



The Exploris School

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday January 26, 2023 at 4:30 PM EST

Location

The Exploris School: Elementary Campus
17 S Swain St, Raleigh, NC 27601, USA
5th Grade Classroom

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			4:30 PM
A. Record Attendance		Eric Grunden	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Steven Darroch	1 m
C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Eric Grunden	2 m
	Approve minutes for The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on December 15, 2022		
D. Public Comment		Steven Darroch	15 m

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fifteen minutes will be allocated on the agenda for public input at each meeting.
Additional time may be added at the discretion of the Chair.

Purpose Presenter Time

Public comment may be oral, in person, or in written form to be read by the Chair.
 Public comment is limited to no more than 3 minutes per person.
 It is recommended that public comment be written out and provided to the board following the three minutes to ensure the entire message is heard by the board.

Each speaker will clearly state their full name and county of residence.

All public comment should be factual and should not include personally identifiable information of students or personnel in order to maintain confidentiality. Speakers should avoid using names of students or staff and maintain confidentiality and privacy standards.

All public comments will be taken under advisement by the Board, but will not elicit an immediate written or spoken response. The names of persons providing public comment and a brief summary of topics or input will be included in the meeting minutes published.

A response will be provided to the stakeholder within seven (7) days.

Specific issues about a particular student or teacher should be addressed to the elementary or middle school director, rather than the Board of Directors.

II. Audit Presentation

III. Committee Reports 4:49 PM

A. Governance	Discuss	Ryan Boyce	10 m
B. Finance Report	Vote	Koren Morgan	15 m
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Revision Report • Monthly Financial Reports 	
C. Educational Excellence	FYI	Eric Grunden	5 m
D. Director Evaluation & Support	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
E. Equity & Diversity	Discuss	Mark Townley	5 m
F. Facilities	Discuss	Theo Kingsberry	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
IV. Meeting Items			5:34 PM

A. Directors Report	FYI	Deborah Brown	10 m
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- Monthly Report & Updates (The Directors Report will not be made verbally during meetings. Please review the written report prior to the meeting. We will answer questions and provide critical updates and vote on any requested items.)
- Vote: resignations to accept and new hires to approve
- Vote: The Calendar committee is requesting Board approval for the recommended start and end date for the 2023-2024 school year.

B. Board Development: Recognition of National School Board Appreciation Month	FYI	Deborah Brown	5 m
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We will designate about ten minutes of each regular monthly meeting for topics and presenters that will help Exploris Board members better connect to and understand the work of the school.

C. Board Business	Discuss	Steven Darroch	10 m
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1. **Covid 19 Communications Policy:** (tabled from the December meeting)
Exploris Leadership is proposing that we scale back our COVID-19 response to no longer include communication (i.e., emails) about individual cases. Further, the team is suggesting that our COVID dashboard be scaled back to not include a running total of active cases. Leadership would like the Board to discuss and give guidance on when COVID-related communications will occur, possibly setting a threshold of the number of active cases.

2. **General Discussions**

V. Closed Session			5:59 PM
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A. Facilities & Legal Items	Discuss	Theo Kingsberry	15 m
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- Updates on Facilities

VI. Closing Items			6:14 PM
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A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote
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Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items

Item: C. Approve Minutes

Purpose: Approve Minutes

Submitted by:

Related Material:

Minutes for The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on December 15, 2022

APPROVED



The Exploris School

Minutes

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday December 15, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Location

The Exploris School: Elementary Campus
17 S Swain St, Raleigh, NC 27601, USA
5th Grade Classroom

Directors Present

A. Rodriguez, D. Deaton (remote), E. Buchan, E. Grunden, M. Townley, R. Boyce, S. Carothers,
S. Darroch

Directors Absent

T. Kingsberry

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Greer-Banks, D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

Non Voting Members Present

C. Greer-Banks, D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

Guests Present

Corey Draughn, Denise Brown, K. Morgan

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Darroch called a meeting of the board of directors of The Exploris School to order on Thursday Dec 15, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

A. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes from The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 10-27-22.

S. Carothers seconded the motion.

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

D. Public Comment

E. Invited Presentation: Charter Success Partners

CSP presented a session on finance training for the Board.

II. Meeting Items

A. Directors Report

R. Boyce made a motion to Approve three new hires.

M. Townley seconded the motion.

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

B. Board Development (The presentation from Charter Success Partners takes the place of this month's Board Development)

C. Board Business

D. COVID-19 Communications Discussion and Vote

A. Rodriguez made a motion to table the discussion and voting until January.

R. Boyce seconded the motion.

Leadership will bring a proposal to the board in January.

