



## The Exploris School

### Minutes

#### The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Thursday October 23, 2025 at 4:30 PM

**Location**

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

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**Directors Present**

A. Rodriguez, E. Grunden, L. Collins (remote), M. Perry (remote), P. President (remote), R. Averitte, S. Scipione

**Directors Absent**

E. Buchan, G. Bayo, M. Nelson, S. Darroch

**Ex Officio Members Present**

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

**Non Voting Members Present**

D. Brown, E. Burton, J. Corbat

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**I. Opening Items****A. Record Attendance****B.**

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

E. Grunden called a meeting of the board of directors of The Exploris School to order on Thursday Oct 23, 2025 at 4:41 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

E. Grunden made a motion to approve the minutes from The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting on 09-25-25.

S. Scipione seconded the motion.

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

### **D. Public Comment**

Eric read the guidelines for public comment and invited anyone to add their comments. There were no emailed requests for public comment.

Aaron Bugher from Wake County provided public comment thanking the Board for holding a town hall and noting that he would like to have notice earlier and noting that he received an email with details a week in advance of the meeting.

### **E. Board Development**

P. President made a motion to amend the agenda.

S. Scipione seconded the motion.

amend the agenda to call for a vote to approve Alannah Rodriguez as interim treasurer.

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

P. President made a motion to approve Alannah Rodriguez as interim treasurer.

S. Scipione seconded the motion.

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

Cory Draughn from Charter Success Partners presented to the Board. He thanked Exploris for the long standing membership with Charter Success (since 2017.) He provided an overview of CSP and their services, basic expectations/ fiduciary duties and best practices of public charter school boards, and a financial framework overview.

Cory took a few follow up questions from board members.

## **II. Committee Reports**

### **A. Finance**

Board members were provided with the usual monthly financial reports in the packet. There were no follow up questions.

The board welcomed Alannah back to the board and her work with finance.

Board documents like conflict of interest statements were distributed to board members, signed and collected from those in person and requested from those online.

## **B. Educational Excellence**

Ethan made an oral report about the fall benchmark data, the process of how our teaching teams go through the data and apply strategies for intervention as needed. NC Checkins will begin next week; it's the 1st time Exploris has used this assessment school-wide

## **C. Governance**

Governance meets bi-monthly unless there is a pressing policy issue or a board candidate to review and did not meet in October. Lauren gave an update on the policy review that the Campbell Law school group is working with us on. This is a great connection where Exploris gets the benefit of educational policy advice and at the same time is providing real-world examples to train graduate students in education law and policy.

No new resumes for board members have been received.

## **D. Community & Connections**

A survey was sent out for school community members who had expressed an interest in this committee to determine the regular meeting schedule. The public invite will be sent out shortly once that day and time is solidified.

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

Steven is the chair for this committee and was not able to be present this meeting so he will update next month.

## **F. Facilities**

Josh presented an update, including details on the recommendations from Cap Dev about a position description for leading our capital campaign; Cap Dev is providing this guidance pro bono. Josh described the next steps in the land testing and process, including required steps for the Kindley St. property.

## **G. Kaizen**

Shawna presented an update. Kaizen has been working on a tracker for sharing ideas and communications.

# **III. The Exploris Foundation**

## **A. Foundation Update**

Richard presented an update, including that the Foundation Report is ready to be submitted and they are running the first of two teacher grant cycles.

#### **IV. The Exploris Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)**

##### **A. PTO Update**

Grace presented an update; Fall Festival is tomorrow 5pm-8pm

#### **V. Meeting Items**

##### **A. Directors Report**

Deb, Josh and Ethan presented highlights. The PGP cycle is nearly completed, Expeditions and field experiences are in full swing, our first round of using the NC Checkins assessments is starting next week. The students are looking forward to Spirit Week and we enjoyed the visit from Hiroshima University of several of their pre-service teachers who presented multiple lessons on Japanese culture to grades k-8.

A. Rodriguez made a motion to approve Stacey Kaufman as a 6th grade teaching hire. R. Averitte seconded the motion.

Stacey Kaufman has been offered the 6th grade math/science position. Stacey is a certified science teacher who previously worked for several years at Research Triangle High School and has been fitting in well with the team and completed the onboarding. The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### **B. Board Business**

- The recent Town Hall was successful and a wrap up and description of the discussion was shared with the Exploris community through an email
- This was the first of three Town Hall style events planned for this year; the format will alternate between fully in person and fully remote. The next meeting will be a remote format and will be in January.
- with Steven absent, we did not discuss the other two agenda items.

#### **VI. Closed Session**

##### **A. Facilities & Legal Items**

There were no items for closed session.

#### **VII. 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,  
D. Brown