



The Exploris School

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday March 21, 2024 at 4:30 PM EDT

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		Edward Buchan	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Steven Darroch	1 m
C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Edward Buchan	2 m
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.

Public comment may be oral, in person, or in written form to be read by the Chair.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>Public comment is limited to no more than 3 minutes per person.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Each speaker will clearly state their full name and county of residence.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A response will be provided to the stakeholder within seven (7) days. Those providing public comment are asked to provide in writing (either in person or via email to board@exploris.org) their contact information including name, County of residence, and address (either email or postal, whichever is preferred).</p> <p>Specific issues about a particular student or teacher should be addressed to the elementary or middle school director, rather than the Board of Directors.</p>			
E.	Board Development: Updates from Rosewood Strategies	Josh Corbat	30 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The team from Rosewood Strategies will join us at 4:30 p.m. to give an update and answer questions about our Facilities Project.		

II.	Committee Reports			5:19 PM
A.	Governance	Vote	Ryan Boyce	5 m
B.	Finance	Discuss	Koren Morgan	5 m
	• Monthly Financial Reports			
C.	Educational Excellence	Discuss	Eric Grunden	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
D. Director Evaluation & Support	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
E. Facilities	Discuss	Josh Corbat	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on Facilities Project 			
F. Kaizen	FYI	Daniel Hencher	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaizen leaders will give an update to the Board. 			
III. Meeting Items			5:49 PM
A. Directors Report	Discuss	Deborah Brown	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.) • Votes requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Modify our current Covid Policy, which is 5 days of quarantine followed by 5 days of masking, to reflect the new CDC guidelines that state individuals may return to work, school, and other activities once they are fever free without medication for at least 24 hours and symptoms are improving. Masking until symptoms resolve is still recommended. ◦ Approval for new hires, as listed in the Directors' Report 			
B. Board Business	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Discussions 			
IV. Closed Session			5:59 PM
A. Facilities & Legal Items	Discuss	Josh Corbat	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on Facilities • Updates on Personnel • Updates on any Open Legal Items 			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
V. Closing Items			6:09 PM
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote		

Coversheet

Finance

Section:	II. Committee Reports
Item:	B. Finance
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Bank Account Balances 2-29-24.pdf 06. Balance Sheet 2024.02 - Exploris.pdf 05. Income Statement 2024.02 - Exploris.pdf 03. Board Report - 2024.02 - Exploris.pdf

2/29/2024 Account Balances	
Bank Account	Balance
The Exploris School Checking	\$1,489,796.49
The Exploris School Reserves	\$1,221,226.09
The Exploris School Foundation-Annual Fund	\$93,541.44
The Exploris School Foundation-Capital Campaign	\$542,104.20

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL

Balance Sheet

Fiscal Year: 2024 | Fiscal Month: February
Include Funds: All

Assets		
2.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	967,833.39
2.1011.000.000.000.000.00	Cash - Reserve	1,221,226.09
2.1611.000.000.000.000.00	Security Deposit	15,658.00
3.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(262.41)
5.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	441,164.05
TOTAL Assets:		2,645,619.12
Liabilities		
2.2010.000.000.000.000.00	Accounts Payable	(663.00)
2.2282.000.000.000.000.00	EEs' Flex Spending Deductions	880.60
TOTAL Liabilities:		217.60
Reserves and Equity		
2.2960.000.000.000.000.00	Fund Equity	1,782,051.27
5.2960.000.000.000.000.00	Fund Equity	427,572.82
TOTAL Reserves and Equity:		2,209,624.09
NET GAIN (LOSS):		435,777.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES / RESERVES / INCOME:		2,645,619.12

03/06/2024
03:45 PM

Page 1 of 1

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL**Income Statement****Fiscal Year: 2024 Month: February****Include Fund(s): 1, 2, 3, 5**

Fund	Beg. Balance	MTD Actual	YTD Actual
Fund 1			
Revenue Total:	2,149,495.55	298,400.99	2,447,896.54
Expense Total:	2,149,495.55	298,400.99	2,447,896.54
Change in Fund 1 Balance:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund 2			
Revenue Total:	1,029,087.96	161,811.53	1,190,899.49
Expense Total:	671,173.96	97,276.92	768,450.88
Change in Fund 2 Balance:	357,914.00	64,534.61	422,448.61
Fund 3			
Revenue Total:	233,925.24	18,071.95	251,997.19
Expense Total:	234,187.65	18,071.95	252,259.60
Change in Fund 3 Balance:	(262.41)	0.00	(262.41)
Fund 5			
Revenue Total:	53,515.34	820.00	54,335.34
Expense Total:	33,154.70	7,589.41	40,744.11
Change in Fund 5 Balance:	20,360.64	(6,769.41)	13,591.23

Fund 1 - State Funds

Fund 2 - Local Funds

Fund 3 - Federal Funds

Fund 5 - Multiple Enterprise Fund (Before & After School Program)