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

III. Closed Session

A. Facilities & Legal Items

A. Rodriguez made a motion to Enter closed session to discuss real estate issue.

E. Buchan seconded the motion.

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

E. Buchan made a motion to Exit closed session.

R. Boyce seconded the motion.

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

IV. 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 6:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Rodriguez

Coversheet

Finance Report

Section: III. Committee Reports
Item: B. Finance Report
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: 03. Board Report - 2022.12 - Exploris.pdf
12-31-22 Bank Account Balances.pdf
05. Income Statement - 2022.12 - Exploris.pdf
06. Balance Sheet - 2022.12 - Exploris.pdf
22-23 Budget Revision for Board Approval 1-26-23.pdf

12/31/2022 Account Balances	
Bank Account	Balance
The Exploris School Checking	\$1,261,307.58
The Exploris School Reserves	\$940,149.64
The Exploris School Foundation-Annual Fund	\$58,895.10
The Exploris School Foundation-Capital Campaign	\$542,104.20

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL

Income Statement

Fiscal Year: 2023 Month: December

Include Fund(s): 1, 2, 3, 5

Fund	Beg. Balance	MTD Actual	YTD Actual
Fund 1			
Revenue Total:	1,440,768.54	290,066.61	1,730,835.15
Expense Total:	1,440,768.54	290,066.61	1,730,835.15
Change in Fund 1 Balance:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund 2			
Revenue Total:	705,645.22	137,626.01	843,271.23
Expense Total:	395,483.59	85,159.24	480,642.83
Change in Fund 2 Balance:	310,161.63	52,466.77	362,628.40
Fund 3			
Revenue Total:	124,273.52	4,262.07	128,535.59
Expense Total:	160,802.30	23,032.64	183,834.94
Change in Fund 3 Balance:	(36,528.78)	(18,770.57)	(55,299.35)
Fund 5			
Revenue Total:	19,404.77	14,956.18	34,360.95
Expense Total:	15,558.95	5,270.64	20,829.59
Change in Fund 5 Balance:	3,845.82	9,685.54	13,531.36

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL

Balance Sheet

Fiscal Year: 2023 | Fiscal Month: December

Include Funds: All

Assets		
2.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	848,642.37
2.1011.000.000.000.000.00	Cash - Reserve	940,149.64
2.1180.000.000.000.000.00	Accounts Receivable - Employee	448.04
2.1611.000.000.000.000.00	Security Deposit	15,658.00
3.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(55,299.35)
5.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	397,522.99
	TOTAL Assets:	<u>2,147,121.69</u>
Liabilities		
2.2010.000.000.000.000.00	Accounts Payable	(6,557.97)
2.2282.000.000.000.000.00	EEs' Flex Spending Deductions	(633.74)
	TOTAL Liabilities:	<u>(7,191.71)</u>
Reserves and Equity		
2.2960.000.000.000.000.00	Fund Equity	1,449,461.36
5.2960.000.000.000.000.00	Fund Equity	383,991.63
	TOTAL Reserves and Equity:	<u>1,833,452.99</u>
	NET GAIN (LOSS):	320,860.41
	TOTAL LIABILITIES / RESERVES / INCOME:	<u><u>2,147,121.69</u></u>

