

ED Report – January 2020

Academic Update:

- 7th Grade Math Teacher, Leah Perry, was recognized for the 2019 State Teacher Bonus for being among the top 25% of teachers exceeding student growth in Math
- Map and mClass testing will be conducted in January and February
- Teacher teams are evaluating student growth and identifying needed supports

Enrollment Data for 2019 - 2020:

Update as of 1/22/20

Grade	Total # of students	Change
K	35	
1	37	1 Withdrawal – Preferred more structure – transferred to base school 1 Addition – new student - child of staff member
2	38	
3	39	1 Addition – new student – child of staff member
4	38	
5	38	
6	75	
7	75	
8	75	1 Withdrawal- EC student started with home instruction, parents transferred to base school
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 Megan Fortner as the K teaching partner (replacing Stephenie Gleason) effective 1/3/20

Board approval is requested to approve Maegan Rizer as a long term maternity leave sub for elementary EC teacher effective 1/23/20

We are in the process of finalizing the hiring process for the long term maternity leave sub needed for kindergarten.

Operations:

2018-2019 Performance Framework

The Office of Charter School released the results of the 2018 – 2019 Performance Framework on January 17, 2020. I am pleased to report that Exploris was found to be compliant in all areas. The Performance Framework report is included in the Board packet for your reference.

Our insurance provider conducted an audit of our facilities and made recommendations for improvement and safety. The most significant request was regarding conducting background checks on volunteers. This will be discussed at the next governance meeting and is copied below for your reference.

2019-11-003 Work with Minors - Screening and Training

As an organization whose operations include instruction or programming for minors your hiring process should include the following controls:

- 1) A thorough screening process including the most comprehensive criminal and sex offender background checks available to you by state law conducted on any volunteers working with minors.
- 2) A written no tolerance policy communicated to volunteers, stating the agencies awareness of the potential for abuse, and the volunteers responsibility in preventing it.
- 3) Written operating procedures on the steps that will be taken, to promptly investigate, respond and report any allegation of abuse
- 4) Volunteers receive training on identifying the signs of abuse and reporting incidents of abuse.

Fire Drills

Elementary School - 1/23/20
Middle School – 1/10/20

2020 – 2021 Calendar

The calendar committee including parents, staff, and administration have drafted the 2020 -2021 calendar which is attached in the Board packet for your review.

Board approval is requested to approve the 2020-2021 school year.

Enrollment and Admissions for 2020-2021

Applications received as of 1/22/20 - 702

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

Additional Recruiting Initiatives:

Charter School Fair – 1/25/20 – 10am – 2pm Raleigh Convention Center

Chavis Event – 1/26/20 – 2-4 pm

- Radio Commercials – K97.5 and 103.9
- Trade Show Banner Developed
- Flyers

Flyers and commercials for the Chavis recruiting are attached for your reference.

Finance:

2019-2020 Budget Update

The Finance committee met to review the year to date revenue updates, expenditures, and project future impacts. The budget was updated to reflect the budget amendments approved at last month's board meeting. Based on YTD activity, we are projecting an end of year surplus of **\$234,440.41**. The balance sheet and income statement along with the YTD budget report are attached for your review.

401K Changes approved by the Board in October were implemented 1/1/20.

The Finance committee will be discussing the budget, current surplus, and 401K eligibility and school match for part-time employees at the next committee meeting on February 4, 2020.

2020 – 2021 Budget Process

Budget input meetings have been held with all teams at the middle and elementary campus to identify remaining needs for 2020 and plan for the 2020 – 2021 budget. A budget input session will be held by the finance committee on February 4th after school to allow for additional input. A staff survey on class size is also in process to provide additional input that will be utilized. The first internal draft of the budget will be created by the end of March and presented to the Board at the April board meeting.

Facilities Update:

The facilities board committee continued to meet to discuss next steps for identifying a new property. The committee met with representatives from Tri Properties Corporate Services division. The scope of services covered include multi-market lease negotiations, multi-market acquisition/disposition, market analysis, and comparative financial analyses as needed. Attached for your review is their corporate brochure, exclusive engagement letter, and bios of the team. The exclusive engagement does not cost Exploris anything and we have the option to dissolve

the agreement with 30 days' notice. We believe that a dedicated corporate commercial real estate broker will provide the needed assistance to locate real estate that meets the needs of Exploris for the future. Tri Properties has provided the following information regarding the benefits of an exclusive agreement.

Below is an overview of the benefits of having an exclusive tenant/buyer advocate on your side:

- 1) Establishing and maintaining leverage throughout the negotiations is a critical part of securing the best deal possible. By engaging a well-established reputable firm, you automatically increase your credibility in the marketplace. Our standard approach includes developing the requirement criteria, surveying the market, touring properties, negotiations, etc. If any landlord or seller senses that the tenant/buyer advocate lacks control over the negotiations, then it can negatively impact how aggressively the landlord/seller community chases the opportunity.
- 2) In order to ensure that your best interests are kept in mind at all times during negotiations, it's important to have an exclusive tenant/buyer advocate who will analyze all properties from an objective/third party perspective. The flip side is with multiple brokers involved, the individual brokers could align themselves with one particular property pushing that one over others for personal gain vs. the client's best interests.
- 3) While there are plenty of brokers in our market that will work under a non-exclusive basis, we generally don't compete with those brokers. I'm sure you will appreciate that in order for us to invest the time and resources required in order to best represent our client's interest and deliver the caliber of service that we always strive towards, it's critical that we have some form of commitment from our clients. Further, as a company, we will not commit to something unless we are 100% confident that we can deliver.

Board approval is requested to engage Tri Properties in a search for suitable options for our new building location.

Two staff surveys were conducted to help gain additional input into the future needs of the school. A survey on class size was conducted and a summary of results is attached for your review. The staff facilities study team has also explored the needs of the school and conducted a staff survey for additional information on priorities. Survey results can be accessed using the following link [here](#). Please use the scroll across under the bar chart to see information about each category of priorities.

The legal complaint against our developers was filed on 1/17/20 in Superior Court in Wake County and all information was shared with the Board in an email on 1/17/20. Our attorneys have recommended the following response to any inquiries about our complaint. "We are unable to comment on matters in active litigation and our complaint speaks for itself."

Future Meetings:

The next Board meeting is scheduled on February 25, 2020.