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL							
Budget Analysis Report (Reconciled)							
Fiscal Year: 2024 - February							
							67% of way through fiscal year
Account	Budget	Period Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
REVENUES							
▶ STATE REVENUE	3,203,080.80	298,400.99	2,447,896.54	755,184.26	76.42%	3,203,080.80	
▶ LOCAL REVENUE	1,624,490.15	132,907.17	1,077,535.05	546,955.10	66.33%	1,624,749.11	
▶ NCACCESS GRANT REVENUE	282,493.00	1,785.44	82,950.82	199,542.18	29.36%	282,493.00	
▶ FEDERAL REVENUE	216,888.90	16,286.51	169,046.37	47,842.53	77.94%	216,888.90	
▶ FOUNDATION REVENUE	170,000.00	0.00	0.00	170,000.00	0.00%	170,000.00	
▶ B&A CARE REVENUE	92,000.00	820.00	54,335.34	37,664.66	59.06%	92,000.00	
▶ REVENUE - ACTIVITIES	0.00	28,904.36	113,364.44	(113,364.44)		113,364.44	
REVENUES	5,588,952.85	479,104.47	3,945,128.56	1,643,824.29	70.59%	5,702,576.25	
Account	Budget	Prior Month Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
EXPENSES							
▶ SALARIES AND BONUSES	3,165,120.71	254,749.94	2,039,299.94	1,125,820.77	64.43%	3,165,120.71	
▶ BENEFITS	645,630.86	52,196.19	408,698.52	236,932.34	63.30%	645,630.86	
▶ BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	77,872.79	732.95	27,952.58	49,920.21	35.90%	78,272.44	
▶ TECHNOLOGY	97,665.68	8,278.63	66,198.20	31,467.48	67.78%	98,870.34	
▶ NON-CAP EQUIPMENT & LEASES	17,500.00	1,348.92	10,908.29	6,591.71	62.33%	17,500.00	
▶ CONTRACTED STUDENT SERVICES	155,000.00	16,843.46	91,638.81	63,361.19	59.12%	155,000.00	
▶ FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITIES	42,223.32	8,955.88	87,980.15	(45,756.83)	208.37%	42,223.32	
▶ ADMIN SERVICES	335,278.02	22,125.16	255,784.21	79,493.81	76.29%	335,278.02	
▶ INSURANCES	37,060.00	0.00	35,457.00	1,603.00	95.67%	37,060.00	
▶ FACILITIES	477,500.00	39,985.25	333,385.76	144,114.24	69.82%	477,500.00	
▶ B&A CARE	66,000.00	7,151.01	38,296.88	27,703.12	58.03%	66,000.00	
▶ CLUBS	3,545.32	0.00	1,504.29	2,041.03	42.43%	3,545.32	
▶ CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND EXPENSES	6,787.00	0.00	6,787.00	0.00	100.00%	6,787.00	
▶ VARIOUS GRANTS - NCACCESS	282,493.00	8,971.88	105,459.50	177,033.50	37.33%	282,493.00	
EXPENSES	5,409,676.70	421,339.27	3,509,351.13	1,900,325.57	64.87%	5,411,281.01	
Surplus/(DEFICIT)	179,276.15	57,765.20	435,777.43			291,295.24	

Coversheet

Kaizen

Section:	II. Committee Reports
Item:	F. Kaizen
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Running SY 23-24 Kaizen Team Agenda.pdf Kaizen DEI Audit and Response.pdf

Kaizen Meeting

Date: 3/12/24

Time: 3:55- 4:55 pm

Location: ES 4th Grade classroom

Notetaker: Taccata

Engaged Participants:

Desired Outcomes:

- To make sure upcoming Nakama sessions are planned by the Kaizen team

Data/Documents:

[September 26, 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)


[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)

[School Improvement Plan](#)

[Updated SIP for 2023-2024](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

- Respect everyone's time; Be on time
- Stick to the agreed times
- Recognize all participants in the room
- Invite people to speak
- Be transparent
- Be intentional about making sure people in the room agree to decisions being made

Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes (Below on spreadsheet for today's meeting page 11)
Introduction	Tasha	10	Introduction activity - No icebreaker. Welcome New Kaizen Rep (Mariah) replace Noah New Teacher Rep position Give feedback from last Nakama meeting 3/6 Review norms  Kaizen/Nakama Planning T3 2024
Work session	Tasha	35 - 40	Plan for Nakama 3/20 - PD growth area Potential plan (With input from Leah)- Staff look at the list of available PD days for next year as well as the work week and create a dream plan in table groups. Incorporating - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peaceful Schools (at least a full day) - Crucial Conversations (MP would need to share the time necessary to make that happen for a portion/all of the staff) - Expedition/PBL - Exploris Core Values and Norms - Responsive Classroom - Vertical Alignment time - Best Practices for EC Students and Neurodivergent Students - Co Teacher Training Workshop - Three Tiered Instruction & Intervention Model/ ECATS - Jump rope and Achievement Reports - Others Discuss this option - What are Kaizen's thoughts on this plan? Glows and Grows. Would this meet the staff Nakama meeting and Rise DEI goals? Any alternative plans? What do we need to create before the staff meeting?

Kaizen Meeting

Other items	Michelle D?	10	Feedback from today's meeting: Kaizen Feedback form Next Meetings: 4/2, 4/16, 5/7, 5/21 * 4/30 (possible work session/ Rep meeting) Set agenda for next Kaizen Meeting: Unresolved topics 4/2 - Plan for Nakama 4/17 - Equity committee/ Jill (10 min) explanation of FAM-S 4/16 - Plan for Nakama 5/1 - Nakama topic to be determined - Continue planning
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3/12/24

Present: Tasha, Mariah, Rachel, Deb, Taccata

- Meeting began promptly at 4:00
- Welcomed Mariah as our new representative for middle school
- Tasha discussed takeaways from last week's Nakama meeting - staff responses (positive feedback)
- Reviewed norms - need to be updated/revised
- Plan for Nakama PD 3/20
 - available PD dates for the 24/25 school year
 - *Peaceful Schools (suggestions to place it at the end of the school year)
 - *Crucial Conversations with MP
 - *Expedition/PBL (needed for new hires)
 - Rachel asks if some of the Responsive Classroom work be done in our PLCs and remove it from the staff meeting PD
- Options for staff feedback on PD: "My PD Plate" (team) and a Google form (individual)
 - build your plate based on the PD YOU feel that you need
- Tasha added additional suggestions to possible PD topics through team members feedback.
- **Deb** will create a digital "My PD Plate" for staff input for 3/20.
- **Mariah** will create a Google form for individual feedback.
- During the 3/20 meeting, place handouts at each table that describes each PD option.
- Michelle also suggested specific details (ingredients) for "My PD Plate" a deeper dive into the PD needs.

*Michelle will lead the 3/20 "My PD Plate" session.

