



## The Exploris School

### The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Thursday June 27, 2024 at 4:30 PM EDT

#### Location

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

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#### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I. Opening Items</b>			<b>4:30 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Record Attendance		Edward Buchan	1 m
<b>B.</b> Call the Meeting to Order		Steven Darroch	1 m
<b>C.</b> Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Edward Buchan	2 m
Approve minutes for The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on May 23, 2024			
<b>D.</b> 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	
<p>Public comment may be oral, in person, or in written form to be read by the Chair.</p> <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"><li>• The team from Rosewood Strategies will join us at 4:30 p.m. to give an update and answer questions about our Facilities Project.</li></ul>			
<b>Committee Reports</b>			<b>5:19 PM</b>	
A.	Governance	Vote	Ryan Boyce	5 m
B.	Finance	Discuss	Koren Morgan	5 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Financial Reports</li></ul>			



	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>C.</b> Educational Excellence	Discuss	Eric Grunden	5 m
<b>D.</b> Director Evaluation & Support	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
<b>E.</b> Facilities	Discuss	Josh Corbat	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on Facilities Project</li> </ul>			
<b>F.</b> Kaizen	FYI	Daniel Hencher	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaizen leaders will give an update to the Board.</li> </ul>			
<b>III.</b>	<b>Meeting Items</b>		<b>5:49 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Directors Report	Discuss	Deborah Brown	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Report &amp; 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.)</li> </ul>			
<b>B.</b> Board Business	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Discussions</li> </ul>			
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Closed Session</b>		<b>5:59 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Facilities & Legal Items	Discuss	Josh Corbat	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on Facilities</li> <li>• Updates on Personnel</li> <li>• Updates on any Open Legal Items</li> </ul>			
<b>V.</b>	<b>Closing Items</b>		<b>6:04 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Adjourn Meeting	Vote		

# 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 May 23, 2024

APPROVED



## The Exploris School

### Minutes

#### The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Thursday May 23, 2024 at 4:30 PM

##### **Location**

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

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##### **Directors Present**

D. Deaton, D. Hencher, E. Buchan, E. Grunden, G. Bayo, R. Boyce, S. Carothers, S. Darroch, T. Void, W. McLamb

##### **Directors Absent**

M. Townley

##### **Ex Officio Members Present**

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

##### **Non Voting Members Present**

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

##### **Guests Present**

K. Morgan

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##### **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 May 23, 2024 at 4:31 PM.

**C. Approve Minutes**

T. Void made a motion to approve the minutes from The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 04-25-24.

E. Grunden seconded the motion.

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

**D. Public Comment**

Amber Robinson - expressed concern about school performance and equity issues.

Karen Kroboth - expressed dissatisfaction with teacher support and overall school performance. She provided results from a teacher survey.

Ms. Robinson - expressed concern about her daughter's experience at the school (specifically discipline issues and equality), as well as teacher support.

Sarah - expressed concern with Exploris hiring practices and potential violation of NC law.

Ms. Rodriguez - echoed previous stated concerns as well sanitary conditions at school facilities - specifically issues with bathrooms.

**E. Board Development: Insights on the Development Process from the Facilities Committee**

Josh provided update about the Kindly St property. Currently we are working with Raleigh on a traffic impact analysis. It was noted that the site does not need to comply with MSTA standards since the surrounding roads are not NC-DOT owned roads. We are working on a MOU with Raleigh. Rosewood continues to pursue other options in downtown Raleigh.

Brent Francese provided additional details about development process for a new school site.

**II. Committee Reports**

**A. Governance**

Ryan provided an update, indicating work on the revised school handbook as well scheduling a board retreat.

## **B. Finance**

Koren provided the update and indicated they have been working on the draft budget.

Koren mentioned the budget process was challenging due to COVID grant funding no longer being available. Koren also stated the draft budget includes additional salaries for teacher staff. Koren requested the budget will include a projected 0.6% EOY projected balance, which is less than the usual 2% - 2.5%. Deborah asked how this budget would affect the school bond rating and Koren indicated

Eric asked if there had been any consideration for increasing enrollment. Josh responded that this has not been considered at this time. Deborah added a challenge with adding additional students is current space constraints.

