



The Exploris School

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday October 24, 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
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I.	Opening Items		4:30 PM
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A.	Record Attendance	Edward Buchan	1 m
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B.	Call the Meeting to Order	Steven Darroch	1 m
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C.	Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes Edward Buchan	2 m
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Approve minutes for The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on September 26, 2024

D.	Public Comment	Steven Darroch	15 m
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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: Survey of Development Priorities	Discuss Deborah Brown	15 m
	Consider options and choose some priorities for the Board Retreat so we can plan activities and organize resources		
II.	Committee Reports		5:04 PM
A.	Governance	FYI Deborah Brown	10 m
B.	Finance	Discuss Koren Morgan	5 m
	• Monthly Financial Reports		
C.	Educational Excellence	Discuss Eric Grunden	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	FYI	Deborah Brown	10 m
E. Director Evaluation & Support	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
F. Facilities	FYI	Josh Corbat	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on Facilities Project • Capital Campaign Update 			
G. Kaizen	FYI		5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaizen leaders will give an update to the Board. 			
III.	Meeting Items		5:54 PM
A. Directors Report	Discuss	Deborah Brown	10 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.) 			
B. Board Business	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Discussions 			
IV.	Closed Session		6:09 PM
A. Facilities & Legal Items	Discuss	Josh Corbat	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on Facilities • Updates on Personnel • Updates on any Open Legal Items 			
V.	Closing Items		6:14 PM
A. 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 September 26, 2024

APPROVED



The Exploris School

Minutes

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday September 26, 2024 at 4:30 PM

Location

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

Directors Present

E. Buchan, E. Grunden, G. Bayo, R. Boyce, S. Carothers, S. Darroch, S. Scipione, W. McLamb

Directors Absent

T. Void

Ex Officio Members Present

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

Non Voting Members Present

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

Guests Present

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 Sep 26, 2024 at 4:42 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Grunden made a motion to approve the minutes from previous meeting The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 08-22-24.

R. Boyce seconded the motion.

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

D. Public Comment

No public comments submitted or made.

E. Board Development: Updates from Rosewood Strategies

Rosewood provided updates on various facility location options:

- Recommended submitting a letter of intent to NC-SECU to allow for further exploration of the location on Hillsborough St.

- Rosewood continues to work with City staff regarding a traffic study, building height restrictions and permitting issues. Also discussed potential loan options and details.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance

Deborah provided update: continued work on the school handbook; SB49 report submitted to NC.

S. Darroch made a motion to Thank Ryan for his work on the board.

E. Grunden seconded the motion.

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

B. Finance

Koren provided up on budget and indicated audit draft will be available on Oct 15. Will also mentioned we will investigate the idea of moving money out of certain checking account into money market accounts to potentially earn more interest.

E. Grunden made a motion to Accept finance report.

E. Buchan seconded the motion.

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

C. Educational Excellence

Eric provided the update and indicated the group will review potential changes to core instruction and how we can further help teachers with instructional goals. Ethan mentioned new free tool from NC which can provide additional testing data and insights.

D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Steven highlighted that this group has not been formed yet.

E. Director Evaluation & Support

Steven indicated he still reviewing the review data and will provide an update at the next meeting.

F. Facilities

Josh indicated most of the update was covered by the Rosewood presentation. He also mentioned we need to start making progress with fund raising in light of the impending facility needs. The development of Capital Campaign marketing materials.

G. Kaizen

Shawna indicated the Kaizen group met on 9/25 and mentioned a DEI statement will be developed and presented during the December meeting.

III. Meeting Items

A. Directors Report

Deborah mentioned we are fully staffed now. Josh thanked the teaching staff for taking additional students into their crews. Currently we are now only 2 places below our student population goal. Ethan mentioned the 7th and 8th grade math teams showing excellent growth in test performance. Ethan also reminded the board the Fall Festival is on October 25th.

E. Grunden made a motion to Accept new 6th grade teacher and a long term elementary substitute teacher and a new EC teacher.

R. Boyce seconded the motion.

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

B. Board Business

Discussed board retreat scheduling.