Account	2022-2023 Budget	22-23 Revision	difference	Notes
Revenues				
STATE REVENUE				
Rev - Charter Schools - 036	3,007,000.00	3,097,017.39	90,017.39	
Rev - Summer Reading- 016	14,190.81	7,425.00	(6,765.81)	
Rev - PRC 048 State Awarded Compensation	0.00	5,383.00	5,383.00	zero out
STATE REVENUE	3,021,190.81	3,109,825.39	88,634.58	
LOCAL REVENUE				
Fund Balance Allocation - Climate & Culture TF	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	
Fund Balance Allocation - Legal Expenses	50,000.00	10,000.00	(40,000.00)	reduced need due to refund received
Fund Balance Allocation - Girls on the Run carryover from fy22	0	3,803.63	3,803.63	
Fund Balance Allocation - Drama club carryover from fy22	0	1,488.19	1,488.19	
Fund Balance Allocation - Chess club carryover from fy22	0	40.00	40.00	
Fund Balance Allocation - Prior Year 12th Month	0.00	10,295.00	10,295.00	
Interest Income	200.00	2,000.00	1,800.00	
Rev - Chatham County Schools	3,300.00	3,500.00	200.00	
Rev - Contributions	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	
Rev - Durham County Schools	18,000.00	15,500.00	(2,500.00)	
Rev - Johnston County Schools	32,000.00	24,000.00	(8,000.00)	
Rev - Sales Tax	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	
Rev - Wake County Schools	1,300,000.00	1,325,000.00	25,000.00	
LOCAL REVENUE	1,434,500.00	1,426,626.82	(7,873.18)	
NCACCESS GRANT REVENUE				
Rev - NCACCESS 160	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	
NCACCESS GRANT REVENUE	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	
FEDERAL REVENUE				
Rev PRC 050 - IASA Title 1 Basic Programs	8,506.00	8,506.00	0.00	
Rev PRC 060 - IDEA VI-B	82,911.00	82,911.00	0.00	
Rev PRC 103 - Supportive Effective Inst. Title II	5,916.00	5,916.00	0.00	
Rev PRC 108 - Title IV	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	
Rev PRC 164 - ESSER I	14,186.33	14,186.33	0.00	
Rev PRC 167	0.00	880.41	880.41	
Rev PRC 172 - ESSER II Charter Supplements	16,634.16	16,634.16	0.00	
Rev PRC 181 - ESSER III	61,609.00	61,708.59	99.59	
Rev PRC 182 - ESSER II Charter Supplements	53,223.77	53,223.77	0.00	
Rev PRC 189 - ESSER III Math	0.00	5,973.00	5,973.00	
Rev PRCS 192 and 193 ESSER III Gaggle & Instr Software	6,187.00	6,187.00	0.00	
FEDERAL REVENUE	269,173.26	276,126.26	6,953.00	
FOUNDATION REVENUE				
Foundation Financial Reporting Contribution	10,000.00	62,200.00	52,200.00	

Foundation Reimbursement for Teacher Grants	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	
FOUNDATION REVENUE	30,000.00	82,200.00	52,200.00	
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B&A CARE REVENUE				
Revenue - Before and After School	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	
B&A CARE REVENUE	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	
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Revenues	4,994,864.07	5,134,778.47	139,914.40	
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Expenses				
Account	Orig budget	Revised Budget	Difference	
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SALARIES AND BONUSES				
Salary - Admin & Student Support	616,827.00	643,461.74	26,634.74	
Salary - EC Teacher Assistant	117,704.00	119,849.85	2,145.85	
Salary - EC Teacher	270,748.00	294,181.00	23,433.00	
Salary - PRC 164 & 016 Summer Camps	11,070.00	9,910.00	(1,160.00)	
Salary - Substitute	38,000.00	40,000.00	2,000.00	
Salary - Teacher Assistant	111,087.00	111,087.76	0.76	
Salary - Teacher	1,760,096.00	1,782,030.80	21,934.80	
Salary - Time Ltd Intervention & Counseling	131,459.93	133,884.61	2,424.68	
Salary - PRC 048 State awarded compensation		5,000.00	5,000.00	
	3,056,991.93	3,139,405.76	82,413.83	62.20%
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BENEFITS				
Dental Cost	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	
Hospitalization/Medical Insurance	320,000.00	320,000.00	0.00	
Life Insurance Cost	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00	
Long and Short Term Disability	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	
Other Retirement Cost	78,000.00	78,000.00	0.00	
Social Security Cost (FICA: Soc Security & Medicare)	233,859.88	233,859.88	(0.00)	
Social Security Cost - PRC 048		383.00	383.00	
Unemployment Cost	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	
BENEFITS	659,609.88	659,992.88	383.00	13.08%
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BOOKS AND SUPPLIES				
Art - Elementary	750.00	750.00	0.00	
Art - Middle	750.00	750.00	0.00	
Board of Directors Supplies	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	
Connected World - Elementary	500.00	500.00	0.00	
Counselor	500.00	500.00	0.00	
Culture & Climate TF	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	
Digital Literacy	500.00	500.00	0.00	
EC Instructional Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	