** Next meeting dates: 4/2 (Jill needs 10 minutes), 4/16

Kaizen Meeting**Date:** 2/27/24**Time:** 3:55- 4:55 pm**Location:** ES 4th Grade classroom**Notetaker:** Daniel**Engaged Participants:**Tasha, Leah, Josh, Rachel, Ethan,
Daniel, Michelle D and Deb.**Desired Outcomes:**

- To make sure upcoming Nakama sessions are planned by the Kaizen team

Data/Documents:

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Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Announcements/ Acknowledgments Review Norms	Tasha	10	How Sweet It Is? Match the clues with the common candies we eat every day. Once you are done, you will receive the candy as a prize for winning the most clues. (5 min) Revisit the Norms the group agreed upon and questions (5 min)
Work session	Daniel Tasha Leah	40	<p>Review the upcoming Nakama sessions and plan the upcoming Nakama meeting for 3/6 with the team.</p> <p>Proposed dates:</p> <p>2/27- Planning for Nakama 3/6 - Conflict resolutions</p> <p>3/12 - Plan for Nakama 3/20 - PD growth Area/ Leah R: share new teacher evaluation rubric (5 min)</p> <p>4/2 - Plan for Nakama 4/17 - Equity committee/ Jill (10 min) explanation of FAM-S</p> <p>4/16 - Plan for Nakama 5/1 - Nakama topic to be determined - Continue planning</p> <p>4/30 - Work session (option to attend the meeting)</p> <p>5/7 - Plan for Nakama 5/15 - Share plan from different recommendation sessions: plan for last Nakama meeting</p> <p>5/21 - Wrap up the year - Reflections/ Plan for 24-25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of Kaizen: Revisit conversation from 1/30 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 3 main areas of concern: MTSS umbrellas, Culture, and Climate, Perspective of others and families ❖ Discuss Kaizen Rep team responsibilities ❖ Upcoming school year new Kaizen Reps (re-elect reps or advertise for new reps) <p>Retreat - Funding? Dates needed ASAP - Proposed date: 6/12? Or 6/11? (backup date)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next upcoming Meeting for Nakama 3/6: Conflict resolution planning document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use this running document to capture ideas from today's discussion: <div>Feb 27, 2024 Kaizen Meeting : Nakama Sessions SY 23-24</div>
Other items	Daniel	10	Feedback from today's meeting: Kaizen Feedback form Next Meetings: 3/12, 4/2, 4/16, 5/7, 5/21 * 4/30 (possible work session/ Rep meeting) Set agenda for next Kaizen Meeting: Unresolved topics

Kaizen Meeting

Date: January 30th, 2024

Time: 3:55- 4:55 pm

Location: ES 4th Grade classroom

Notetaker: Daniel

Engaged Participants:

Daniel, Tasha, Michelle D, Jill, Leah, Ethan, Deb,
Rachel, Josh, Noah, Taccata
Guests - Michelle P, Mariah, Marcella

Desired Outcomes:

- **Revisit Team Norms**
- **Revisit the purpose of Kaizen team and the vision for the remaining meetings for the SY**

Data/Documents:

[September 26, 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)
[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)
[School Improvement Plan](#)
[Updated SIP for 2023-2024](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

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Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Announcements/ Acknowledgments	Tasha	5 min	Icebreaker: Guess your teammate candy?
Revisit Team Norms	Daniel and Leah	25 min	Revisit Kaizen Team Norms (Slide Deck on Team Norms for informational purpose) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole group: Why norms matter. 5 min • 6 Norms on chart paper, count off by 6 to create groups - Define norm, what it looks like/sounds like. 10 min • Come back together to share.10 min
What is the purpose of Kaizen?	Tasha and Michelle P	25 min	Who have we been? Who do we need to be? List of what we feel different purposes of Kaizen have been in the past: Is the list complete? What is missing? Whole group discussion (5 min) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work related to culture and climate 2. Listening to staff and students concerns 3. SIP Team (School Improvement Plan) 4. MTSS Team 5. Work related to staff equity and retention 6. Work related to RISE recommendations 7. Work related to making decision that include a variety of perspectives <p>Phase of work: (Think Pair Share: Elbow partner: 5 min); Spending your 3 votes: write on sticky note, then place vote; discussion around votes.Repeat until it is clear consensus (15 min)</p> <p>Main thoughts: Culture and climate/MTSS team - Done by listening to staff and student concerns/ including a variety of perspectives.</p>
Other items	Tasha and Leah	5 min	Feedback from today's meeting: Kaizen Feedback form Next Meetings: 2/27, 3/12, 4/2, 4/16, 5/7, 5/21 * 4/30 (possible work session/ Rep meeting) Set agenda for next Kaizen Meeting: Unresolved topics Cohort of Reps Emergency meeting: Purpose plan for future Nakama meeting.

Kaizen Meeting

Date: January 16th, 2024

Time: 3:55- 4:55 pm

Location: ES 4th Grade classroom

Notetaker: Daniel

Engaged Participants:

Amira, Jackie, Daniel, Mariah, Marcella, Keith, Taccata, Tasha, Jill, Ashley, Jill, Leah, Noah, Deb, Ethan, Josh, Michelle D, Rachel (Douglas from Rise DEI)

Desired Outcomes:

- Updates on teacher evaluation tool
- Understanding of the RISE DEI audit
- Designated time to look at SIP/MTSS

Data/Documents:

[September 26, 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)
[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)
[School Improvement Plan](#)
[Updated SIP for 2023-2024](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

