer a cooking class in Chavis for one of our evening recruiting events in Nov/Dec.*
- *We are working with Interfaith Food Shuttle to help provide Backpack Buddies (ES) and Food Pantry (MS) for our students. In return, our students would serve as volunteer to help pack items for other schools.*
- *We are confirmed to offer professional learning form Teaching Tolerance for all staff on Feb. 18th.*

- *We offered an alternate teacher certification session for Exploris teachers. Cori and Adrian reached out to folks in their networks in an effort to increase diversity in our teacher pipeline. Four non-Exploris (non-white) teachers joined us. Some of our visitors said they would be interested in working at Exploris in the future.*
- *7th and 8th grade are going one-to-one for electronic devices. We will be able to offer 24/7 computer check-out for students that cannot provide their own device.*