



## The Exploris School

### Minutes

#### The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

---

**Date and Time**

Thursday April 24, 2025 at 4:30 PM

**Location**

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

---

**Directors Present**

C. Harden, E. Buchan, E. Grunden (remote), S. Darroch, S. Scipione, S. Singer, V. Hicks-Harris (remote), W. McLamb

**Directors Absent**

G. Bayo, S. Gautcher, S. Riley, T. Void

**Ex Officio Members Present**

E. Burton, J. Corbat

**Non Voting Members Present**

E. Burton, J. Corbat

**Guests Present**

K. Morgan

---

**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 24, 2025 at 4:34 PM.

**C. Approve Minutes**

E. Buchan made a motion to approve the minutes from The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 03-27-25.

E. Grunden seconded the motion.

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

**D. Public Comment**

Susan Singer requested that more time is allotted to public comment in excess of the traditional 15 minutes. Mr. Darroch granted this request.

Abby Burka - provided comments regarding conditions of facilities and janitorial services. Also indicated that school leadership has not been responsive. Asked for an independent review of the leadership structure and create a transparent budget process.

Andrea Wise - complained about lack of program funding. Asked for the following: Fund utilization report, biannual financial report and the development of a multiyear business plan

Shawn (parent of former student) - reported his son was bullied at Exploris and the issue was not addressed by the teacher and school leadership. This issue led him to remove his son from the school.

Sarah Goucher (sp?) - criticized lack of transparency and poor school leadership. Cited poor academic rankings and overall declining trend in various metrics. Expressed concern about over-enrollment, specifically in 1st grade.

Andrea Merkle (sp?) - expressed concern about the overall trajectory of the school. Cited loss of teachers and families.

Brittany Ruter - asked how decisions are made and suggested a new process is needed. Identified the Governance Committee as needing a new structure and member composition.

Shannon Hardy - former instructor described her experience at Exploris and indicated she

Anna Thiesson - asked the board to take several steps to improve overall performance.

James Michael - parent of 6th grader. Pleased with overall school experience but hopes the facility conditions and communication are improved.

Kenneth Ball - overall pleased with the school but hopes improvements can be made.

Kira Crobaw (sp?) - cited her previous concerns that her and other parents had identified. Reported 5 items they cited have not been properly addressed.

## **E. Board Development**

No update available.

## **II. Committee Reports**

### **A. Governance**

Mr. Darroch indicated 2 board member candidates have been offered a tour.

E. Buchan made a motion to Accept Dr. Crystal Harden to the board.

S. Scipione seconded the motion.

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

### **B. Finance**

Koren provided the update on the budget. Indicated revenues have increased enough to no longer need a \$65K fund transfer. The revenues are also adequate to meet all employee compensation needs. The School Foundation requested \$22K to cover predevelopment charges for new facility.

Susan Singer asked for easier to understand financial reports.

S. Singer made a motion to table budget amendment to the next Finance meeting (May 22).

W. McLamb seconded the motion.

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

### **C. Educational Excellence**

Josh summarized the latest educational benchmark data, and overall positive trends.

### **D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Dr. Harden will be moving this committee forward.

#### **E. Director Evaluation & Support**

Mr. Darroch discussed evaluation process.

#### **F. Facilities**

Josh provided the update. Described the process of working with COR on the TIA for the Kindly St. property and the traffic management plans were accepted. Susan Singer asked if we are still evaluating other sites. Josh indicated we are still looking at a "B site".

Susan Singer pointed out we cannot truly start fundraising until a site has been formally selected. Josh continued that Rosewood is continuing to further evaluate the "B site".

Susan Singer asked if there was a volunteer to help manage this process and Josh indicated he does have some assistance in this area.

#### **G. Kaizen**

Shanwa - Kaizen has broken up into separate working teams including data management and survey information.

Scheduled an EOY retreat.

### **III. 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 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Buchan