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Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Announcements/ Acknowledgments	Tasha/ Daniel	5 mins	Ice breaker with our theme of “Something Sweet for the New Year” Omit for today
Teacher evaluation tool	Leah	15 mins	BTSP program - Working well, BT's have mentors. Teacher Evaluation Tool, Need for revision Current Tool @ Exploris - Used at Exploris for 5+ years. Not validated by the Office of Charter Schools. Ad Hoc committee met to compare the current tool with NCEES. It was recommended that it will need adjusting. It is reflective but not evaluative. NCEES Tool - Needs to be used for BT's Revised Tool - not finalized - Please review. - Deadline - 2 weeks to offer feedback and comments. Would be used with everyone except BT's. BT's need to be in NCEES immediately and until further notice. Next step - Do we want to use our tool with BT's going forward?
RISE	Douglas	20 mins	Douglas from RISE: Overview of data from audit from Exploris Staff Information will be shared at the next whole staff meeting. People are wanting a cultural refresh. I think there are some historical things at play. I have found people are wanting consistency. 1 - How does Kaizen embody and live out the 8 core values? 2 - How does Kaizen center equity and inclusion in their work? What is the purpose of Kaizen? Need for restoration and a refreshed identity. Could parents share or student ambassadors? Could we send out an anonymous form? 1 - for people on Kaizen. 2 - People not on Kaizen ??
Meeting Feedback	Daniel	5 mins	Plus/Delta Next meeting - Tuesday, January 30, 2024 Follow up with the new revised form for teacher evaluation, a blend of both internal form and NCEES, but BT will have to use

NCEES only for 3 years.

Date: 12/5/23

Time: 3:55- 4:55 pm

Location: ES 4th Grade classroom

Notetaker: Daniel

Engaged Participants:

Michelle D, Jackie, Keith, Daniel, Leah, Cori, Mariah, Marcella, Josh, Deb, Ethan, Amira, Tasha

Desired Outcomes:

- **Better understanding of concerns facing Equity and Diversity at Exploris**
- **Clear agenda for RISE group to collect data and conduct a meaningful audit of all stakeholders**

Data/Documents:

[September 26, 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)
[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)
[School Improvement Plan](#)
[Updated SIP for 2023-2024](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

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Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Announcements/ Acknowledgments	Tasha	5 min	Icebreaker: Poem
Presentation: Diversity and Equity Data Collection	Cori	15 min	Historical Information: Data and Information collected over time from Exploris regarding Diversity and Equity at Exploris Information represents data regarding all stakeholders from previous Exploris staff and student body Google Doc: Equity and Diversity Historical Data
Follow Up : Diversity and Equity	Keith/ Amira	15 min	Follow Up from Staff Meeting comments regarding demographics, diversity and equity currently at Exploris Discussion should include: What do you see are the current problems from your perspective and what are some solutions you may suggest to the group to move the school forward?
Discussion	Daniel	15 min	Extra time for discussion (if needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - K only has 3 students FandR - Discussion around students who were FandR that dropped out and the waitlist is not weighted 25%. - Discussion around free breakfast and lunch - Cost of materials and field trips - Scholarships - My hot lunchbox - Cost - Diversity for diversity's sake? How can we provide better tools and safety for diversity at our school and within the culture of the future at our school - Adding PD days to the calendar around DEI - Recommendation <p>Information on RISE audit.- Ethan - January 3rd - 10th will be set aside for staff to meet with RISE consultants. Walk-Throughs: 9th at ES and 10th MS (will be all day on each campus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee with Counselors is good- but not the best time for all families- so not sure this will be good enough to get parent voice - In addition to site visits there will be interviews with staff members- <p>Documents for SIP (if time) (Updated SIP for 2023-2024) -</p> <p>Needs assessment- data trends over time, Demographics over time, Needs assessment narrative from Title I, FAM-S 2019-2023 Summary, FAM-S Data Tracker with Intervention Demographics</p>
Logistics & Next Steps	Tasha	10 min	Action Steps: Rise Audit: January 2, (tentative) 9 and 10th Demographic Data Dive on 1/10 Staff meeting
Meeting Feedback	Tasha	5 min	Tentative Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Kaizen Meeting

Date: November, 14th 2023

Time: 3:45 - 4:45 pm

Location: ES 4th Grade classroom

Notetaker: Daniel

Engaged Participants:

Tasha, Noah, Deb, Ethan, Daniel, Leah, Michelle D

Desired Outcomes:

- Better understanding of SIP for this year
- Logistics


Data/Documents:

[September 26, 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)
[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)
[School Improvement Plan](#)

[Updated SIP for 2023-2024](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

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Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Announcements	Tasha	5 min	The Great Candy Pass
Nakama Trimester 2	Leah	10 mins	<p>Only 13 people responded to Leah's survey about Equity and Diversity topics.</p> <p>Rise will start its Equity and Diversity audit in January.</p> <p>Could this be led in-house or should it be led by a facilitator? Should we move this to Trimester 3? The decision was made to move it to Trimester 3 once we have the data to support this topic and areas that should be focussed on.</p> <p>The calendar changed - Nov 29th - Whole staff meeting - benchmark, Dec 6th - Staff meeting campus-specific, Dec 13th - Staff meeting - Holiday Social</p>
School improvement goal review/plan	Ethan/Deb	20 mins	<p>Look at the workshopped SIP goals for the current school year</p> <p> Exploris SIP 2023-2024</p> <p>Get Kaizen input on the SIP goals for this year</p>
Logistics & Next Steps	Daniel/Tasha	20 mins	<p>Check in with reps - What is working and not working around the SIP Plan</p> <p>M. Duncan: Discussion on Panorama creating survey for staff on SIP Plan</p>
Meeting Feedback	Tasha	5 mins	<p>Plus / Delta: Next Meeting Trimester 2: 12/5</p> <p>Document to review: Needs assessment- data trends over time, Demographics over time, Needs assessment narrative from Title I, FAM-S 2019-2023 Summary, FAM-S Data Tracker with Intervention Demographics. Next Steps Look at the data and take some of the information to make reasonable smart goals towards student growth and proficiency.</p>

Kaizen Meeting

Date: October 17th, 2023

Time: 3:45 - 4:45 pm

Location: ES 4th Grade classroom

Notetaker: Jill Hemingway

Engaged Participants:

Jackie Hyman
Jill Hemingway
Ethan Burton
Tasha Void
Rachel Hearn

Desired Outcomes:

- Better understanding of SIP and Strategic Goal for last year and this year
- Better understanding from team reps of actions items that need to be addressed for this SY
- Plan for how to collect data and narrow down to 2-3 goals for the SIP Plan (Work that needs to be done)

