



The Exploris School

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday September 25, 2025 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
Approve minutes for The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on August 28, 2025			
D. Public Comment		Steven Darroch	15 m
PUBLIC COMMENT			

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

II. Committee Reports4:49 PM

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board oversees the membership and work of each Committee.• Committees present their latest minutes and action items to the Board. The Board makes all official decisions regarding Committee recommendations.			
A. Finance	FYI	Koren Morgan	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Financial Reports			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. Educational Excellence	FYI	Eric Grunden	10 m
C. Governance	FYI	Deborah Brown	10 m

- Recommended modifications to the board recruitment and application process (see page in packet)

D. Community & Connections	FYI	Deborah Brown	5 m
E. Director Evaluation & Support	Discuss	Steven Darroch	5 m
F. Facilities	FYI	Josh Corbat	10 m

- Updates on Facilities Project

G. Kaizen	FYI	Shawna Scipione	5 m
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- Kaizen leaders will give an update to the Board.

III. The Exploris Foundation 5:44 PM

- The Exploris Foundation Board will give an update

A. Foundation Update	FYI	Richard Averitte	5 m
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IV. The Exploris Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) 5:49 PM

The Exploris PTO leadership will give an update

A. PTO Update	FYI	PTO President	5 m
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V. Meeting Items 5:54 PM

A. Directors Report	FYI	Deborah Brown	15 m
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- Monthly Report & Updates (The Directors Report will not be made verbally during meetings. Please review the written report prior to the meeting. We will

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
answer questions and provide critical updates and vote on any requested items.)			
B. Board Business	Discuss	Steven Darroch	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Plan Update & Discussion• General Discussions			
VI. Closed Session			6:19 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			
VII. Closing Items			6:24 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 August 28, 2025

APPROVED



The Exploris School

Minutes

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday August 28, 2025 at 4:30 PM

Location

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

Directors Present

E. Grunden, G. Bayo (remote), L. Collins, M. Nelson, M. Perry, P. President, R. Averitte, S. Darroch, S. Scipione (remote)

Directors Absent

E. Buchan, M. Alexander, S. Singer

Ex Officio Members Present

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

Non Voting Members Present

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

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 Aug 28, 2025 at 4:33 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Grunden made a motion to approve the minutes from The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 07-24-25.

M. Nelson seconded the motion.

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

D. Public Comment

- Rachel Bugher from Wake County: Concerns over Board Meetings being modified.

II. Committee Reports

A. Finance

B. Educational Excellence

C. Governance

E. Grunden made a motion to Approve changes to the parent, student, and employment handbooks.

R. Averitte seconded the motion.

Committee will send out a highlights of changes document along with the full changes.

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

D. Community & Connections

E. Director Evaluation & Support

F. Facilities

G. Kaizen

III. The Exploris Foundation

A. Foundation Update

B. Foundation Seats

M. Nelson made a motion to Approve Richard Averitte to a seat on the Exploris Foundation Board. He will remain seated on the School Board as well.

L. Collins seconded the motion.

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

IV. Closed Session

A. Facilities & Legal Items

E. Grunden made a motion to enter closed session.

P. President seconded the motion.

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

E. Grunden made a motion to exit closed session.

M. Nelson 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 6:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Grunden

Coversheet

Finance

Section:	II. Committee Reports
Item:	A. Finance
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	03. Board Report 2025.08 - Exploris.pdf 06. Balance Sheet 2025.08 - Exploris.pdf 05. Income Statement 2025.08 - Exploris.pdf Bank Account Balances 2025.08 - Exploris.pdf