Explorations / Electives	750.00	750.00	0.00		
Spanish & Cultural Literacy	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Health Supplies	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 1st Grade	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 2nd Grade	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 3rd Grade	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 4th Grade	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 5th Grade	750.00	750.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 6th Grade	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 7th Grade	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies - 8th Grade	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00		
Instructional Supplies	12,000.00	11,000.00	(1,000.00)		moved to Instr. Software.
Intervention	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Kindergarten	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Memberships	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00		
Movement - Elementary	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Music	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Office Food Purchases	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00		
Office Supplies	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00		
PRC 016 Instructional Supplies	8,653.50	2,844.42	(5,809.08)		
PRC 164 Instructional Supplies	8,653.50	8,189.71	(463.79)		
Poe Center	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00		
Postage	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Sales Tax Expense	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00		
Wellness - Middle	500.00	500.00	0.00		
BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	79,057.00	78,784.13	(272.87)	1.56%	
TECHNOLOGY					
IT Contracted Services	44,100.00	44,400.00	300.00		
Instructional Software	14,000.00	18,000.00	4,000.00		\$1k moved from Instr Supplies. Add'l funding needed for I-Ready ELA.
Internet Services	900.00	900.00	0.00		
Non - Cap Computer Hardware	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00		
Office Software and Services	4,000.00	9,500.00	5,500.00		
Instructional Software - PRCs 192 and 193 Gaggle & Instr. Softwa	6,187.00	6,187.00	0.00		
School Connectivity (ERate)	12,600.00	12,600.00	0.00		
TECHNOLOGY	84,787.00	94,587.00	9,800.00	1.87%	
NON-CAP EQUIPMENT & LEASES					
Instructional Equipment	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		
Office Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00		
Reproduction Costs	14,000.00	15,000.00	1,000.00		
NON-CAP EQUIPMENT & LEASES	17,000.00	18,000.00	1,000.00	0.36%	
CONTRACTED STUDENT SERVICES					
ESL	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00		

F & R Lunch	34,000.00	34,000.00	0.00		
OT Services	15,000.00	20,000.00	5,000.00		costs running high
Other Services (hearing impaired svcs, esy, comp ed)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		
Psychological Services	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00		
Speech Services	18,500.00	18,500.00	0.00		
CONTRACTED STUDENT SERVICES	92,000.00	97,000.00	5,000.00	1.92%	
FIELD TRIPS					
Field Trips - German Exchange	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		
Field Trips - Grade 6 Scholarship	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00		
Field Trips - Grade 7 Scholarship	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00		
Field Trips - Grade 8 Scholarship	1,500.00	5,700.00	4,200.00		Collections not covering bus. may end up lower depending on scholarships applied for
Field Trips - Japan Exchange	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		
Scholarships 00 - 01	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Scholarships 02 - 03	500.00	500.00	0.00		
Scholarships 04 - 05	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00		
FIELD TRIPS	11,000.00	15,200.00	4,200.00	0.30%	
STAFF DEVELOPMENT					
Workshop Expenses	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00		
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.16%	
ADMIN SERVICES					
Audit Services	17,000.00	18,650.00	1,650.00		
Bank Fees	1,400.00	1,700.00	300.00		
Financial Services	36,000.00	42,000.00	6,000.00		
Fire Inspection Fees	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00		
Foundation Expenses	10,000.00	62,200.00	52,200.00		
Foundation Teacher Grants	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00		
Human Resources	4,300.00	6,000.00	1,700.00		
Legal Services	70,000.00	30,000.00	(40,000.00)		reduced need due to refund received
Student Information Services	26,137.50	25,000.00	(1,137.50)		
ADMIN SERVICES	188,837.50	209,550.00	20,712.50	4.15%	
INSURANCES					
General Liability and Commercial Umbrella	21,000.00	21,000.00	0.00		
International Travel Insurance	750.00	750.00	0.00		
Student Accident Insurance	1,400.00	1,700.00	300.00		catastrophic added
Workers Compensation	17,000.00	17,000.00	0.00		
INSURANCES	40,150.00	40,450.00	300.00	0.80%	
FACILITIES					
Building Rent	207,000.00	207,000.00	0.00		
Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00		
Building Supplies & Materials	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		

Contracted Custodial Services	44,700.00	44,700.00	0.00	
Contracted Landscaping	5,200.00	5,200.00	0.00	
Contracted Pest Control	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	
Custodial Supplies & Materials	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	
Electricity - New Bern	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	
Land Lease - New Bern	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	
Modular Lease	85,044.00	85,044.00	0.00	
Parking: Hillsborough St.	6,900.00	6,900.00	0.00	
Security Monitoring	4,440.00	4,800.00	360.00	
Telephone	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	
Water and Sewer	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	
FACILITIES	467,784.00	468,144.00	360.00	9.28%
B&A CARE				
B&A Care Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	
Salary - B&A Care	51,000.00	51,000.00	0.00	
Social Security (FICA: Soc Security & Medicare)- B&A Care	3,901.50	3,901.50	0.00	
B&A CARE	55,901.50	55,901.50	0.00	1.11%
CLUBS				
Girls On The Run	0.00	3,803.63	3,803.63	
Drama	0.00	1,488.19	1,488.19	
Chess	0.00	40.00	40.00	
CLUBS	0.00	5,331.82	5,331.82	0.11%
CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND EXPENSES				
PRC 167 - Cares Act ESSERF EC Grant	0.00	880.41	880.41	
PRC 189 - ESSER III Math	0.00	5,973.00	5,973.00	
CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND EXPENSES	0.00	6,853.41	6,853.41	
VARIOUS GRANTS - NCACCESS				
VARIOUS GRANTS - NCACCESS	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	2.97%
Expenses	4,911,118.81	5,047,200.50	123,896.46	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - End of Year Balance				
	83,745.26	87,577.97		
	1.68%	1.71%		