Data/Documents:

[September 26, 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)
[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)
[School Improvement Plan](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

- Respect everyone's time; Be on time
- Stick to the agreed times
- Recognize all participants in the room
- Invite people to speak
- Be transparent
- Be intentional about making sure people in the room agree to decisions being made

Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Announcement	Tasha	5 min	Intro/ Icebreaker: Oh.... Good old candies
Steven - Board chair	Steven	10 mins	Introductions and comments Summarize the discussion with Kaizen leads regarding SIP Plan and Strategic Goals
School improvement goal review/plan	Ethan	10 mins	Overall of current SIP and moving forward Powerpoint for SIP 23-24
Logistics & Next Steps and Process (Narrow Goals)	Tasha	30 mins	Review Agenda Check in with reps - How can we best get complete and consistent information from staff that we represent on what our main goals around the SIP For example: Do we conduct a survey to get data and then follow up with face to face from staff members. (Logistics) What do you think/feel is the main challenge impacting teaching and learning at Exploris currently? What is the most positive action we can take to improve teaching and learning at Exploris? Next Steps: Who will summarize the big ideas from the survey? Kaizen? Staff Meeting? Leadership? Goal is to have a plan that all stakeholders can buy in
Meeting Feedback	Tasha	5 mins	Action items for next meeting: Postpone to 11/14. Goal to collect data from staff members before next meeting From today meeting: timeline to send out SIP plan to staff members and review survey or feedback for next Kaizen meeting Plus / Delta

Notes:

With only 5 people here, this agenda will be continued on 11/14. There will be no meeting on 10/31. In lieu of that we are asking team to look over remotely. Tasha emailed Steven to let him know.

Ethan brought up making sure we had time to put some things in place.

Ethan and Tasha will sit down and take the feedback from Kaizen and input it into a new SIP plan for 23-24. They will bring the tweaks to Kaizen at the 11/14 meeting. Does panorama of the capability to

Jackie brought up the idea of stretching out the dates on the SIP so it was a multi-year plan so we can really track if we made progress.

Teacher Working Conditions Survey comes out in March

Action Items:

1. Ethan and Tasha Meeting to update the SIP plan
2. Share it remotely with Kaizen the week of 10/30 in lieu of 10/31 meeting
3. Survey to the staff the week of 11/6 (panorama- M. Duncan?)
4. Next meeting is 11/14 right before the end of the trimester to discuss staff survey results

Kaizen Meeting**Date:** September 12th, 2023**Time:** 4:00 - 5:00 pm**Location:** ES 4th Grade classroom**Notetaker:** Jill**Engaged Participants:**

Ethan, Jill, Daniel, Noah, Deb,
Tasha, Jackie, Josh, Leah,
Rachel

Desired Outcomes:

- Understanding the role and responsibilities of a Kaizen Rep
- Familiarize ourselves with the School Improvement and Strategic Plans

Data/Documents:

[May 2023 Kaizen Meeting](#)
[Exploris Strategic Plan](#)
[School Improvement Plan](#)

Meeting/Team Norms:

- Respect everyone's time; be on time
- Stick to the agreed times
- Recognize all participants in the room
- Invite people to speak
- Be transparent
- Be intentional about making sure people in the room agree to decisions being made

Topic/Activity	Facilitator	Time	Notes
Acknowledgments & Announcements	Daniel	10 mins	Brief Intro of Kaizen Reps/ Why did you decide to do Kaizen for this school year? Review Agenda
Logistics	Daniel	5 mins	Review Norms and Meeting Times and Locations for this Kaizen School year
SIP vs SP Powerpoint	Deb	10 mins	What are SIP and Strategic Goals? How long is the plan? How are they related to each other? Brief Discussion SIP vs SG
Strategic Goal/ School Improvement Plan Review	Tasha	20 mins	Small Group Activity: Review the selected plan as a group Determine the takeaways of the plan: Start/Stop/Continue Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should we continue doing? (Green) • What works well that we should not change? (Yellow) • What should we stop doing because it is no longer relevant/ or already achieved? (Red) Be prepared to share your findings with the whole group
Share Out from Plans	Everyone	10 mins	Share out the big ideas and close with one sentence about what you think our biggest priority should be this school year.
Meeting Feedback	Daniel	5 mins	Next meeting agenda: Continue discussing SIP plans Tentative Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Kaizen Meeting

Notes:

Meeting began promptly at 4:00

Introduced ourselves

Discussed norms. Elementary school for Trimester 1, Beginning promptly at 4 and ending promptly at 5:00. Items will carry over to the next meeting.
Elementary

Strategic Goals vs SIP

Strategic plan- boarder 3-5 year plan

SIP- the smaller steps that get you to the strategic plan goals. See slides above

Start Stop Continue

Split up into teams to discuss the SIP or Strategic Plans

One post-its; one sentence summary of the key indicator

This is planning so we can dive more deeply next meeting

Areas for Growth

Clear and inclusive policies and practices for school-wide equity and inclusion for instruction and services (41x)

Explicit and fair procedure and practice around discipline and consequences (38x)

Establish procedures for communication, sharing of feedback, navigating conflict and disclosing grievances from staff/families (22x)

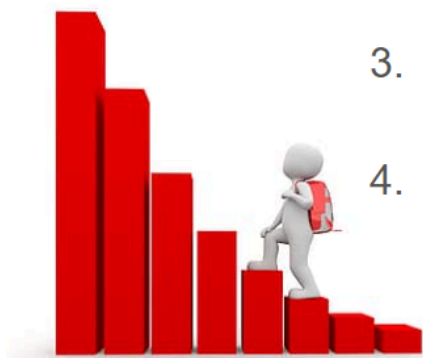
Training for staff in EC/special education and areas of DEI (i.e. microaggressions, culturally responsive practices, healthy dialogue) (15x)

Consistent opportunities for student/family engagement, connection, and enrichment (8x)



