APPROVED

The Exploris School

Minutes

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday April 25, 2024 at 4:30 PM

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

Directors Present
D. Deaton, D. Hencher, E. Buchan, E. Grunden, G. Bayo, P. President (remote), R. Boyce (remote), S. Darroch, T. Void (remote), W. McLamb

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
C. Greer-Banks, D. Brown (remote), E. Burton (remote)

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 Apr 25, 2024 at 4:35 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Grunden made a motion to approve the minutes from The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 03-21-24.
G. Bayo seconded the motion.
Move attendance needs to be moved.

Motion Stephen made needs to be moved under Directors Report.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

No public comments made or submitted.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance

Ryan - provided summary. No items to vote one. Continued review of handbook items, which are likely to be brought to the board in the summer. Deborah mentioned an example of education related excused absences.

B. Finance

Koren - provided the update. Referenced the 990 tax document which was included in the Board packet. Anticipate to submit taxes next week. Josh mentioned new payroll/HR/IS software system which is working well.

C. Educational Excellence

Eric provided the update. Discussed what the main goals for next year will be, including an updated evaluation process. This concept would include teachers more in the goal making/evaluation process. Stephen asked about the Instructional Coach position, Josh indicated the role is a 100% role now. There is another position, School Improvement Coach, who is grant supported. Stephen mentioned there will be an end to Federal funding for positions, which will necessitate future budget discussions.

D. Director Evaluation & Support

Stacey provided an update on the 360 process for the Directors. Stacey indicated she used a different type of survey which she preferred. The survey will be ready in 2024. Stephen mentioned the survey would be sent to staff to solicit their perspectives. Josh mentioned that staff will need to create a BOT account in order to access the survey, which will also provide staff access to additional BOT resources. Deborah asked if the Directors can also include questions on the survey. Koren asked what sections will be confidential and what will not. Stacey indicated qualifiers such as the amount of time the submitter spends with the person being reviewed.

E. Facilities

Josh provided the update. He indicated he will discuss specific facility information in the closed session. Josh summarized his meeting with the COR on the Kindly property related to traffic impacts. Specifically the issue of queueing on the school site. Josh went onto state the COR is supportive the school at this location, which was a welcome change. COR staff asked for an updated TIA.

Josh also addressed the idea of "condo-ing" arrangement in which Exploris would acquire a portion of a building. That said, the long term goal is to own a campus in downtown Raleigh, with leasing being a secondary option. Financial consultant indicated condo-ing was not a realistic option in NC.

Stephen inquired about lease concepts and Josh indicated it is favorable lease market at this time. Rosewood has identified 2 opportunities for possible lease arrangements. Stephen asked about the standing of the current leases and the current lease was offered for an additional 2 years. At the elementary school we can continue with a year to year lease.

F. Kaizen

Dan provided the update. He indicated his time on the board is coming to an end and he has been looking for his replacement. Indicated about the progress on the DEI program.

Stephen asked about the future of DEI programs and what implications recent decisions at the State level might have. Overall staff feel like the DEI program will proceed as planned, as it is supported by the local school community.

III. Meeting Items

A. Directors Report

Josh provided the summary and addressed recorded behavior issues. Ethan indicated there was an increase in minor behavior referrals, but felt staff are using the referrals system in a more consistent way. Ethan also felt the referral system has also resulted in useful changes in behavior without out of school suspensions.

Stephen asked about the status of the seat lottery. Koren indicated we are close to full, with the expected few examples of a family changing their mind.

Stephen asked if acronyms could be spelled out when used the initial time in the report. Josh and Ethan gave a few examples.

Koren mentioned the Passage Portfolios as opportunities to hear about the experience of 8th graders. Eric discussed how valuable these are for students, parents, staff and board members.

Josh mentioned he was able to meet and interact with the Japanese prime minister. Students and the Prime Minister had very sincere and enjoyable exchanges. A class was able to attend a function at the Governors to honor a female astronaut from NC.

Josh discussed the DEI program, specifically an equity statement. It was discussed where the equity statement should exist.

Stephen asked about previous HR votes, and it was not clear these hires were made. Josh indicated a clarification in closed session.

B. Board Business

No additional discussion.

IV. 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 6:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Buchan