Coversheet

Directors Report

Section: IV. Meeting Items
Item: A. Directors Report
Purpose: FYI

Submitted by:

Related Material:

The Exploris School Mail - Changes to help support you.pdf

January 2023 Exploris Leadership Team Board Report.pdf

The Exploris School Mail - Staffing and Curriculum Changes & Updates from Exploris.pdf

Black History Month Appreciation Minitheme by Slidesgo.pptx



Deborah Brown <deborah@exploris.org>

Changes to help support you

1 message

Exploris Leadership <leadership@exploris.org>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 7:30 AM

To: All Staff/Faculty - The Exploris School <all-staff@exploris.org>

Dear Exploris Team,

We have been watching with dismay and heartbreak as the stresses of this season in education have led to resignations over the past year.

Although we are in a national period of reflection, where many people are taking stock of their life and goals and making career changes, and although we note that people are not leaving us to take full-time jobs to teach in other schools, we still know that each departure takes a piece of Exploris history with them and we are lessened by their leaving.

The data shows an exodus from public education is happening all over the county, but we are not willing to just sit back and say, oh well, it is what it is. Burnout and attrition are ubiquitous in the education sector. We know the pay for teachers is not keeping pace with the cost of living, and that student behaviors and learning lag from the pandemic are making the job ever more demanding. We know the added stresses of our current facilities are very real.

We want to pull on the levers we have available and find ways to support you all in the work you do to support children. So while we can't double your pay or cut your crew size in half, or magically get us into that new building right away, we can give you one thing right now: a little more time.

We are canceling nearly all Wednesday meetings for the remainder of the year. Kaizen will still meet, and we will have some assorted campus specific meetings as events might require, and we will still meet for Instructional Rounds, but for the most part, we will not be meeting on Wednesdays for the rest of this spring.

Instead, we are going to offer some choices. We are looking at a few different programs that focus on teacher well-being and helping educators manage the physical and emotional stress of the work. We hope to have some topics like wellness to help better balance work and home, mindfulness for reducing stress, a book club connecting more with each other, etc. And maybe what you just need is a little more breathing room to get home a little earlier each Wednesday.

Any program we invest in would be optional, and we're striving to find programs that are genuinely helpful and worth the time

We were very pleased with the programming we had planned for this spring, but knowing that you can't pour from an empty cup, we've made the decision to pause and take a collective breath. We want Exploris to be a place where staff finds joy in their work, because we know that trickles down to kids, and you can't find that joy when you are stressed and tired all.the.time.

So, in the next day or two we will put out a new calendar with a significant reduction in expected meetings on Wednesday. Please know that this topic of staff support and retention is very much on our mind and the subject of long conversations in our leadership team meetings. We want to be in conversation with you as

well, so please reach out if you have ideas meaningful ways we can support you within our current parameters.

(Oh– and we’re connecting with PTO to see if we can’t keep those snacks stocked more often! After all, it’s in families’ best interests to keep us all well supplied with LaCroix and dark chocolate!)

Signed,

The Exploris Leadership Team
(Daniel, Cori, Ethan, Josh, & Deb)

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The Exploris School Leadership Team
Empowering Learners to Improve Our World
Raleigh, NC





The Exploris School

Directors Report

To: Board Members
From: Ethan, Josh, & Deb
Re: Monthly Board Report

Date: January 26, 2023

The following information is provided to the Board of Directors:

Enrollment

Grade Level	Active Enrollment	Class Sizes	Withdrawals Since 12/1/22	2023/2024 Applications
Kindergarten	30	15		145
1st Grade	35	17/18		58
2nd Grade	37	18/19	1	69
3rd Grade	38	19		58
4th Grade	38	19		64
5th Grade	37	18/19		48
6th Grade	75	18/19	1	125
7th Grade	75	18/19	1	56
8th Grade	74	18/19	1	27
Total	439			650
Previous Year's Application Total on Lottery Day:				1033