Will mentioned the need to update board member info and conflict interest forms.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

E. Buchan made a motion to adjourn meeting.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Buchan

Coversheet

Finance

Section:	II. Committee Reports
Item:	B. Finance
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Bank Account Balances 9-30-24.pdf 06. Balance Sheet 2024.09 - Exploris.pdf 05. Income Statement 2024.09 - Exploris.pdf 03. Board Report - 2024.09 - Exploris.pdf

9/30/2024 Account Balances	
Bank Account	Balance
The Exploris School Checking	\$682,947.09
The Exploris School Reserves	\$1,584,226.53
The Exploris School Foundation-Annual Fund	\$101,301.94
The Exploris School Foundation-Capital Campaign	\$442,797.54

10/10/2024
10:36:30 AM**THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL**

Page: 1 of 1

Balance Sheet**Fiscal Year: 2025 | Fiscal Month: September**
Include Funds: All**Assets**

1X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(36,983.27)
2X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	173,509.79
2X.10110.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash - Reserve	1,584,226.53
2X.11800.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Accounts Receivable - Employee	3,136.79
2X.16110.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Security Deposit	15,658.00
30.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.00 .000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(130,075.89)
33.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.00 .000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(450.00)
34.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.00 .000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(57.14)
35.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.00 .000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(52,579.47)
3X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	134,590.41
5X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	453,820.67

TOTAL Assets: **2,144,796.42****Liabilities**

1X.20100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Accounts Payable	7,664.16
2X.20100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Accounts Payable	4,643.79
2X.22820.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	EEs' Flex Spending Deductions	(15,763.19)

TOTAL Liabilities: **(3,455.24)****Reserves and Equity**

2X.29600.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Fund Equity	1,964,144.67
5X.29600.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Fund Equity	460,324.51

TOTAL Reserves and Equity: **2,424,469.18****NET GAIN (LOSS):** **(276,217.52)****TOTAL LIABILITIES / RESERVES / INCOME:** **2,144,796.42**

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

10/10/2024
10:36 AM

Page 1 of 1

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL**Income Statement****Fiscal Year: 2025 Month: September****Include Fund(s): 1X, 2X, 3X, 5X**

Fund	Beg. Balance	MTD Actual	YTD Actual
Fund 1X			
Revenue Total:	550,204.96	390,597.46	940,802.42
Expense Total:	550,741.33	434,708.52	985,449.85
Change in Fund 1X Balance:	(536.37)	(44,111.06)	(44,647.43)
Fund 2X			
Revenue Total:	1,083.24	20,689.08	21,772.32
Expense Total:	104,592.48	93,674.00	198,266.48
Change in Fund 2X Balance:	(103,509.24)	(72,984.92)	(176,494.16)
Fund 3X			
Revenue Total:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Change in Fund 3X Balance:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund 5X			
Revenue Total:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Total:	370.88	6,132.96	6,503.84
Change in Fund 5X Balance:	(370.88)	(6,132.96)	(6,503.84)

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: 2025 - September							
							25% of the year
Account	Budget	Period Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
Revenues							
▶ STATE REVENUE	3,206,670.00	390,597.50	940,802.40	2,265,868.00	29.34	3,463,905.00	
▶ LOCAL REVENUE	1,645,475.00	1,184.93	2,268.17	1,643,207.00	0.14	1,654,302.18	
▶ NCACCESS GRANT REVENUE	100,000.00	89,549.80	137,931.40	(37,931.40)	137.93	138,240.89	
▶ FEDERAL REVENUE	133,919.00	9,859.00	10,366.14	123,552.90	7.74	134,369.00	
▶ FOUNDATION REVENUE	174,000.00	0.00	0.00	174,000.00	0	174,000.00	
▶ B&A CARE REVENUE	96,000.00	0.00	0.00	96,000.00	0	96,000.00	
▶ REVENUE - ACTIVITIES	0.00	19,504.15	19,504.15	(19,504.20)	***	0.00	
Revenues	5,356,064.00	510,695.30	1,110,872.00	4,245,192.00	20.74	5,660,817.07	
Expenses							
▶ SALARIES AND BONUSES	3,196,263.00	265,138.30	731,514.50	2,464,748.00	22.89	3,317,517.19	
▶ BENEFITS	660,954.10	39,890.56	137,519.70	523,434.40	20.81	668,197.72	
▶ BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	69,033.00	15,658.90	23,517.44	45,515.56	34.07	69,033.00	
▶ TECHNOLOGY	100,860.00	35,990.07	49,015.34	51,844.66	48.6	108,335.00	
▶ NON-CAP EQUIPMENT & LEASES	18,000.00	2,290.93	3,271.93	14,728.07	18.18	18,000.00	
▶ CONTRACTED STUDENT SERVICES	165,000.00	323.45	323.45	164,676.60	0.2	165,000.00	
▶ FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITIES	16,750.00	8,155.41	8,155.41	8,594.59	48.69	16,750.00	
▶ ADMIN SERVICES	320,400.00	116,970.50	140,353.00	180,047.00	43.81	320,850.00	
▶ INSURANCES	39,900.00	16,603.00	19,287.00	20,613.00	48.34	39,900.00	
▶ FACILITIES	576,640.00	102,386.60	125,790.00	450,850.10	21.81	576,640.00	
▶ B&A CARE	68,409.86	6,116.22	6,485.89	61,923.97	9.48	68,409.86	
▶ CLUBS	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	0	1,600.00	
▶ VARIOUS GRANTS - NCACCESS	100,000.00	37,921.56	141,406.20	(41,406.20)	141.41	138,240.89	
Expenses	5,333,810.00	647,445.50	1,387,090.00	3,946,720.00	26.01	5,508,473.66	
Surplus/(DEFICIT)	22,254.12	(136,750.00)	(276,218.00)	298,471.60	-5.27	152,343.41	
	0.42%					2.69%	