Recommended Next Steps

1. Develop mutually created, agreed upon, and visible norms for communication and conflict.
2. Form democratically run equity committee with student and family representatives to work in tandem with the Kaizen team
3. Build/deliver targeted professional development in the growth areas
4. Create opportunities for repair of staff/student/family relationships through conflict resolution training



- Dates
 - Nakama: February 21, March 6, 20, April 17, May 1
 - Staff Work Days: April 26th (Outward Bound) and April 29th
- Potential Pathways

Coversheet

Directors Report

Section:	III. Meeting Items
Item:	A. Directors Report
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Consolidated_Closing_Letter_2023_92BES_20240318.docx Consolidated_Final_Report_2023_92BES_20240318.docx March 2024 Exploris Leadership Team Board Report.pdf



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.DPI.NC.GOV

March 18, 2024

Steven Darroch, Board Chair
The Exploris School

Dear Steven Darroch,

The Cross-Program Consolidated Monitoring Review that occurred for your Public-School Unit (PSU) has concluded. The Exploris School has successfully met all statutory compliance requirements in the review conducted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that occurred the week beginning March 4, 2024. Included in the review were the following programs, if applicable to your PSU: Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; Title IV, Part A; Migrant Education Program; and Rural and Low-Income Schools.

Thank you to the staff within your PSU for working closely with your DPI Program Administrator to meet all applicable federal program requirements in your PSU. If the Federal Programs Division can be of any assistance to you in meeting the needs of students and staff, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Alex Charles
Senior Director

AC:rt

c: Michelle Duncan, Federal Program Director
Timothy Dryman, NCDPI Section Chief Consolidated Programs
Shawna Andrews, NCDPI Federal Program Administrator

OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

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Consolidated Final Report Monitoring

An instrument to monitor grant programs authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act

Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division
Revised September 2023

FEDERAL PROGRAM MONITORING AND SUPPORT

6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6307 | (984) 236-2786 | Fax (984) 236-2099

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Office of Federal Programs Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report

Summary	Programs Monitored
PSU Code: 92B	x
PSU Contact: Michelle Duncan	Title I-A: Improving Basic Programs
NCDPI Lead PA: Shawna Andrews	Title I-D: Neglected, Delinquent & At- Risk Youth
Monitoring Start: 3/4/2024	Title II-A: Supporting Effective Instruction
Visitation Date: 3/7/2024	Title III-A: English Language Acquisition
Monitoring End: 3/8/2024	Title IV-A: Student Support & Academic Enrichment
Report Date: 3/18/2024	Title I-C: Migrant Education Program
Findings: 0	Title V-B: Rural and Low-Income Schools
Recommendations: 2	Title V-B: Small, Rural School Achievement

The Cross-Program Consolidated Monitoring Review summarized above is based on examination of program files, visits to schools and interviews with stakeholders. Details about the monitoring process are provided in Guidelines for Cross-Program Consolidated Monitoring. The criteria for monitoring and the types of documents that demonstrate compliance are explained in Description of Elements and Supporting Documents for Cross-Program Consolidated Monitoring. Both documents were provided to the public school unit (PSU) prior to monitoring and are also available on the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support web site and from the lead Program Administrator listed above.

Each of the elements applicable to the PSU have been rated according to the following rubric:

A rating of Meets Requirement will be issued if the following are True:

- Compliance Element is 100% met and supported by all required evidence.
- All required documents are provided and support compliance.
- Interviews are consistent with documentation and indicate proper processes and implementation.
- Compliance is consistent at the PSU level and throughout the schools.

A rating of Meets Requirement with Recommendations will be issued if:

- Basic compliance requirements are met.
- Compliance and/or documentation could be strengthened with reasonable measures.

A Finding will be issued if either of the following is true:

**Office of Federal Programs
Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report**

- Evidence or lack of evidence shows compliance element has not been met.
- Documentation is incomplete or lacking.
- Interviews do not support documentation.
- Interviews reveal a lack of understanding of processes or implementation.
- Compliance is inconsistent at the PSU level or at the schools

The following pages present detailed results of this monitoring review. For each element rated with a finding, a narrative provides details and indicates corrective action required of the PSU. Recommendations are also described in narratives but require no corrective actions. A chart listing all elements and their ratings is also provided.

In accordance with department policy, no NCDPI staff member who contributed to the contents of this report has any affiliation or interests that would compromise an impartial review.

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Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report

Consolidated Elements:

Element		ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
1	Consultation with district/school stakeholders in developing and revising plans for the use of funds	1112(a)(1)(A) 1112(a)(5) 1304(c)(3) 2102(b)(3) 3116(b)(4)(C) 4106(c) 5222(a)	Meets Requirement	
2	Equitable Services (Districts only and if applicable)	1112(c)(2) 1117(a)(3)(A) 1117(b) 1117(b)(3) 2102(b)(2)(E) 4106(e)(2)(B) 8501	Not Applicable	
3	Understandable Language and Format of Information Disseminated to Parents	1112(e)(4) 1116(b)(1) 1116(d) 1116(f) 1304(c)(3) 3115(c)(3)	Meets Requirement	
4	Professional Development	1114(b)(7)(A)(iii)(IV) 1113(b)(2)(D) 1304(c)(7)(B) 2102(b)(2) 2102(b)(2)(F) 2103(b)(3)(B)(v) 2103(b)(3)(E) 2103(b)(3)(H) 2103(b)(3)(I) 2103(b)(3)(J) 2103(b)(3)(L) 2103(b)(3)(M)	Meets Requirement with Recommendation	The Exploris School produced evidence of high-quality professional development. Some of the professional development opportunities provided in evidence were accompanied by a way to track attendance but not all. Evidence from interviews indicated teachers and other staff members' input was used to plan professional development activities. However, not all professional development activities included as evidence had sign in sheets or records of attendance. It is

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Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report

