

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740
Passcode: 222690

Attendance: Leila Villaverde, Greg Bush, Jay Hawkins, Joanna Lower, Travis Laughlin, Yacine Kout, Roy Carter, Tracy Shaw

Guests: Kristen Kevorkian, Kerri Clavette, Caroline Kernahan

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:32.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Jay Hawkins motioned to approve the agenda, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of October and November Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the minutes from October and from November. Travis Laughlin motioned to approve the minutes from October and November, Yacine Kout seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – none

Report from Executive Director

Tracy Shaw shared that the current enrollment was 301 students. She noted that students withdrawn since last month were struggling with attendance and opted to home school.

She noted that the application numbers were good. Currently there are 54 applications for next school year and at this time last year there were 39.

Tracy Shaw shared highlights from each House included in her report and mentioned some examples such as work hanging on the walls, Kindergarten House thinking about what they want to do when they grow up, were doing Geography with Gingerbread people and the mail system. And playing a game with 1/2 House that they made with math facts.

Tracy Shaw noted that Student Services have been engaging with students, including House lessons and working with small groups. She noted the PAT process was going smoothly and was more streamlined with better communication compared to last year.

All House are going on walking field trips and the library except for one 3/4 homeroom yet to be scheduled for their library orientation.

We have welcomed:

Ms. Gabrielle Warren to the Kindergarten House as a second teaching assistant

Ms. Amy Schenck to the 7th/8th Grade House
Ms. Elizabeth Perry to the 5th/6th Grade House as a teaching assistant
Ms. Annie Rapaka as our Business Manager
Ms. Sarai Williams will be joining the 1st/2nd Grade House
Ms. Whitney Chambers will be joining to the Diverse Learners Team (7th/8th Grade House)

The school has submitted the necessary documents to DPI to begin the process for the Charter Renewal, and the check is in the mail.

Tracy Shaw shared as a personal note reflecting on the first part of the schoolyear that it has been very trying, but the teachers are doing amazing job, present for students. The weekly screenings, masks, cleaning have become routine. Because of this, we can be face-to-face with students in the building.

Joanna Lower acknowledged the report and clarified that the EC population made up 19% (there seemed to be a typo in the report). Tracy Shaw indicated that she had noticed the typo and corrected it. Joanna Lower suggested creating a new recruitment video given the video made last year did not have students or student work in it (due to covid) and we now have students in the building. She suggested making a video that focused on K-4/5 and one that focused on 5-8/middle school, noting natural transitions to new schools. With middle school as a natural point of transition, it would be good to advertise our middle school program to boost applicants. Joanna Lower suggested that a consistent framework be used in providing House updates, that the 5/6 House was most comprehensive in the report, and that Caseloads for Student Services would be helpful, noting the graph broke out the PAT process with percent by grade but, total population numbers were not included. Joanna Lower indicated that Jay Hawkins may have insight on the best way to report caseloads.

Travis Laughlin offered gratitude to Tracy Shaw for her work, all that has been done to support in-person instruction while the world is on fire, that there is a lot going on, and he thanked Tracy Shaw, the teachers, and the parents for their dedication and commitment to TESS.

Standing Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee report - none
- Finance Committee report - none
- Grievance Committee report - none

Leila Villaverde There were no standing committee reports but the state passed a budget! We don't have exact numbers yet but, hopefully they will be coming soon. We do, however, have information about bonuses for staff and teachers. Some will be distributed this month and the rest in January as well as salary increases. Our accounting firm is still getting information on raises, and at each year of experience, so we are waiting on that to approve in January. We will do an increase this January and in 2023. She also noted that the Curriculum Committee was waiting for all assessment results and was hoping to meet this week but, it may be January if schedules do not allow for this week. She confirmed no grievance committee report.

New Business

1. Monthly mask mandate vote

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the monthly mask mandate. Roy Carter motioned to continue to require masks, Jay Hawkins seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Leila Villaverde explained that the next business item was to go into closed session and that once we were in closed session guest could wait in a waiting room or choose to log off. She also asked for clarification of last name of Kristen for the minutes. Kristen responded with Kevorkian.

2. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of personnel in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Jay Hawkins motioned to go into closed session for the state reasons, Travis Laughlin seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 6:00 p.m. and exited closed session at 6:55 p.m.

Leila Villaverde welcomed guests back from the waiting room.

Announcements

Joanna Lower shared that we raised \$20,781 during the Giving Campaign, exceeding our financial goal. With 100% participation from the Board of Directors and an increase of 58% participation in the community, we also met our goal to increase overall participation in the campaign.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Yacine Kout seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.