Coversheet

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Section:	II. Committee Reports
Item:	D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	_Equity Statement FINAL for approval.pdf

Final 3 Versions: Equity Statement Workpage



A strong DEI statement:

- Explains how DEI aligns to your mission and vision
- States your commitment to DEI and how you apply that commitment
- Describes the positive outcomes the organization wants to achieve
- Feels honest and avoids buzzwords and legalese
- Is fairly short– about a paragraph, but enough to connect to your organization in a meaningful way

Exploris Process:

- At a staff meeting last spring, we studied the purposes of an equity statement for a corporation and read through several examples of effective statements from well known companies like Adobe, Apple, P&G, Lego, and others
- All staff participated in creating notes about what they would like to see included in a statement for Exploris
- Based on those notes, Deb crafted a few versions, which were then shared with Kaizen at the Kaizen retreat for input
- Then based on that feedback, 3 final versions were written and once again shared for input.
- Based on those final notes, we offer this version for Board review

Proposed final version, based on feedback:

Exploris is founded on strong connections, whether around the world or around the block. We prepare our scholars to thrive in a multicultural society and become leaders in fostering a just and sustainable world. At Exploris we do not discriminate on factors that have historically been barriers to success, such as race, ability, gender, sexuality, or socio-economics. We welcome all styles of learners and all styles of families, and we know we are enriched by the distinct perspective of each member of our community. At Exploris, Global Education means striving for our school to become a better reflection of the rich diversity of our world.

Directions:

1. Read through these final three versions, which incorporates the feedback from the staff meeting where we worked on this together as a whole staff and from the Kaizen retreat work.
2. Add any notes/reflections about these final versions

Equity Statement Version/s	Notes
<p>Exploris was founded on strong connections, whether around the world or around the block. We believe in welcoming and honoring the rich diversity of our community to strengthen our program and empower our students. We are preparing scholars to thrive in a multicultural society and become leaders in fostering a just and sustainable world, so we must be a learning environment that reflects the society in which they will live and work. At Exploris we strive to make sure that the predictability of who succeeds is not based on characteristics such as address, income, gender, race, ability, religion, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, neurodiversity, or other factors that have historically been barriers to success. We welcome all styles of learners and families and we know we are enriched by the distinct perspectives of each member of our community. At Exploris, global education means our school becoming a better reflection of the rich diversity of our world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens with a nod to our history and one of our common catchphrases • Ties in clearly to our mission • Lists out lots of diff types of characteristics (that's both a positive and a negative) • States a clear purpose • This seems long and drawn out.
<p>Exploris was founded on strong connections, whether around the world or around the block. We are preparing scholars to thrive in a multicultural society and become leaders in fostering a just and sustainable world, so we must be a learning environment that reflects the society in which they will live and work. At Exploris we do not discriminate on factors that have historically been barriers to success such as race, ability, gender, or socio-economics. We welcome all styles of learners and families and we know we are enriched by the distinct perspectives of each member of our community. At Exploris, global education means our school becoming a better reflection of the rich diversity of our world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I much prefer this, the shorter version, as fewer words do more work. The second sentence is too wordy, and could be removed completely, or at least shortened. • I like the shortened list of characteristics that might be the cause of discrimination • This feels friendly and to the point • This one seems the most succinct but maybe is missing pertinent language from our mission and vision that couple better be tied in? • I think this one meets all 5 of the criteria listed above in the most comprehensive but succinct way

Exploris welcomes all learners and all styles of families. We believe that when we honor and include the rich diversity of our community, we strengthen connections and empower students. As such, we strive to ensure that success is not a result of characteristics such as address, income, gender, race, ability, religion, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other external factors. By providing our students with a learning environment that reflects the society in which they will live and work, we prepare them to become leaders in fostering a just and sustainable world.