		2103(b)(3)(O) 3115(c)(2) 4107(a)(3)(A)(ii) 4108(5)(A)(ii) 4108(5)(B)(ii)(II) 4108(5)(D) 4109(a)(4)(B) 4109(a)(5)		recommended that The Exploris School improve consistency regarding professional development documentation by developing a standard sign-in process which includes signatures, roles, and date for all staff professional development opportunities.
5	The Use of Federal Funds to Supplement, Not Supplant	1118(b) 1306 2213(g) 3115(g) 4110 5232 8501	Meets Requirement	

Title I, Part A

Element		ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
6	Required Parent Notification	1111(h)(2) 1112(e)(1)(A) 1112(e)(1)(B)(i) 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii) 1112(e)(2)(A) 1112(e)(2)(B) 1112(e)(3)(C)	Meets Requirement	
7	Required Commitments	1112(b)(2) 1112(b)(11) 1112(c)(5) 1112(c)(6)	Meets Requirement	
8	Homeless; Neglected or Delinquent; Pre-K	1112(b)(8) 1113(c)(3)(A-C) 1304(b)(1) 1401(a)(3) 1421 1422 1423 1423(4) 1431	Meets Requirement	

Office of Federal Programs
Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report

9	Use of Funds	1112(b)(5) 1113 1114(b)(7)(A)(iii)(IV) 1304(d) 1304(e) 34 CFR Sec. 200.70 34 CFR Sec. 200.71	Meets Requirement	
10	Targeted Assistance (TAS) Programs Schoolwide (SW) Programs Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)	1115(c) 1114(b) 1111(d)(1)(B) 1111(d)(2)(B)	Meets Requirement	
11	Parent and Family Engagement	1116(a)(2)(A,D,E) 1116(a)(2)(A-F) 1116(b) 1116(c)(1-3) 1116(c)(4) 1116(e)(1-5)(6-14 optional) 1304(c)(3)	Meets Requirement with Recommendation	The Exploris School provided evidence of events aimed at enhancing parental capacity and collaborating with parents to support students at home. Interviews indicated that sign-in sheets were collected for in-person events, and online activities records were maintained. To ensure consistency, it is recommended that The Exploris School develops sign-in sheets for all parent activities that include parent name, student name, grade level, and date for in-person events.

Office of Federal Programs
Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report

Title II

	Element	ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
12	Allowable Uses of Title II funds	2103(b)	Not Applicable	

Title IV-A

	Element	ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
13	Implementation of Title IV-A Program	4001 4106(e)(1)(E) 4106(e)(2)(C-E)	Not Applicable	

Title III

	Element	ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
14	Dissemination, Training, and Technical Assistance for English Language Development Standards	3115(c)(1)(A) 3115(c)(2)(B)	Not Applicable	
15	Procedures to Determine English Language Proficiency of Students and	3113(b)(2) 3113(b)(3)(A-B) 3116(b)(4)(A) 1112(e)(3)(A-B)	Not Applicable	

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Cross Program Consolidated Monitoring Report

	Notification Requirements			
16	Provision of Instruction for English Learners and/or Immigrant Children and Youth	3115(c)(1) 3115(e)(1) 3116(b)(1)	Not Applicable	
17	Language Fluency of Teachers	3116(c) 3201(7)	Not Applicable	

Title I, Part C – Migrant Education

	Element	ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
18	Coordination and Integration of Migrant Education Programs	1306(a)(1)(A,E,G) 1308 (a)(1) 1308(b)(2)(A)	Not Applicable	
19	Alignment with MEP State Service Delivery Plan	1304(c)(4) 1306	Not Applicable	
20	Evaluation of Migrant Education Program	1304(c)(3) 1306(a)(1)(D)	Not Applicable	

Title V – Rural, Low-Income Schools

Office of Federal Programs
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Element		ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
21	RLIS Program Objectives and Outcomes	5223(b)(1) 1112(c)(1)	Not Applicable	

Title I, Part D – Subpart I – State Agencies Only

Element		ESSA Citations	Rating	Narrative
22	State Agency Title I, Part D Monitoring	1411 [20 U.S.C. 6431] 1412 [20 U.S.C. 6432] 1413 [20 U.S.C. 6433] 1414 [20 U.S.C. 6434] 1415 [20 U.S.C. 6435] 1416 [20 U.S.C. 6436] 1417 [20 U.S.C. 6437] 1418 [20 U.S.C. 6438] 1419 [20 U.S.C. 6439]	Not Applicable	



The Exploris School

Directors Report

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

Date: March 21, 2024

The following information is provided to the Board of Directors:

Enrollment

Grade Level	Active Enrollment	Class Sizes	Withdrawals Since 8/30/23 (10th school day)	Open Seats	2024/2025 Applications
Kindergarten	30	15	3	4	151
1st Grade	35	17x1/ 18x1	1	1	59
2nd Grade	38	19	0		49
3rd Grade	38	19	0		68
4th Grade	39	19x1/ 20x1	1	-1	56
5th Grade	37	18x1/ 19x1	1	1	57
6th Grade	73	19x1/ 18x3	4	5	130
7th Grade	75	19x3/ 18x1	1	1	41
8th Grade	75	19x3/ 18x1	2	1	30
Total	440		11	10	641

Student Support Team Report

Month	In School Suspension # students / # days	Out of School Suspension # students / # days	Major referrals that did not result in suspension	Minor Behavior Referrals # students / # referrals
August	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0
September	ES: 0/0 MS: 1/1	ES: 0/0 MS: 3/3	ES: 2/2 MS: 3/3	ES: 5/5 MS: 2/3
October	ES: 2/1.5 MS: 2/2	ES: 1/.5 MS: 6/6	ES: 1/1 MS: 3/3	ES: 5/5 MS: 3/5