E. Grunden made a motion to accept proposed budget.

D. Deaton seconded the motion.

Discussed other fund raising opportunities. Stephen brought up the point that we need to communicate with our community that our budget is tight and additional funding is needed. Tasha suggested this message include which positions would supported.

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

## **C. Educational Excellence**

Josh - provided updates on benchmark scores (M-Class and MAP) and more information will be available at the next meeting.

Also provided an update with the PD plan, including recent surveys. Exploris will use Peaceful Schools.

Josh mentioned progress with the Hiring Team and upcoming hires.

## **D. Director Evaluation & Support**

Stephen provided the update and discussed that a 360 survey will be used to help evaluate the Directors. It was indicated the survey is very close to being finalized.

## **E. Facilities**

further updates to be provided in closed session.

## **F. Kaizen**

Daniel provided the update and indicated they will soon be able to select his replacement as chair of the Kaizen committee. Daniel indicated they also have planned a Kaizen

retreat, which will include review of teacher surveys, developing an equity statement and revisiting the decision making process.

Tasha recommended Exploris to form a formal DEI committee. She also suggested teachers should be engaged in development of an equity statement. Tasha thanked the parent advocacy group for attending the meeting.

T. Void made a motion to Establish a standing equity, inclusion and diversity committee. E. Grunden seconded the motion.

It was discussed how community members can get engaged with the committee.

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

### III. Meeting Items

#### A. Directors Report

Updates provided in the Director Report. Stephen extolled the how incredible the Passage Portfolio he attended were.

Josh mentioned a partnership with Shaw University, which included 5 Shaw students embedded as student teachers.

Josh and Ryan mentioned the advantages of Infinity Campus, which will replace Power School in 2025.

#### B. Board Business

Stephen thanked the parent advocacy group and invited them to join Exploris leadership committees.

### IV. Closed Session

#### A. Facilities & Legal Items

R. Boyce made a motion to enter into closed session.

E. Grunden seconded the motion.

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

### V. 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 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
E. Buchan

# Coversheet

## Finance

<b>Section:</b>	II. Committee Reports
<b>Item:</b>	B. Finance
<b>Purpose:</b>	Discuss
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Bank Account Balances 5-31-24.pdf 06. Balance Sheet 2024.05 - Exploris.pdf 05. Income Statement 2024.05 - Exploris.pdf 03. Board Report - 2024.05 - Exploris.pdf

5/31/2024 Account Balances	
Bank Account	Balance
The Exploris School Checking	\$1,256,402.73
The Exploris School Reserves	\$1,222,454.60
The Exploris School Foundation-Annual Fund	\$125,934.59
The Exploris School Foundation-Capital Campaign	\$542,104.20



THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL

Balance Sheet

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

<b>Assets</b>		
1.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(1,572.45)
2.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	815,762.98
2.1011.000.000.000.000.00	Cash - Reserve	1,221,639.91
2.1611.000.000.000.000.00	Security Deposit	15,658.00
3.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(33,343.03)
5.1010.000.000.000.000.00	Cash OP FCIT 6528	448,903.45
<b>TOTAL Assets:</b>		<b>2,467,048.86</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
1.2010.000.000.000.000.00	Accounts Payable	156.55
2.2282.000.000.000.000.00	EEs' Flex Spending Deductions	923.83
<b>TOTAL Liabilities:</b>		<b>1,080.38</b>
<b>Reserves and Equity</b>		
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
<b>TOTAL Reserves and Equity:</b>		<b>2,209,624.09</b>
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS):</b>		<b>256,344.39</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES / RESERVES / INCOME:</b>		<b>2,467,048.86</b>

Fund 1 - State Funds  
Fund 2 - Local Funds  
Fund 3 - Federal Funds  
Fund 5 - Multiple Enterprise Fund (Before & After School Program)

