APPROVED

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, P. President, S. Riley, T. Void

Ex Officio 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.

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 Keoboth - 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