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL							
Budget Analysis Report (Reconciled)							
Fiscal Year: 2026 - August							
							16.66% of the year
Account	Budget	Period Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
Revenues							
► STATE REVENUE	3,462,839.00	295,000.00	564,302.20	2,898,537.00	16.3	3,506,907.00	
► LOCAL REVENUE	1,688,128.00	6,297.12	7,053.44	1,681,074.00	0.42	2,110,427.93	Budget correction needed
► FEDERAL REVENUE	144,909.00	0.00	0.00	144,909.00	0	166,429.00	
► FOUNDATION REVENUE	20,718.60	0.00	0.00	20,718.60	0	20,718.60	
► B&A CARE REVENUE	96,000.00	0.00	0.00	96,000.00	0	96,000.00	
Revenues	5,412,595.00	301,297.10	571,355.60	4,841,239.00	10.56	5,900,482.53	
Account	Budget	Period Activity	YTD Activity	Remaining Budget	% Used	EOY Projection	Notes
Expenses							
► SALARIES AND BONUSES	3,188,317.00	276,537.00	515,604.00	2,672,713.00	16.17	3,188,317.70	
► BENEFITS	674,566.30	58,461.25	105,710.30	568,856.00	15.67	674,566.30	
► BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	52,872.78	340.09	2,599.50	50,273.28	4.92	52,872.78	
► TECHNOLOGY	109,770.00	312.52	5,555.29	104,214.70	5.06	109,770.00	
► NON-CAP EQUIPMENT & LEASES	17,000.00	0.00	1,448.90	15,551.10	8.52	17,000.00	
► CONTRACTED STUDENT SERVICES	261,075.00	0.00	2,500.00	258,575.00	0.96	261,075.00	
► FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITIES	13,150.00	0.00	(20.60)	13,170.60	-0.16	13,150.00	
► STAFF DEVELOPMENT	25,000.00	965.00	965.00	24,035.00	3.86	25,000.00	
► ADMIN SERVICES	165,300.00	2,651.02	16,364.73	148,935.30	9.9	156,300.00	
► INSURANCES	46,342.00	0.00	35,246.00	11,096.00	76.06	46,342.00	
► FACILITIES	749,800.00	25,380.00	81,906.22	667,893.80	10.92	1,212,606.00	Budget correction needed
► B&A CARE	60,707.50	0.00	0.00	60,707.50	0	60,707.50	
► CLUBS	3,066.75	0.00	0.00	3,066.75	0	3,066.75	
Expenses	5,366,968.00	364,646.90	767,879.30	4,599,088.00	14.31	5,820,774.03	
Surplus/(DEFICIT)	45,627.02	(63,349.80)	(196,524.00)	242,150.80	-3.75	45,627.02	
	0.84%					0.77%	

9/16/2025
10:07:40 AM**THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL**

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Balance Sheet**Fiscal Year: 2026 | Fiscal Month: August**
Include Funds: All**Assets**

1X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(45,658.66)
2X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	17,145.92
2X.10110.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash - Reserve 3637	2,227,393.86
2X.16110.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Security Deposit	15,658.00
36.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.00 .000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	(35,691.28)
3X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	8.97
5X.10100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Cash OP FCIT 6528	507,983.85

TOTAL Assets: **2,686,840.66****Liabilities**

2X.20100.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Accounts Payable	1,633.04
2X.22820.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	EEs' Flex Spending Deductions	(9,122.90)

TOTAL Liabilities: **(7,489.86)****Reserves and Equity**

2X.29600.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Fund Equity	2,384,454.58
5X.29600.0000.00000.00000.000.0 0.000.00000	Fund Equity	506,399.68

TOTAL Reserves and Equity: **2,890,854.26****NET GAIN (LOSS):** **(196,523.74)****TOTAL LIABILITIES / RESERVES / INCOME:** **2,686,840.66**

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

09/16/2025
10:06 AM

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THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL**Income Statement****Fiscal Year: 2026 Month: August****Include Fund(s): 1X, 2X, 36, 5X**

Fund	Beg. Balance	MTD Actual	YTD Actual
Fund 1X			
Revenue Total:	269,302.15	295,000.00	564,302.15
Expense Total:	294,302.15	315,658.66	609,960.81
Change in Fund 1X Balance:	(25,000.00)	(20,658.66)	(45,658.66)
Fund 2X			
Revenue Total:	756.32	4,712.95	5,469.27
Expense Total:	91,071.58	31,164.63	122,236.21
Change in Fund 2X Balance:	(90,315.26)	(26,451.68)	(116,766.94)
Fund 36			
Revenue Total:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Total:	17,858.69	17,823.62	35,682.31
Change in Fund 36 Balance:	(17,858.69)	(17,823.62)	(35,682.31)
Fund 5X			
Revenue Total:	0.00	1,584.17	1,584.17
Expense Total:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Change in Fund 5X Balance:	0.00	1,584.17	1,584.17