Student Support Team Report

Month	In School Suspension # students / # days	Out of School Suspension # students / # days	Behavior Referrals Major/minor
August	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 1/2 MS: 0/0	ES: 2/0 MS: 0/0
September	ES: 1/.5 MS: 2/.5	ES: 4/6 MS: 2/1	ES: 5/8 MS: 4/5
October	ES: 1/1 MS: 1/1	ES: 1/2 MS: 3/3	ES: 2/11 MS: 4/8
November	ES: 2/2 MS: 2/1	ES: 4/8 MS: 2/2	ES: 6/33 MS: 4/8
December	ES: 0/0 MS: 1/.5	ES: 0/0 MS: 2/2	ES: 0/13 MS: 2/8
January	ES: 3/2.5 MS: 5/4	ES: 3/3 MS: 6/7.5	ES: 6/8 MS: 10/19
Total	18/11	28/36.5	45/121

Updates on Goals/Issues for Discussion

School Improvement Plan (SIP) Progress: [Linked here](#) is the 2022-2023 Board approved School Improvement Plan. The Kaizen Team is still in the process of creating progress indicators and inputting them into the NCStar platform. In the interim:

Target Area #1 Student Support Alignment Progress:

- We have onboarded three new Exceptional Children’s program personnel since November and continue to identify structural and systemic issues in our EC process and work to build a cohesive and impactful team.
- With the resignation of Nikki Kovach, we have repurposed the Digital Literacy Course into a Middle School Seminar. This class will be taken by all Exploris students and will be used for delivery of intervention services, personalized learning and enrichment, and delivery of social-emotional curriculum. Michele Butterworth, our middle school interventionist, will lead this class and we have created a new middle school interventionist teaching partner position for supporting this MTSS work. The middle school counselor, Ryan Boney, along with our counseling team, will also develop and deliver lessons and activities to build our scholars’ social-emotional skills.
- Both campuses held work sessions to re-norm staff responses to student behavior and have universal expectations for documenting work in our Jumprope reporting system, for example.

Target Area #2 Instructional Alignment Progress:

- In response to recent resignations and a general climate in education right now of teacher stress and mass exodus from teaching jobs, we are having ongoing conversations about staff well being and retention. One response we are making is to cancel most staff meetings and professional development for the remainder of the year. We are exploring programs that center teacher wellness and we are meeting with teams in small groups to see what other items we can do to support staff and reduce workload at this moment in time. Please see the note to staff that is in the packet.
- Winter benchmark testing is underway, with most MAP testing completed at the middle school and set to wrap up shortly at the elementary school.
- We held our 2nd trimester Expedition sharing session on Wed. 1/18, where teams have the opportunity to share their upcoming project-based learning units. These unit plans include Expedition essential questions, resources and in turn teaching teams receive feedback from their colleagues. This process is led by Kaizen teacher-leaders to foster stronger collaboration and cross-curricular connections throughout the school.

Target Area #3 Community Engagement Progress:

- Recruiting season is in full swing and our weekly in-person tours are well attended. In addition we have held one virtual and one in-person information session, both with about 50 people in attendance.
- **Key Dates:**
 - Applications open on Wednesday, November 30, 2022
 - Applications close on Friday, February 3, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.
 - Lottery runs on Friday, March 3, 2023
 - Families have to accept/decline by: 7-day window through June 1, 2023 (must accept within 7 days of the offer)

Prospective Family Information Sessions For both Elementary and Middle Grade	
Monday, December 12, 2022 6:00-7:00 (VIRTUAL & Recorded)	
Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:00-7:00 (In-person at the Elementary, 17 S. Swain St.) <i>UPDATE: We had approx. 40 community come to this session!</i>	
Daytime Student-led Tours - 15 Slots Per Tour Available on Sign-up Update: We opened more slots at each campus for the remaining tours because of high demand.	
Prospective Family Tours	
Elementary Tours	Middle Tours

Thursday, December 15th at 9:00 AM Thursday, January 5th at 9:00 AM Thursday, January 12th at 9:00 AM Thursday, January 19th at 9:00 AM Thursday, January 26th at 9:00 AM Thursday, February 2nd at 9:00 AM	Wednesday, December 14th at 9:00 AM Wednesday, January 4th at 9:00 AM Wednesday, January 11th at 9:00 AM Wednesday, January 18th at 9:00 AM Wednesday, January 25th at 9:00 AM Wednesday, February 1st at 9:00 AM
Accepted Family Tour - These tours are reserved for accepted families that did the not attend a daytime tour	
Elementary- Tuesday, March 5th at 9:00 Middle - Tuesday, March 5th at at 10:30	