06/06/2024  
04:46 PM

Page 1 of 1

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

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Beg. Balance</b>	<b>MTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>
<b>Fund 1</b>			
<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>3,095,169.51</b>	<b>124,620.30</b>	<b>3,219,789.81</b>
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>3,091,871.37</b>	<b>129,647.44</b>	<b>3,221,518.81</b>
<b>Change in Fund 1 Balance:</b>	<b>3,298.14</b>	<b>(5,027.14)</b>	<b>(1,729.00)</b>
<b>Fund 2</b>			
<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>1,493,388.48</b>	<b>16,511.41</b>	<b>1,509,899.89</b>
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>961,207.12</b>	<b>278,606.98</b>	<b>1,239,814.10</b>
<b>Change in Fund 2 Balance:</b>	<b>532,181.36</b>	<b>(262,095.57)</b>	<b>270,085.79</b>
<b>Fund 3</b>			
<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>286,775.27</b>	<b>31,854.42</b>	<b>318,629.69</b>
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>326,402.84</b>	<b>25,569.88</b>	<b>351,972.72</b>
<b>Change in Fund 3 Balance:</b>	<b>(39,627.57)</b>	<b>6,284.54</b>	<b>(33,343.03)</b>
<b>Fund 5</b>			
<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>69,955.34</b>	<b>12,410.00</b>	<b>82,365.34</b>
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>53,416.17</b>	<b>7,618.54</b>	<b>61,034.71</b>
<b>Change in Fund 5 Balance:</b>	<b>16,539.17</b>	<b>4,791.46</b>	<b>21,330.63</b>

Fund 1 - State Funds

Fund 2 - Local Funds

Fund 3 - Federal Funds

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

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL							
Budget Analysis Report (Reconciled)							
Fiscal Year: 2024 - May							
							91.67% through fiscal year
Account	Budget	Period Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
<b>Revenues</b>							
▶ STATE REVENUE	3,203,080.80	124,620.30	3,219,789.81	(16,709.01)	100.52	3,240,023.81	
▶ LOCAL REVENUE	1,624,490.15	4,798.64	1,357,819.63	266,670.52	83.58	1,678,127.64	
▶ NCACCESS GRANT REVENUE	282,493.00	4,700.00	114,235.52	168,257.48	40.44	114,235.52	
▶ FEDERAL REVENUE	216,888.90	27,154.42	204,394.17	12,494.73	94.24	203,985.90	
▶ FOUNDATION REVENUE	170,000.00	-	-	170,000.00	-	209,739.44	
▶ B&A CARE REVENUE	92,000.00	12,410.00	82,365.34	9,634.66	89.53	97,365.34	
▶ REVENUE - ACTIVITIES	-	11,712.77	152,080.26	(152,080.26)	***	152,080.26	
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>5,588,952.85</b>	<b>185,396.13</b>	<b>5,130,684.73</b>	<b>458,268.12</b>	<b>91.80</b>	<b>5,695,557.91</b>	
Account	Budget	Period Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
<b>Expenses</b>							
▶ SALARIES AND BONUSES	3,165,120.71	267,458.74	2,843,293.51	321,827.20	89.83	3,110,864.75	
▶ BENEFITS	645,630.86	52,459.22	573,660.48	71,970.38	88.85	624,984.34	
▶ BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	77,872.79	4,918.03	38,917.72	38,955.07	49.98	75,995.16	
▶ TECHNOLOGY	97,665.68	9,132.92	87,395.02	10,270.66	89.48	98,355.19	
▶ NON-CAP EQUIPMENT & LEASES	17,500.00	898.83	14,637.63	2,862.37	83.64	16,500.00	
▶ CONTRACTED STUDENT SERVICES	155,000.00	13,233.76	131,352.28	23,647.72	84.74	165,898.67	
▶ FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITIES	42,223.32	23,890.84	172,581.22	(130,357.90)	408.73	190,800.50	
▶ ADMIN SERVICES	335,278.02	20,653.38	324,925.52	10,352.50	96.91	351,012.38	
▶ INSURANCES	37,060.00	3,626.00	39,083.00	(2,023.00)	105.46	39,083.00	
▶ FACILITIES	477,500.00	37,218.77	428,711.24	48,788.76	89.78	480,239.49	
▶ B&A CARE	66,000.00	7,586.35	58,080.21	7,919.79	88.00	66,000.00	
▶ CLUBS	3,545.32	366.00	1,980.29	1,565.03	55.86	3,907.32	
▶ CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND EXPENSES	6,787.00	-	6,787.00	-	100.00	2,587.00	
▶ VARIOUS GRANTS - NCACCESS	282,493.00	-	152,935.22	129,557.78	54.14	174,370.57	
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>5,409,676.70</b>	<b>441,442.84</b>	<b>4,874,340.34</b>	<b>535,336.36</b>	<b>90.10</b>	<b>5,400,598.37</b>	
<b>Surplus/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>179,276.15</b>	<b>(256,046.71)</b>	<b>256,344.39</b>	<b>(77,068.24)</b>		<b>294,959.54</b>	
Fund Balance Allocations for FY25	(65,000.00)					(75,075.00)	
Transfer to Reserves	114,276.15					219,884.54	
% of Total Revenue	2.04%					3.86%	