Fund 1X - State Funds

Fund 2X - Local Funds

Fund 3X - Federal Funds

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

8/31/2025 Account Balances	
Bank Account	Balance
The Exploris School Checking	\$530,785.53
The Exploris School Reserves	\$2,227,393.86
The Exploris School Foundation-Annual Fund	\$114,604.24
The Exploris School Foundation-Capital Campaign	\$227,683.53

Coversheet

Governance

Section: II. Committee Reports

Item: C. Governance

Purpose: FYI

Submitted by:

Related Material:

9_18_25 DRAFT Updated Process for Applicants to the Exploris School Board - Google Docs.pdf



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9/18/25 DRAFT Updated Process for Applicants to the Exploris School Board

Board Member Application and Vetting Process

Overview of Openings and Composition

- The Board maintains 7–15 members, preferring stability and nimbleness, so seats may not always be filled to maximum capacity.
- There is a recommended ratio of approximately 1 parent to every 3–4 community volunteers to ensure balanced representation.
- The Board identifies current or anticipated areas of need and then assists with recruitment to fill those specific needs

Application Submission

- Interested candidates may submit a letter outlining their skill sets and motivation for joining, or provide a formal resume or credentials
- Materials can be sent to any Board member individually, collectively to Board@Exploris.org, or to the Governance Committee via Deborah@Exploris.org.

Initial Committee Service Requirement

- All prospective Board members must first serve on a Board committee for at least 3 months and attend a minimum of 2 Board meetings to understand Board processes, goals, and expected time commitments.
- The Board reserves the right to waive this requirement

Vetting and Interview

- Each Board member may refer candidates, including from parents, staff, or the broader school community and is encouraged to help find applicants for their own seats when nearing term
- The Governance Committee reviews submitted materials and feedback, may conduct interviews (such as over lunch or email), and collects feedback from relevant stakeholders.



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- Candidates recommended to move forward are invited to tour the school campuses and meet with the school administrators to better understand the school's culture, programs, and goals
- If competency or fit concerns arise, these may be discussed in closed session as needed.

Board Recommendations and Voting

- The Governance Committee presents an individual or slate of candidates to the Board with a summary of process and rationale.
- The full Board then votes on each candidate's appointment, and can choose any of the following
 - Invite the candidate to meet with the Board for additional information and vetting
 - Thank the candidate for their interest and decline to place them on the board at this point
 - Offer a board seat to the candidate

Offer and Onboarding

- The Governance Committee Chair contacts successful candidates to formally offer a seat on the Board.
- Seats are conditional until after 3 months of working with a committee and attendance at a minimum of two regularly monthly board meetings
- Candidates not offered a seat initially may be still be invited to continue serving on a committee, benefiting their future Board candidacy and supporting Board needs.

Compliance and Ethics Acknowledgment

- Prior to appointment, all Board members must agree to follow:
 - All charter school laws, including open meeting regulations; ethics rules; confidentiality for closed session topics; and conflict of interest disclosures.
 - No promises of services, goods, or school admission may be made in exchange for board membership consideration.

Coversheet

Directors Report

Section:	V. Meeting Items
Item:	A. Directors Report
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	September 2025 Exploris Leadership Team Board Report.pdf



The Exploris School

Directors Report

To: Board Members

From: Ethan, Josh, & Deb

Re: Monthly Board Report

Date: September 26, 2025

The following information is provided to the Board of Directors:

Enrollment

Grade Level	Number for Full Enrollment	Target Crew Sizes	Current Enrollment	2025-2026 Applications	2024-2025 Applications as of 9/26/24
Kindergarten	34	17	30	175	167
1 st Grade	36	18	33	78	69
2 nd Grade	38	19	32	53	60
3 rd Grade	38	19	36	66	89
4 th Grade	38	19	38	58	71
5 th Grade	38	19	34	64	73
6 th Grade	76	19	64	154	159
7 th Grade	76	19	77	56	59
8 th Grade	76	19	75	40	46
Total	450		419	744	793

Note: Although we are currently underenrolled, we will continue to market and offer seats through the first trimester. We have steadily been adding students this past month in assorted grades, and did not see the withdrawals that we often see when other traditional schools open.