- Expressions Day was held on Dec. 16th at the Hosea Church on West Street. We had a packed audience and a great time watching all the student performances!
- Exploris Middle School WON for the WRAL Viewer’s Choice Awards for Best Middle School! We will have signage and digital badges that can be displayed, and the option of ordering a trophy.
- Exploris 8th graders visited the Morehead Planetarium on Jan. 16th for a half day program.
- Exploris 7th graders created an oversized display of human body systems, turning the entire upstairs and hallways into systems you could walk through and then acted as docents for tours from our own 5th graders.
- Exploris is partnering with Boosterthon in February to sponsor a fun run and color run to raise money for scholarships for assorted field experiences, from smaller trips that require minor fees to major activities like Outward Bound.

Human Resources Update

Resignations presented to the Board		
Name	Position	Notes
Nikki Kovach	Digital Literacy Teacher	taking time off for family; wants to remain as an Exploris sub
Amanda Whittington	7th Grade English Language Arts/ Social Studies Teacher	resigning for health issues

New Hire Profiles for Approval		
Name	Position	Licensure
Desmond Lanclos	1st grade teaching partner	
Jessica Harrison	EC Coordinator 60% position	Yes

Current Vacancies	
7th grade Language Arts/Social Studies	(long term sub offered)
Elementary Exceptional Children’s Teacher (50 percent)	
6th Grade English Language Arts/ Social Studies Teacher	(offered)
MS Intervention Teaching Partner (new position)	(offered)

Fiscal Operations Update

- 1. Budget Amendments Requested:** Please see the Budget Revision in the packet

- 2. Unpaid Invoices (Time frame for payment)**
 - a. None**
- 3. Identified Potential Short/Long Term Issues**
 - a. None**

Important Dates (Board Attendance Requested)

1. Join one of our student-led tours! Every Wednesday in January at the middle school and every Thursday in January at the elementary school, starting at 9:00 am.
2. Join a community circle celebration on Fridays @ 9 AM at the elementary school



Deborah Brown <deborah@exploris.org>

Staffing and Curriculum Changes & Updates from Exploris

3 messages

Deborah Brown <deborah@exploris.org>

Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 1:21 PM

Bcc: All Staff/Faculty - The Exploris School <all-staff@exploris.org>, All Families <all-families@exploris.org>, Board Members <board@exploris.org>

Good Morning Exploris Families,

We have some upcoming changes, some goodbyes to say, and some new faces to welcome.

New Staff & New Roles: Many of our families have already met Jackie Hyman and Katie Edwards, who have joined our school as Exceptional Children teachers at the middle school. Jackie and Katie each bring valuable skills, training and experience to their roles and they filled two positions that had been vacant from the beginning of the year. We are delighted to have them partner with us for this key work on our team. Recently we have also brought Jessica Harrison onto the team as our EC Coordinator for all grades k-8; Jessica also brings a wealth of experience into the MTSS process and EC compliance and already has been a valuable addition. We have also very much enjoyed welcoming Desmond Lanclos to the 1st grade team as our new teaching partner, and a familiar face, Lyndsey, has moved from the teaching partner role in 1st grade team to the crew teacher role. Look for bios and pictures soon for all our new staff!

Goodbyes: You may have seen very recent individual letters from Devon (6th grade), Amanda (7th grade), and Nikki (Middle School Global Arts), who have stepped down from their teaching roles for some different personal opportunities and needs. (We are delighted that Nikki will continue to be part of life at Exploris as a day-to-day substitute.) At the elementary school, in December, Carol, our previous EC coordinator, returned to partial retirement and a part-time teaching position at her former school nearer to her home, and of course earlier this fall Callie also stepped down from her Global Arts teaching position for a different career pathway. We will miss our colleagues very much and truly appreciate their many contributions to our Exploris scholars.

Curriculum Transitions: With Nikki stepping down, we took some time to reevaluate our Middle School Global Arts programs and student needs. Instead of hiring a new teacher for Nikki's role, we have decided to transition the Digital Literacy class to a Seminar period, which will be led by Michele Butterworth, our current Interventions teacher. We have also created a new teaching partner position to help support this new Seminar program, and we will introduce that person to our community once all the paperwork is complete! All Exploris middle school students will rotate into Seminar as part of their Global Arts program, and during this class our scholars can receive intervention services, work on their own projects or homework completion, work on enrichment activities, and receive regular social-emotional lessons and activities around stress, conflict resolution, and other age-appropriate skills from our counseling curriculum and our middle school counselor, Ryan. We are not dropping the Digital Literacy curriculum, because we still believe that understanding how to be a good digital citizen and how to navigate social pressures online, etc are valuable skills for our scholars. Instead we are going to fold many of these concepts into our Cultural Literacy class, which will better align with the elementary global arts program known as Connected World and make for smoother transitions and connections across our k-8 global arts program. On the elementary campus, we have been excited to have Daniel step into the Connected World teaching position, and while we will miss him full time in 1st grade, we know our 1st grade program is in great hands with Martha, Lyndsey, and Desmond, and we are loving the innovation Daniel is bringing to his new role.