- Misses the “hook” from the other two versions
- A little wordy with phrases like, “as such”
- Feels more generic– like any school could say this.
- I don’t see much of anything Exploris-y in this version
- I agree with comments that this one feels more generic; lots of good buzzwords but this feels like it’s missing the Exploris sense of self

Coversheet

Directors Report

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



The Exploris School

Directors Report

To: Board Members

From: Ethan, Josh, & Deb

Re: Monthly Board Report

Date: October 24th, 2024

The following information is provided to the Board of Directors:

Enrollment

Grade Level	Number for Full Enrollment	Crew Sizes	Current Enrollment	2024-2025 Applications	Number remaining on Waitlist as of 9/23/24	2024-25 Seats Open as of 9/23/24
Kindergarten	34	17	32	167	0	2
1 st Grade	36	18	39	71	3	-3
2 nd Grade	38	19	33	61	1	5
3 rd Grade	38	19	38	91	61	0
4 th Grade	38	19	38	73	61	0
5 th Grade	38	19	39	74	29	-1
6 th Grade	76	19	74	163	2	2
7 th Grade	76	19	77	59	0	-1
8 th Grade	76	19	78	46	3	-2
Total	450		448	805	160	2

Student Support Team Report

Month	In School Suspension # students / # days	Out of School Suspension # students / # days	Major referrals that did not result in suspension # students / # referrals	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: 3/3 MS: 0/0
September	ES: 0/0 MS: 4/2.5	ES: 1/1.5 MS: 1/1	ES: 19/14 MS: 12/9	ES: 100/50* (50 minor referrals by one staff member) MS: 14/10
October	ES: 1/1 MS: 5/2	ES: 2/2 MS: 2/1	ES: 23/14 MS: 11/7	ES: 21/34 MS: 26/22
November				
December				
January				
February				

March				
April				
May				
June				

Campus Updates

- Exploris enjoyed Fall Break from Sept. 30th through October 4th and held a teacher workday on October 7th, with an expectation of time on campus co-planning.
- PLC meetings have been focused on reviewing core instruction and differentiated instruction based on data and continuing conversations around norming behavior expectations and reporting in Jump rope.
- Staff Meetings and PD sessions have been focused on the vertical alignment of curriculum.
- Admin, EC, and the Student Support teams have been working on Reporting Requirements for Indicator 11, which falls under Child Find requirements to complete the EC referral process within the 90-day timeline. That process includes the formal steps of referral, evaluation, and eligibility determination.
- Danielle Johnson-Webb from Peaceful Schools led an affinity group conversation on Wed. October 16th for our staff of color. This is part of our ongoing work based on the EID audit last spring and our focus on creating a community of belonging.
- 6th grade held a crew day event at Umstead Park where the team spent the day outside with assorted science activities
- The SIP team has been meeting to polish the draft for the new School Improvement Plan. We have a few more meetings, after which we will present the updated version to Kaizen.
- The 7th grade was able to reschedule their Charlotte trip for Nov. 8th. (The original date was canceled because of the hurricane.)
- On Friday, October 18th, Alexandra's crew went to the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort to learn about citizen science involving plastic pollution in stormwater runoff. They participated in a beach clean-up and created marine debris art to spread awareness of our ongoing battle against plastics in our oceans. The idea was to introduce students to real-world science involving environmental issues that they can directly affect and use this knowledge and motivation to make a positive change in our local watershed.
- The Student Services Team has been completing the Social Emotional Learning Screener and the Say Something training with each grade level. This gives us data on how our students are experiencing school and handling stress and also provides an essential outlet and anonymous system for students to report anything that might be of concern related to anxiety, self-harm, bullying, or threats of violence against the school.

Community Events

- Our Student Services Team held their monthly Coffee with Counselors event at Transfer Food Hall on October 9th. This is an open opportunity for families to periodically stop by and ask questions or share ideas and concerns with our student support team.
- Exploris is partnered with two schools in western NC that were affected by Hurricane Helene. Throughout the month of October, we are collecting gift cards and small treat boxes and gathering handwritten notes, cards, and drawings to deliver to our sister schools. Everyone in the community is invited to share in this outreach.
- Spirit Week is October 21-25th and culminates in our annual Fall Festival on Friday, Oct. 25th
- Our October Family Connections event is the High School Information Night, presented by Michelle Duncan and Deb Brown, geared especially towards helping 8th grade families understand their high school choices and the application process for all the different programs.

Human Resource Update**New Hires for Approval**

Name	Position	Notes
Mary French stepped	Part-time Elementary EC Teaching Parnter	Yuki Hirose previously held the position. She away on 10/11 to pursue a full-time opportunity.

Internal Position Changes

Name	Position	Notes

Current & Anticipated Vacancies for 24-25 School Year

- We are fully staffed!

Important Dates (Board Attendance Requested)

- Fall Festival! Friday Oct. 25th 5:00-8:00 pm
- The [Raleigh Christmas Parade](#) is Saturday, November 23. The route goes in front of Exploris, so in years past we've had families sell donuts and hot chocolate as a fundraiser towards Outward Bound.