# Coversheet

## Directors Report

<b>Section:</b>	III. Meeting Items
<b>Item:</b>	A. Directors Report
<b>Purpose:</b>	Discuss
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Highlights of The Exploris School 2023-2024 (1).pdf June 2024 Exploris Leadership Team Board Report.pdf



## Directions

- Scroll to the section for your grade level or team
- Add 2-3 slides and fill with some of your best moments or memories from this school year
- You can use text, pictures, or a combination
- Delete any slides you do not need
- You will have a chance to present these highlights at our last staff meeting and celebration on June 5th



## Our reading growth was

		Beginning of Year	Middle of Year	End of Year
<b>Class Summary</b>	Well Below Benchmark	13% 4 Students	13% 4 Students	3% 1 Student
<b>30/30</b> Students Assessed	Below Benchmark	27% 8 Students	10% 3 Students	3% 1 Student
<b>0</b> Not Assessed	At Benchmark	27% 8 Students	37% 11 Students	23% 7 Students
<b>0</b> In Progress	Above Benchmark	33% 10 Students	40% 12 Students	70% 21 Students

There is nothing cuter than a kinder with a clipboard...



Pictured: our year long weather Expedition included cloud and plant observations.

1st Grade



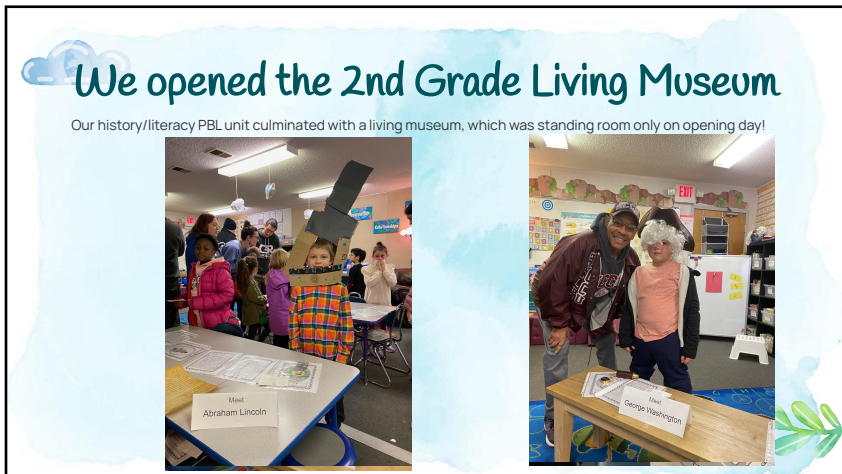
Lots of hands on learning.



Lots of practicing new skills.







 We spent a LOT of time outdoors...  
for morning meeting, lunch, recess, service learning, and of course, field experiences!



3rd Grade

An illustration of two hands holding a small green plant with soil.

 Reading our Pourquoi Tales at Transfer



 Meeting Christina Koch at Governor's Mansion





## Beach Trip



## 4th Grade



## Day Trips to Camp Agape



## Resilient



- Regular Trips to the Library
- Celebrations at Transfer Food Hall
- Walking adventures throughout the city
- Navigated changes in Crew teachers
- Adapted to multiple iterations of classroom norms
- As a class, grew 85 points in math and 140 points in reading via IXL
- Survived a hard year