Summary: This is a difficult season in education across the country, and Exploris has not been immune. The topic of staff support, staff well-being, and staff retention has been at the top of our leadership conversations. We know that all the programming in the world doesn't matter if you don't have a caring, impactful teacher at the helm of each class. We note that our teachers are not leaving to take jobs in other schools, and are instead examining this point in their lives and looking at what pathways they need to take to best meet their own personal goals and situations. Please know that when we hold exit interviews, staff always speak highly of the children, families, and their colleagues here at Exploris, and your support is noted and appreciated. *(That said, the teacher's snack stash is so awesome when it's kept full-- thank you for those donations! It's a little thing but sometimes a piece of chocolate or that cup of coffee just helps us hang on!)*

Thank you all,
Deb

--

Deborah M. Brown B.S., M.A., NBCT ELA/AYA
Director, Middle School



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

7th Grade Project Proposal



7th Grade Curriculum Project

Trimester 2 Driving Question: What does inheritance mean to you?

Essential Questions:

- What does wealth look like? From individual wealth and modern world class system
- How can we influence economic equity in our community?
- What traits do we receive at birth and what do we gain from the environment we grow up in?
- How does our birth environment impact our economic status?
- What are some different systems of class around the world and how do they impact the people who live in them differently?

3 Case Studies

1

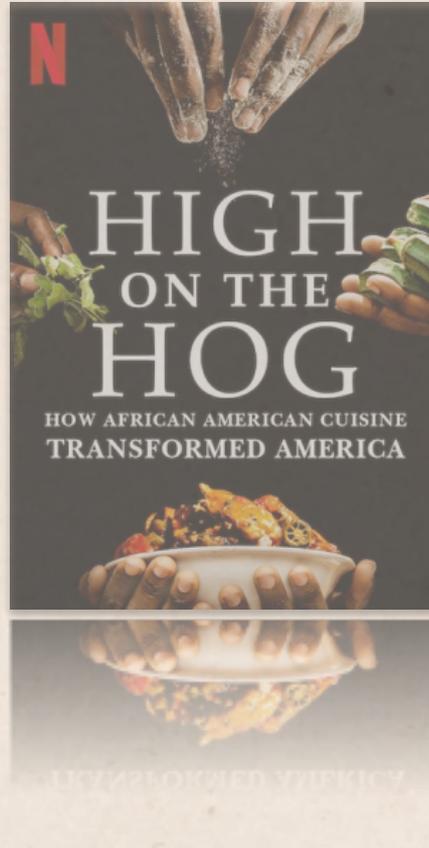
High on the Hog

Students will watch and analyze four episodes linking African food to American culture, relating it to Carolina farmers, businesses, and economy.

3

Plan an event at Transfer Food Hall

Students will advertise, prepare samples, and host a panel discussion for the community at Exploris School.



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2

Plan a Panel Discussion

Students will use the information to generate questions for a Q&A session with guest speaker, Gabrielle E.W. Carter





Gabrielle E.W. Carter

Cultural Preservationist

- Recently featured in the Washington Post

Co-founder of Tall Grass Box

- A CSA that supports & encourages the sustainability of Black Farmers in NC

One of the featured chefs in High on the Hog

- Specifically in episode two she discusses her family's culinary roots in North Carolina





Transfer Food Hall



500 E Davie St, Raleigh, NC 27601

February 24, 2023

10:00 am until 11:30 am

NC State Farmers' Market

February 16th Field Experience



What do we need from the board?



PTO

The 7th grade team would like support from the board to advertise for the event: we would like the Exploris Community to promote this as an event for Black History to bring awareness to black farmers in NC and to promote Tall Grass Food Box.



Budget

Since the project is in its infant stages, they do not yet know what costs, if any, will be necessary. The students are proposing a tasting event, and it is not yet known what Ms. Carter will require. The team is asking for monetary support.

The 7th Grade Team



Tasha



Mary



Paradise