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: 4/10 MS: 1/1	ES: 5/8 MS: 7/7
September	ES: 0/0 MS: 2/2	ES: 0/0 MS: 0/0	ES: 4/10 MS: 0/0	ES: 5/8 MS: 4/3
October				
November				
December				
January				
February				

March				
April				
May				
June				
TOTALS				

Campus Updates

- Both campuses have completed the Fall Benchmark Window for IXL Flex Diagnostic, NCENSI & mClass, along with the WIDA Screener Window (K & 1) & Newcomer Screeners
 - This data is being reviewed in PLCs
 - Screener info will help teams adjust core instruction as needed
 - Students are invited to intervention services based on the benchmark check in
 - The next benchmark window is the end of October & 1st week in November
- Sept. 3rd we held staff campus-specific meetings to discuss assorted topics
 - Middle did a circle to connect and reflect on the start of the school year
 - Elementary focused on Universal Norms and how to use behavior tracking in Infinite Campus (Middle had covered that topic already in PLCs)
- At the Sept. 18th Staff meeting we:
 - Celebrated our School Report Card Grade change from a C to a B with a bee-themed cupcake party
 - Worked on completing staff annual professional growth plans.
 - Each staff member has a universal goal centered around the 4 non-negotiables of our Responsive Classroom Approach and then
 - at least one personal development goal



- Student Applications have closed for our annual Japanese exchange and Jill Richardson and Alexandra van Dorsten, this year's coordinators, have been conducting in-person interviews with the top applicants
- On Sept. 24th and 25th, Sensei Taketo Matsuura from Hiroshima visited with 3 colleagues and 4 university student teachers to Exploris to teach 2 days of Japanese cultural lessons on both campuses.
- Sept. 15th-19th Student Support Team sponsored *Start with Hello Week*, a nationwide initiative to encourage students to take the first steps in healthy friendships.



- Students from 5th grade and 7th grade attended science programs at United Skates of America and learned about assorted physics properties while having fun on roller skates!
- Professional Development on the 9/22 workday was led by Christel Butchart and Danielle Polletti from our Peaceful Schools network and centered around the restorative practice of using circles to create strong community, deepen academic learning, and reintegrate students after harm has been done. Staff members learned the philosophies behind circle practices and had a chance to be participants and practice being circle leaders
- The 7th grade annual trip to Charlotte is on 9/26. They will take the train and visit Discovery Place and the Nascar Center for science and engineering lessons. Special thanks to the 7th grade team for planning and to Paradise Taylor, who was able to get reduced priced tickets at Nascar because of Exploris's Title 1 standing



Community Events

- Both campuses held our annual Curriculum Night, where families can visit the school, meet the full teaching team, and hear about specific curriculum plans, including Expedition themes and planned field experiences
- The Cross Country team has competed in numerous meets with continued success— several students winning or placing in their categories and/or posting personal best times.



- Deb attended the kick off event for her [Education Policy Fellowship Program Cohort](#), held in Charlotte and including an overview of the history of public education in North Carolina, a presentation from Dudley Flood and Deanna Townshend from the Dudley Flood Center, and an initial discussion of key policy initiatives currently in progress in NC.

- We have a new spirit rock that can be painted for small fees to celebrate school events, birthdays, and community events

Human Resources Update

Staff Departures		
Name	Position	Notes
None		
New Hires for Approval		
Name	Position	Notes
Thomas Bowling	6th Grade	30 days long term sub; extended one week
Internal Position Changes		
Current & Anticipated Vacancies for 25-26 School Year		

Important Dates (Board Attendance Welcome/Requested)

- Donuts with Deb Fri. Sept. 25th 8:30-9:30 at Middle School Campus
- Exploris Fall Festival Fri. Oct. 24th at the ES Campus