GROWTH



## 5th Grade



## We survived our first overnight school trip!



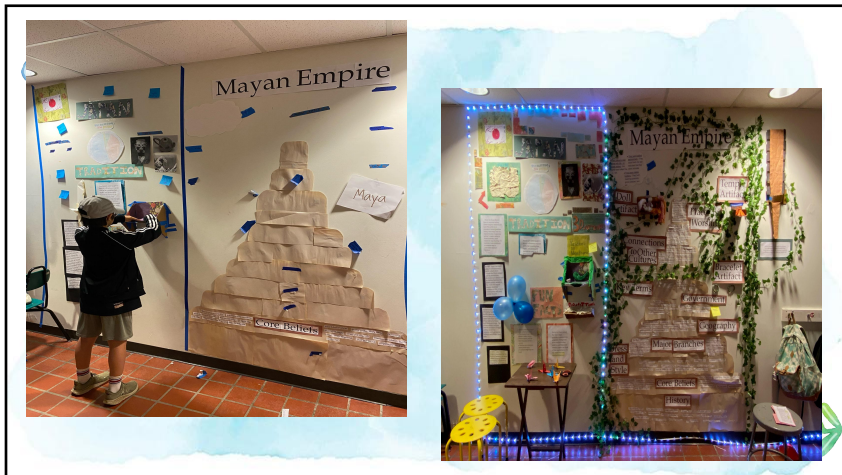
## Proud Moments

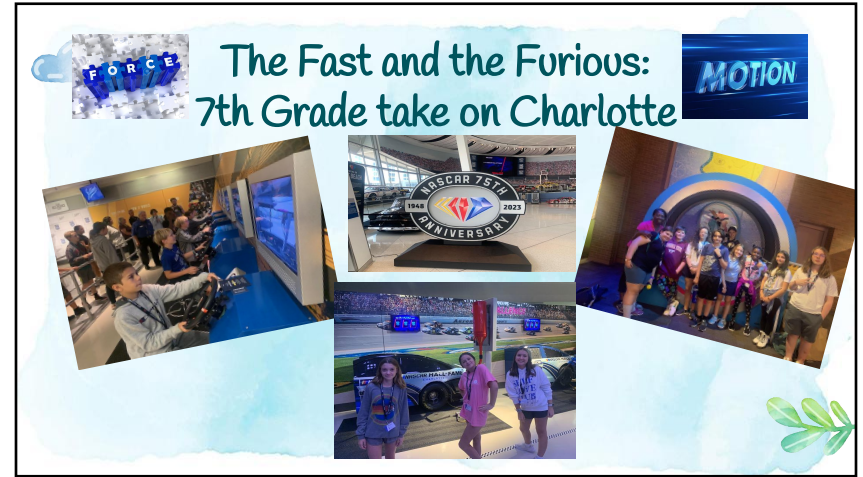
Our students survived a challenging year.

We are so proud of how resilient they were and their level of perseverance to the end.













## Special Shout-out to our K-8 Graduates

Lincoln Anderson  
Milo D'Loughy  
Adele Grossmann  
Evie Guyer  
Oliver Hemingway  
Liam Hendricks  
Kieran Manfre  
Alysa McDaniel  
Annika McKay  
Keller McMillan  
Amelia Mills  
Hattie Queen  
Holiday Thornton  
Harper Walton



## Inclusion k-8



## Differentiation and Inclusion Baby!!!

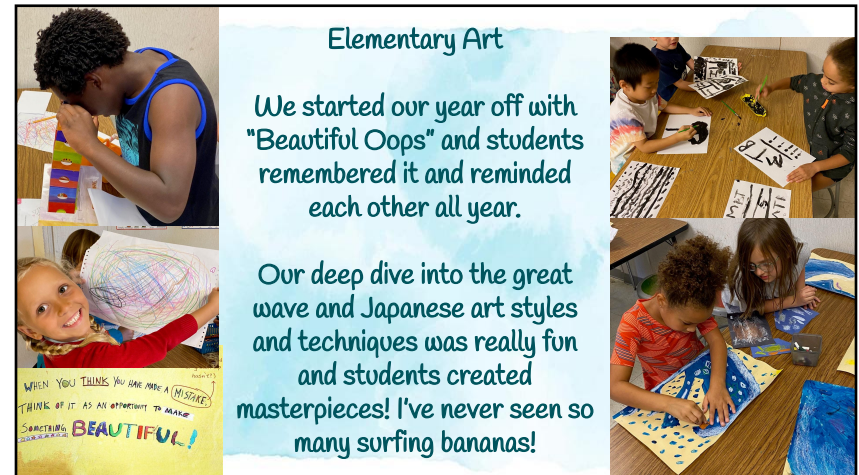
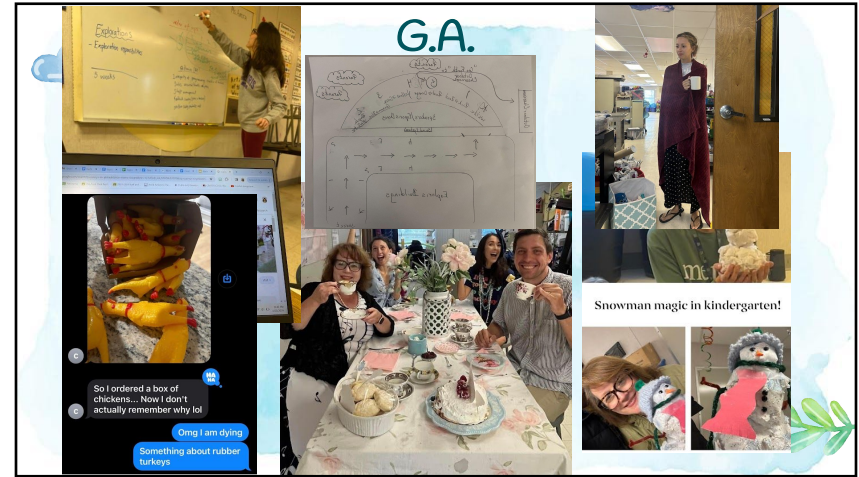
We've got all the feelings, we can name their characteristics, and we know the strategies that lead to success!

