

ED Report – December 2019

Academic Update:

- Trimester 1 Achievement reports were sent home
- Portfolio conferences underway
- Map benchmark testing will begin again after the new year
- Exploris teacher Shannon Hardy and alumni attended Design For Change student summit in [Rome](#) over Thanksgiving break.

Enrollment Data for 2019 - 2020:

Update as of 12/9/19

Grade	Total # of students	Change
K	35	3 Withdrawals - First student preferred a classical education, second student was unhappy with a fellow classmate's "behavior," and the third student decided to homeschool.
1	37	1 Withdrawal - Transferred to school closer to home
2	38	
3	38	
4	38	
5	38	
6	75	1 Withdrawal - Student moved to Portugal
7	75	1 Withdrawal - Student moved further from school
8	76	
TOTAL	450	

Student withdrawals through December are comparable to prior year.

Demographics and Enrollment Data:

	Wake County Public Schools	The Exploris School 18-19	The Exploris School 19-20
Black	22.7%	10%	12%
Hispanic	18%	7%	7%
Asian	9.2%	2%	2%
Multi-racial	3.8%	5%	8%
Non-Hispanic White	45.8%	75%	71%
Other	.3%	1%	1%
Free and Reduced Lunch	32.2%	10.8%	12.7%

Personnel:

Board approval is requested to accept the resignation of Sonja McKay (2nd grade teacher), effective 12/3/19; and Stephanie Gleason (K teaching partner), effective 12/31/19.

Board approval is requested to accept Martha Merrill as the 2nd grade teacher effective 1/3/20

Board approval is requested to approve Lori Mauro as a part-time School Counselor effective 1/13/20 for students in crisis funded by the School Safety Grant

Candidate interviews are in progress for the K teaching partner. We hope to have final selections completed shortly. A long term sub is currently being utilized for the 2nd grade teaching position.

Interviews are also underway for two maternity leave replacements anticipated in February—Elementary EC and K Teacher.

An exit interview is completed with the Executive Director, HR Manager- Mary Margaret Moffitt, and the option to complete a google survey for all staff resignations.

Operations:

Fire Drills

Elementary School - 11/21/19, 12/10/19

Middle School – 11/6/19, 12/6/19

Policy:

Board approval is requested for the revised Attendance Policy

The attendance policy was revised to remove the reference that indicated that 3 tardies accumulated to equal 1 absence from school. This was changed in the handbook because it did not comply with statute; but, was not reflected in the policy. The revised policy is attached for your review and approval. The governance committee already reviewed and approved change.

2020 – 2021 Calendar

The calendar committee including parents, staff, and administration have drafted the 2020 -2021 calendar and are getting feedback from all stakeholders.

Board approval is requested to approve the start date of August 19, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. The full calendar will be presented at the January meeting for approval.

Enrollment and Admissions for 2020-2021

Applications received as of 12/16/19 - 323
6 Daytime Tours and Information Sessions are scheduled
4 Evening Information Sessions are scheduled
Application Due Date – 2/7/20
Lottery Held – 3/6/20

Network Upgrade Project Funded through ERate Funding \$23,655- Plus \$2,232 annual savings by eliminating ATT internet at elementary

The Middle School campus has been using the free internet service provided by the State of NC called the NCREN network for several years. This connection provides the Middle School campus with 100 Mbps (upload) x 100 Mbps (download) speeds and is covered by state funding and the internet service was provided by Spectrum. The Elementary Campus was using a standard business internet service from AT&T that was providing a 10 Mbps x 1 Mbps speed and this was sufficient for some time. As NC requires more testing to be conducted online, this service is no longer sufficient for large testing groups. The service was upgraded temporarily to 100 Mbps x 10 Mbps for the last half of the year to help alleviate some of the bandwidth constraints. Exploris also filed for Erate funding in March 2019 in order to install a Point to Point transport device as a permanent solution that allows the Elementary campus to share the fiber optic internet service with the Middle School campus. This work was completed in June.

The next step in the network upgrades at both campuses include adding more Wireless Access Points and upgrading the older models at the Elementary Campus with all new devices. The additional cabling and physical equipment for this upgrade is also covered by Erate funding that is available to the school. We have received the new Access Points and network switches for both campuses and are waiting on scheduling to be arranged with the cabling company that was selected through the State contract bids with Erate. The hope is to have this all completed over the next month with the end result providing an Access Point in each classroom and shared learning space on both campuses to provide sufficient wireless coverage for testing and everyday use.

In addition to the improved speeds and connectivity we will also realize a \$2,232 savings since we discontinued our ATT internet service for elementary.

Finance:

2019-2020 Budget Update

I am thrilled to share some tremendous news on our financial position. Our state allotments for 2019 – 2020 school year were issued this week even though the legislature has not finalized all budgets or the salary schedules. State per pupil allotments increased by 5.2% and local revenues

in Wake County increased by 9.8%. The Finance committee met to review the year to date revenue updates, expenditures, and project future impacts. Based on YTD activity, we are projecting an end of year surplus of **\$238,903.55**. The summary of budget adjustments, balance sheet, and income statement along with the YTD budget report are attached for your review.

401K Changes approved by the Board in October will be implemented 1/1/20

Board approval is requested for the 2019-2020 budget amendments and to accept the budget projections as the updated 2019 -2020 budget.

Grant Funding

Access Grant-

The access grant funds were processed and were incorporated in our allotment system on 12/10/19. Our year one projection is for \$142,000.

Title II Funds-

We completed a project proposal for Title II funds through the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan System. The Exploris School was awarded \$4,255 for PRC 103. The funds are allocated to supplement professional development to support behavior interventions and teacher supports for behavior strategies.

School Safety Grant-

We also applied for and were recently approved for the NC School Safety grant. This will provide funds for a visitor management security system (\$2,280) as well as an additional part-time school counselor (\$22,000) to support students.

Special State Reserve-

We have applied for Special State Reserve Funding for a kindergartner that would benefit from a one on one aide. He was recently found eligible for an IEP. We are awaiting a response from the state.

Annual Fund:

Total raised and pledged to date - \$54,187.50

The revised budget reflects a reduction from the original projection of \$100,000 for the Annual Fund.

- % Participation
- Families – 49%
- Staff – 100%
- Board – 78%

Future Meetings:

The next Board meeting is scheduled on January 28, 2020. A staff retreat will be planned. The location will be confirmed as soon as possible.