APPROVED

The Exploris School

Minutes

The Exploris School Board Regular Monthly Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday August 27, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Location
Exploris Elementary Campus
17 S. Swain St.
Raleigh, NC 27601

Directors Present
A. Rodriguez (remote), E. Grunden, M. Nelson, P. President (remote), R. Averitte, S. Graham

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
D. Brown, J. Corbat, K. Taylor, L. Ruto, M. Perry (remote)

Guests Present
K. Morgan

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 Aug 27, 2026 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 07-23-26.
S. Graham seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

No public comment today.

II. Board Business

A. Votes & Upcoming Events

- Deb confirmed the Board Retreat date as Saturday, October 17th.

III. Committee Reports

A. Governance

E. Grunden made a motion to approve the revised handbooks, including any non-substantive edits that must be made for clarity or organizational purposes.
S. Graham seconded the motion.

- Deb pointed out the crosswalk documents as a way to better understand the revised handbooks.
- A new state law requires us to explicitly name antisemitism as a prohibited practice; the committee will discuss this further.
- Samantha asked about the removal of the Donated Leave policy. Deb outlined how it was widely perceived as inequitable. Catapult, our HR firm, recommended that we remove it entirely.

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

B. Educational Excellence

- Leah will join the Educational Excellence committee.

C. Facilities

- Josh gave an update about the Forever Home Project. The current phase is continuing the pricing exercise.

- Capital Campaign planning is moving forward. Kelly is working closely with CapDev to further develop our strategy and materials.

D. Finance Committee

- Monthly reports were late this month, but light due to the beginning of the school year.
- Enrollment is 13 students low right now. 6th and 7th are the lowest. The team is working hard to close the gap. Huge credit goes to our Elementary teaching teams, as they have welcomed an additional student per Crew this year in most grades.

E. Director Support & Evaluation

IV. Director's Report

A. Documents

- The Directors gave updates, which are included in the attached report.
- Shout-outs:
  - Mariah and Emily for their strong leadership with our focus on Crew this year.
  - Alexandra and Jen for their excellent organization and leadership of our Shinonome Exchange Program.
  - Jessie Voci, Exploris parent and substitute teacher, for donating the use of her parents' condo for our Japanese teacher guests.
  - Desmond, for the joy he brings to teaching Movement.
- We have two historic positions that are unfilled right now. We're actively seeking applicants while fully exploring the model.

S. Graham made a motion to accept the new hires on the Directors Report.
E. Grunden seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Community Reports

A. Kaizen Report

- Kaizen had our first meeting on Wednesday. We welcomed a new team member: Wright! Wright represents new team members.
- Based on the Kaizen Retreat from June, we have identified a handful of Working Groups that will start their week very soon!

B. PTO Report

- PTO had our first in-person meeting yesterday. It went really well! All the open positions are now filled. The turnout of the meeting was higher than any in the recent past.
- Working on getting everything organized for the year.
- Emily M. is working on the Fall Fest.

C. Foundation Report

- The Foundation budget was approved!
- The Annual Report is going well. We will publish it soon.

VI. Closed Session

A. Closed Session

S. Graham made a motion to enter Closed Session.
E. Grunden seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
S. Graham made a motion to come out of Closed Session.
M. Nelson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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 6:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Corbat