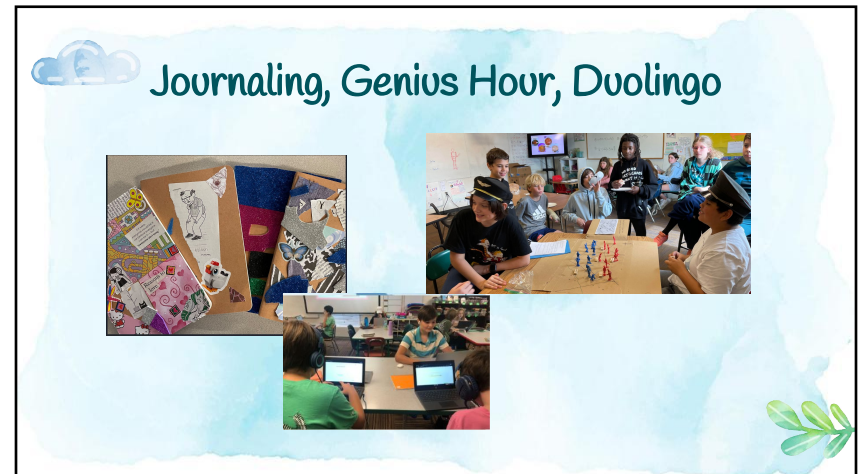
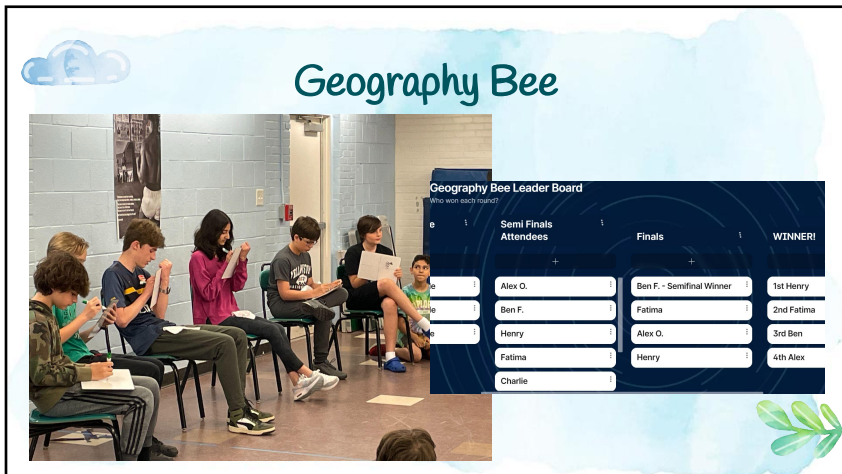


## Inclusion on Field Experiences











## Art and Wellness



## The First Week and The Last Week



## Counseling 23-24 SY



## Counseling Programing

- Center for Supportive Schools: Peer Group Connection (Year 2)
- Mindfulness Study through UNC School of Social Work: 7th Grade (year 2)
- Start with Hello
- Food Programing
- Say Something Training (6-8)
- Small groups
- Micro Grant Funding for classrooms