November	ES 0/0 MS 1/1	ES 0/0 MS 1.5/2	ES 1/1 MS 2/2	ES: 10/11 MS 6/8
December	ES: 0/0 MS:2/.5	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 0/0 MS 3/3	ES: 14/18 MS: 6/6
January	ES: 2/2 MS: 2/2	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 0/0 MS: 4/6	ES: 16/29 MS: 13/16
February	ES: 1/1 MS: 4/6	ES: 1/1 MS:0/0	ES: 4/4 MS:7/9	ES: 20/26 MS: 6/8
March	ES: 1/.5 MS: 4/3	ES: 1/.5 MS: 2/2	ES: 4/3 MS: 14/11	ES: 10/10 MS: 7/5
Total	ES: 6/5 MS: 13/11	ES: 4/2 MS 12.5/12	ES: 12/11 MS 19/21	ES: 90/104 MS 36/40

Updates on Goals/Issues for Discussion

School Improvement Plan (SIP) Progress:

Target Area #1 Student Support Alignment Progress:

- Our tri-annual Title 1 monitoring visit was held on Thursday, March 7th. This involved an extensive preparation of documents and artifacts in eleven different domain areas, plus onsite visits from DPI to both campuses, and interviews with panels of staff, students, families, student support, and administration. Special thanks to Michelle Duncan and the student support team for coordinating this process. Exploris had zero findings and 2 recommendations, which is an excellent outcome. The full report is in the packet.
- Both campuses have their annual Severe Weather Drills scheduled, March 20th is Middle. Families are notified ahead of time to help minimize any potential anxiety in scholars due to these drills, and crew teachers review the purpose and procedures so scholars are well prepared in case we ever need to shelter from tornadoes or other weather events.
- Ethan attended the 3 day institute and annual conference for EC services, led by the DPI regional consultants at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, and Deb joined on the third day as part of the CECLI Institute. (CECLI, or Charter Exceptional Children Leadership Institute, is a year-long course that both Ethan and Deb are enrolled in that provides guidance for public charter schools about best practices in EC services.)
- The Student Support Team has been visiting classrooms to train students in the “Say Something” anonymous reporting system. “Say Something” is an initiative from the Sandy Hook Promise non-profit organization that provides a quick and safe way for anyone to report a situation where they fear themselves or others may be in harm’s way. See more at <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips>

Target Area #2 Instructional Alignment Progress:

- Deb Brown and Leah Ruto attended the CBE Symposium at RTI on Thursday, Feb. 22. The symposium focused on trends and best practices in Competency Based Grading and featured speakers from the federal Department of Education and from the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia departments of public instruction. They also heard presentations from other schools in assorted stages of adopting CBE and made some networking connections for Exploris to visit and exchange some key practices.
- Ethan Burton attended the NC Exceptional Children's Conference from March 12th-14th. Sessions at the conference focused on best practices for challenging behaviors and how to build a school-wide discipline policy that supports neurodivergent. He also participated in discussions around submitting federal indicator reports and compliance for the Exceptional Children's Department.
- 2nd trimester Achievement Reports were emailed to all Exploris families on Monday, March 18th.
- We have some grade levels that have been struggling with student behaviors and we have been working with those crew teachers, with admin, and with Leah Ruto, our instructional coach, to provide interventions and extra support. This has looked like having extra adults in the room, offering off-campus planning and revisioning sessions, and resets of basic behavior expectations and curriculum.
- We have been exploring options for micro-credentialing and badging for staff members who can demonstrate specific skills. There are some platforms we already use that may be able to host modules that we can design.
- Crew teachers continue to meet in biweekly PLCs with the Student Support Team, where they review and norm-specific instructional strategies, examine core curriculum, and review available data to decide on any new interventions or strategies that may be needed.
- The biannual, state-wide Teacher Working Conditions Survey was given on Wednesday, March 13th. The survey has been dramatically revised and streamlined, and results will be available later this spring. The survey provides valuable information at each administration for guiding school improvement.
- We have begun the employment process for the 2024-2025 school year. This will include a staff "Intent to Return" survey, posting both open positions and "resume banking" for generic crew, GA, and EC positions, forming hiring teams, and beginning to screen and interview applicants.

Target Area #3 Community Engagement Progress:

- Things are in full swing for our new "Fun Run" fundraiser. Last year we partnered with Boosterthon, who provided support and systems, but we decided that this year we could craft our own program to better fit our school and students and to keep more of the proceeds. The run will be held on March 22nd at the ES campus.
- The annual enrollment lottery was held on Friday, March 1st. Families are notified through our Lotterease system and notifications are sent automatically as new seats open from our waitlist. Each campus held a special open house for newly enrolled families to come tour and have a Q&A with each campus director.
- 2nd grade researched and followed different mushers as they race with their dog team through the annual Iditarod race in Alaska.
- 5th grade created an on-campus Poetry Cafe to present their poetry and short stories. Many poems were modeled after Maya Angelou's poem, *Still I Rise*.
- 7th grade held a "Living History Timeline" event at the Capital that was well attended by Exploris students, families, and even some community passerby!
- Twelve 7th and 8th graders participated in the first Lenovo coding event for middle schoolers! Scholars spent the day at Lenovo touring the facility, engaging in hands-on activities, and learning about all the different career options at a large tech company.

- Our biannual Japanese exchange happened from March 8th-18th. Students stayed with host families in Japan and attended Shinonome Middle School, where they had special chances to learn Japanese language, games, songs, cooking techniques, the traditional tea ceremony, and much more! Each student team also taught mini-lessons on aspects of American culture to their Japanese counterparts. The trip also included chances to explore Toykoyo, visit the Hiroshima Peace Park and Memorial, and other key sites in the area. Please see the Japan Exchange Blog for wonderful pictures and details!

<https://explorisjapan.wordpress.com>



Human Resource Update

New Hires for Approval

Name	Position	Notes
Sherri Bragg	5th Grade Crew teacher	
Susie Buck	6th Grade EC teacher	Hired to replace Katie Edwards, who resigned effective 2/28/24
Charlotte Taylor	ELL services	contracted 10 hours per month

Current Vacancies

MS EC beginning Jan. 26th. A long term sub plan is in place and a certified EC teacher is contracted to case manage and plan EC lessons.

Important Dates (Board Attendance Requested)

- Schedule a visit to drop in and see classes in action! Even a short drop by is welcome!