

ED Report – May 2020

Academic Update:

- End of year portfolio conferences will be held starting on May 26 through June. Opportunities will be available for Board members to participate in the 8th grade passage portfolio conferences. Sign-ups will be sent out by the 8th grade team in the near future.
- Plans are underway to develop a virtual graduation and celebrations to recognize our 8th graders as they close their chapter at Exploris and move on to high school. Celebrations are also underway to recognize the 5th graders to highlight their completion of elementary and transition to the middle school.
- Return to School Task Force Update [Trello Planning Board](#)

Enrollment Data for 2019 - 2020:

Update as of 5/19/20

Grade	Total # of students	Change
K	35	
1	37	
2	38	
3	39	
4	38	
5	38	
6	74	
7	74	
8	75	
TOTAL	448	

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 appointment of Sadie Lang to the position of Teacher for 7th grade.**

Operations:

- **Board approval is requested to renew and approve the following contracts to support EC for next year. Copies included in board packet.**
 - Speech Services – Jenn Grellner
 - Speech Services – Integrated Speech Services, Lisa O'Connor
- **Senate Bill 704 Requirements**
 - Add 5 remote digital workdays to school calendar
 - Develop and have Board approve a Remote Learning Plan by 7/20/20
 - Reporting Requirement to update state on Reading Achievement levels by 9/1/20

Documents from the National Charter Schools Institute highlighting items to consider while preparing schools to reopen along with a reopening checklist. Both are included in the packet for Board review. Also included is the NC OCS guidelines for SB 704.

- **Board approval is requested to amend the 20-21 school calendar and designate October 23, February 15, March 12, and May 13, 14 as remote learning days.** Updated calendar is provided in your packet.
- **Access Grant Annual Report-** An update on the 2019-2020 Access Grant initiatives and use of funds is provided as an attachment in your packet.

We have been working with The Insurance People since last year to get to know the organization and have a full quote developed for the liability, worker's compensation, umbrella, and student accident insurance policies needed for the school. The school has not been satisfied with the current responsiveness or rates of the agency that is currently writing our coverage. Our current provider is projecting an additional increase of \$2,370 in our rates from the current year total of \$32,725. The 20-21 rates from our current provider is projected to be \$35,095 compared to \$23,625 from The Insurance People. The new proposal provides enhanced coverage and limits, cost savings, as well as additional services for staff and volunteers with training through Safe Schools. The savings realized is projected to be \$11,470.

- **Board Approval is requested to approve the contract package provided by The Insurance People for insurance coverage from Utica Insurance Company and The Hartford Insurance Company for the 20-21 school year.**

Enrollment and Admissions for 2020-2021

Applications received as of 4/20/20 – 1,141

- Board & Staff – 3
- Siblings - 54

- FRL – 98
- Open Seats – 77 – assuming reduced class sizes for K (17) and 1st (18) – (\$50K budget impact)
- Lottery Held on – 3/6/20
- Adding an additional student in each 8th grade crew- 4 new openings were added on 4/20/20
- 4 Open/Pending Seats to be filled in total as 5/20/20

Family Connections -

- Grade Level Videos to pass on to previous grade on what to expect in the year ahead
- Accepted family days- Zoom Meetups - 5/18 & 5/20, 5/30 - live

Finance:

2019-2020 Budget Update

The Finance committee met on 5/14/20 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 **\$195,960.96**. The balance sheet and income statement along with the YTD budget report are attached for your review.

Board approval is requested to renew and approve the audit engagement letter and contract for audit services for the 2020 year for The Exploris School and The Exploris Foundation. Engagement letter and contract are attached in packet for your review. Fee comparison file showing total increase of \$700 for the year (\$500 for audit services, \$200 for tax filing). Engagement letter and contract will be signed by Camesha Jones and Deb Brown.

COVID-19 Related – Employee Retention Tax Credit

We have applied for and submitted forms to the IRS for The Employee Retention Tax Credit. The Employee Retention Tax Credit is a refundable tax credit against certain employment taxes equal to 50 percent of the qualified wages an eligible employer pays to employees after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021. Eligible employers can get immediate access to the credit by reducing employment tax deposits they are otherwise required to make. The total year to date tax credit submitted at this time is **\$160,612.40**. Attached is Form 7200 submitted to The Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service. CSP has estimated an additional \$70,000 through the remainder of the year. Last month the Finance Committee recommended and the Board approved sharing the proceeds from the Employment Retention Tax credit with staff at the April Board Meeting. In light of the uncertain time ahead and out of an abundance of caution the Board should further discuss this and make a final determination on next steps.

Facilities Update:

A meeting will be held on Wednesday 5/20/20 with Tri-Properties to discuss updated opportunities for facilities.

Lease for elementary land signed and submitted to Gordon Smith and his attorney, Matt Black. We are awaiting a fully executed lease.

Theo is investigating the lease extension with Wilscot for the elementary trailers.

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."**

Legal Update from Morningstar Law will be available in June when we anticipate the developer's response. Extensions were granted due to COVID-19.

Future Meetings:

The next Board Board meeting is scheduled on June 16 at 4:30 via zoom.