## Family Connection

- Screenagers
- Coffee with Counselors
- Dinner Dialogues
- Angel Tree
- Food Pantry
- Break Food Boxes
- Panera Bread Program
- Home Visits
- Bereavement Support
- Meal Trains
- Transition to HS Night



## Carpool Casanova- The Kids





## Carpool Casanova- The Adults



## Leadership



## Awards & Celebrations



## Visiting Teachers & Exchanges







# The Exploris School

## Directors Report

**To:** Board Members

**From:** Ethan, Josh, & Deb

**Re:** Monthly Board Report

**Date:** June 27, 2024

The following information is provided to the Board of Directors:

### Enrollment

Grade Level	Number for Full Enrollment	Crew Sizes	Seats for new students in 24-25	2024-2025 Applications	2024-25 Seats Open as of 6/24/24
Kindergarten	34	17	33	157	1
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	36	18	8	63	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	38	19	6	53	2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	38	19	0	81	0
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	38	19	1	62	0
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	38	19	0	65	0
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	76	19	40	143	2
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	76	19	6	52	0
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	76	19	4	39	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>		<b>98</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>6</b>

### 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	ES: 1/1	ES: 4/4	ES: 20/26



	MS: 4/6	MS:0/0	MS:7/9	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
April	ES: 1/.5 MS: 6/7	ES: 0/0 MS: 3/5	ES: 12/17 MS: 8/7	ES: 25/27 MS: 13/11
May	ES: 4/2 MS: 3/3	ES: 0/0 MS: 5/2	ES: 10/10 MS: 19/14	ES: 14/17 MS: 11/5
June	ES: 0/0 MS: 2/2	ES:2/2 MS: 1/6	ES: 3/3 MS: 5/5	ES: 1/1 MS: 0/0
Total	ES: 11/7.5 MS: 24/23	ES: 5/4 MS 21.5/24	ES: 37/41 MS 51/47	ES: 130/149 MS 60/56

## Updates on Goals/Issues for Discussion

### School Improvement Plan (SIP) Progress:

#### Target Area #1 Student Support Alignment Progress:

- Transition meetings are held each spring for Exploris 5th and 8th graders with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) who are moving to middle school and high school. These meetings bring together the families, current teachers, and administrators to connect with the new school to ensure the IEP can “translate” to the new setting and schedule. For many Exploris 5th graders, this meeting is with our staff at the middle school! This process takes a lot of preparation, so a special shout out to Chris Duncan, the 5th grade EC teacher, and Jackie Hyman, the 8th grade EC teacher for leading over 20 meetings to support Exploris students.
- Both facilities are being deep cleaned and maintained during summer. This includes replacing HVAC units, [coordinating classroom cleaning](#), and repairing/replacing broken items (such as light fixtures, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, tables, and chairs).
- The full operations team held a planning meeting on Monday, June 17th, to review our systems for record-keeping, attendance, and other day-to-day operations issues and to plan summer work.
- Our Counseling Team (Jessica, Matt, and Michelle) is currently at the Charlotte Day School for a 4-Day Institute for Social Emotional Learning to bring best practices back to Exploris for the 24-25 SY. In addition, they are working on a grant through the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation to secure funding for mental health resources.
- On June 25th, Ethan, Jill, and Leah attended the Behavior Systems through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support training led by the Department of Public Instruction at the Friday Institute. The goal of attending these two trainings is to align school staff around consistent support systems for student behavior.

#### Target Area #2 Instructional Alignment Progress:

- Testing was completed on both campuses with no hiccups or misadministrations.
- Early EOG scores show small gains in reading/math proficiency and the need for more analysis of the data for subgroup trends, particularly for 6th-grade students new to Exploris. The full annual Educational Excellence Report will be presented in July once we have the state-level scores.
- Math placement determinations were made, and families were notified of math placements for rising 7th—and 8th-grade students. They can be placed in Math 7 or Math 8, the standard middle school math course, or if their work, assessments, and EOG scores qualify, they can be placed in

Math 1 or Math 2, which are the high school-level courses that they can take and earn high school credit while still in middle school.

- Reading Camp, for students whose data shows they need extra support in reading instruction, will be held at the elementary campus from July 8th to the 26th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Incoming Kindergartners are invited to one of three summer sessions for Kindergarten Readiness Camp where they will have a simple introduction to school with a social-emotional focus. The PTO is holding a Popsicles on the Playground family social on the last day for all Kindergarten students and their families.
- Our new kindergartners will also have a staggered entry to the 2024-2025 school year to allow the kindergarten team to assess their levels and get to know them in small groups.
- Rising 6th graders are invited to one of three summer sessions for 6th Grade Readiness Camp, where they will go through a short version of a middle school day. During this time, they will get to know one another, tour the school, participate in a mini collaborative project, and start to learn the “walking the city” routines as they travel to some of the local parks and common places they will visit during their middle school years. Families are invited to stay for an informal Q&A with Deb when they bring their students to school.
- Offer letters for returning staff were sent out before the end of the school year, and staff were offered 1x1 conferences with their direct supervisor to discuss their overall progress on their Personal Growth Plans throughout the year and to reflect on the year.

### **Target Area #3 Community Engagement Progress:**

- [Arts Together](#) is renting space at the Middle School for their summer program. They are great partners and supporters of past Explorations. This collaboration supports our work in the community and brings in a little extra income by utilizing the facility over the summer.
- On Tuesday, May 28th, Stormie Daie visited the middle school to speak with students before Pride Month. Stormie is a proud North Carolinian who visits schools and organizations statewide to promote science, activism, inclusivity, and sustainability. She spoke with the following grades:
  - 8th grade with the theme, "Drag is Activism," and the role the LGBTQ+ community has played throughout pivotal moments in American history
  - 7th grade about the ideas of sustainability, scale, and genetic inheritance as they relate to our culminating Future Cities final project
  - 3rd grade to read books in connection to the teaching team's unit on inclusion.
  - Stormie was also the guest of honor at a lunch for our Allies Club organized by Mary, the Middle School Connected World teacher, to help students create signage and usher in Pride Month at Exploris Middle School.
- The final Community Circle was held on June 6th. It included the annual 5th-grade parade, Student of the Month presentations for each grade level, and every student K-5 performed a choreographed song and dance of *We Are the World* using color guard-style ribbons and sign language.
- We held a staff celebration for the end of the school year on May 22nd at Transfer Food Hall's ballroom. We shared great food and a slide deck where each team selected favorite moments and memories from the past year. The slides are included in this month's packet.
- Daniel's two years as Elementary School Kaizen lead have ended, and the elementary campus has elected Shawna Scippione to be their new Kaizen lead. We welcome Shawna to the leadership team!
- Kaizen held a half-day retreat at Transfer Food Hall's ballroom on Tuesday, June 11th. During that meeting, we worked on reflections from 23-24 and goal setting for 24-25 SY. The Team is crafting goals for the upcoming school year.

- June 7th was the 8th grade graduation at the Amphitheater at Raleigh Little Theater and Rose Garden. It was a beautiful day and a very well-attended event to celebrate our graduates, many of whom had been with us since kindergarten.
- Administration and Student Services decided upon “The Anxious Generation” as a community book study for the school community. We are in the planning stages of a summer book study.
- Re-enrollment forms have gone out to all families. The re-enrollment form starts with a yes/no question asking whether the family intends to return for next year. This provides critical information about whether we can more proactively offer the seat to a new student. Families were asked to complete the re-enrollment form by the end of this month.

## Human Resource Update

### New Hires for Approval

Name	Position	Notes
Kelly Gay	Elementary Crew Teacher	1st Grade
Hillary Merritt	Elementary Crew Teacher	4th Grade

### Internal Position Changes

Name	Position	Notes
Emily Felker	Elementary Crew Teacher	6th Grade Crew Teacher requested a position in 5th Grade and filled the need at ES
Nikki Kovach	Elementary Crew Teacher	5th Grade Teaching Partner (Mid-Year Hire) transitioning to 5th Grade Crew Teacher

### Current & Anticipated Vacancies for 24-25 School Year

We are currently hiring for:

- 1st grade Crew Teacher
- 6th grade Crew Teacher
- MS Exceptional Children Teacher

## Important Dates (Board Attendance Requested)

- August 5th and 6th: New Staff Orientation
- August 14th: First Day of School for Students