

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, February 8th, 2022
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740

Passcode: 222690

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

Guests: Kristen Kevorkian, Caroline Kernahan, Kerri Clavette, Michell Bednarek, Amanda Davee Lomax

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Yacine Kout motioned to approve the agenda, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the January Board Meeting Minutes. Yacine Kout motioned to approve minutes from January, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

Tracy Shaw provided Covid related updates:

- January has been a trying time in regard to COVID-We were in person for a total of 8 school days in January
- Screenings are getting more complicated with changes to protocols made by Concentric and the State Department of Health. Classes are being broken into two pools of 10 and results are tanking more like 72 hours rather than 28.
- Contact tracing is becoming more difficult due to families choosing to keep students home for fear of getting COVID, not reporting to the school if a student has COVID, students being absent on the day of screenings or retesting.

Current enrollment is 291.

Application numbers 124 for 108 seats (at this time last year 136). Most are in Kindergarten, with next highest in first, and then 6th grade.

Academic Report:

The second round of MAP testing is complete. The tests have not been closed out for 3-8th grade yet while a few students that were absent are making these up. Once they have completed the test, will be able to close out, and share results at the March Board meeting.

The data for the K-2 indicate our kindergarteners are growing exponentially. The test gets harder if questions are answered correctly. For first grade we had a fair amount exceeding in fall, but most are meeting in winter, and that is because the vocabulary and word recognition gets more challenging, they are growing, and the assessment is challenging them at the same time.

TESG's EVASS report was received. Results indicate if a school has met expected growth based on EOG scores. The first year TESS was in operation, we did not meet expected growth. Tracy Shaw was happy to report we met expected growth in all areas except for 8th grade math and 8th grade science. However, she believes this is because there was no data for comparison for that grade level. She noted that she will post the report to the TESS website.

Tracy Shaw reported Progress Reports were sent home last week to families.

Family conferences in March are planned to be student led. The School Leadership Team is working on a template for teachers to use with the students, training on how to conduct student led conferences.

Conferences will be held March 7th/8th

2nd Trimester Report Cards will go home on March 11th.

Average Daily Attendance for the month was 95%.

Additional Notes:

- Tracy Shaw noted that the Charter Renewal process has begun, "virtual" visitation has been set for April 5, 2022 from 8:30-12:30. We will present a video tour and there will be virtual visits with different stakeholders.
- Tracy Shaw is working with School Leadership team to manage attendance more efficiently and will be creating a designated email address for absences to be reported by parents. Rhonda Brown and Arthur Durham will have access to the email to ensure proper documentation. Teachers will each have a folder for any notes collected and will be sent to office.
- The Student Ambassador program is being reinstituted. They will begin next week. This is a leadership opportunity for 7th/8th grade students. Shavonne Oliver and Dara Nix-Stevenson are leading this.
- Carlos Heredia has begun work on TESS TV as well as the video for the "virtual" visit in April. The video will also be used for marketing. The video should be ready for review by Board for feedback this week.
- Conversations have begun to plan 8th grade celebration

Roy Carter asked about the changes in the Covid testing procedures, with 10 students in a pool compared to previous procedure of 20 students in a pool. He specifically asked how this slows testing down and what does it mean for the classroom. Tracy Shaw replied that the original protocol took about 1.5 hours and the first day of the new way took 3 hours. The next week it did not take as long because Angela Horton (school nurse) had labeled the tubes ahead of time with a list of students for each tube. It is now more streamlined.

Joanna Lower asked Tracy Shaw to share more about the renewal, how long it extends, and how expanding to High School is related to the process. Tracy Shaw responded that we will know quickly about the renewal and that it can be for 3, 5, 7, or 10 years, depending on a variety of factors, academic growth, financial soundness, compliance, etc. Once a decision is made on how long to renew the Charter for, there will be a conversation with the Board that includes the glows and the grows. Tracy Shaw explained that adding another grade into high school is a separate process and requires an amendment to the Charter.

Leila Villaverde expanded that the amendment to the Charter to extend into High School would be up to the Board. She also clarified that our current Charter was for 5 years. The renewal process came earlier because of the number of schools that must go through the process (the 2023 cohort included 50 schools up for renewal and those were not all new schools). She and Tracy Shaw were invited to a meeting where they were provided with information about the process. She indicated that we are confident about the visit and excited to share what we are doing. She also noted that because TESS is mission-based and focused and many schools are not, we have a strong mission and how it manifests in the everyday. In terms of expanding and thinking about the future, and there is interest in that, we must make sure we have a solid and well-functioning K-8. Once we hear of renewal news then we can strategize and have longer term plan for the school. Joanna Lower thanked Tracy Shaw and Leila Villaverde for the clarification.

Joanna Lower indicated she had another question related to Covid testing, skipping school, and procedures, specifically related to truancy, and at what point is the testing not beneficial? Tracy Shaw clarified that we don't have parents not sending students on test day. Once we have a positive pool, and send communication, because of a positive pool, they keep their child home. Attendance is still good, despite that, it is not rampant, but makes the process frustrating, especially with new variant, we are going to have positives every week. She also noted that we do not pay for the testing. Leila Villaverde reiterated the importance of communication and attendance issues, and to have a system in place for absences. Leila Villaverde suggested the situation be studied to make sure we are following protocols. Tracy Shaw responded that Concentric partnered with Brightstar and they send nurses. There are 2 that come. Technically we have 3 because we have Angela Horton assisting. Tracy Shaw reiterated that the time it's taking on a Monday, has already been reduced since the change in the protocol. She also noted that since we had high numbers several weeks ago, the number of positive pools has dropped significantly, and hoping to continue to see a decline, 10, 8, 4, 3. The numbers are dropping. Leila Villaverde added that until the number of cases locally start to drop, we should not change the protocol,

and study the situation more, and be most attentive to what the needs are, that learning is continuous, having things remote, digital, if a student needs to be absent.

Leila Villaverde added that she had questions on enrollment numbers. She noted that it would be helpful to assess where we are with recruitment in relation to the number of seats available for each class to know if the waiting list sufficient. She also noted that we are advertising in Yes Weekly, Carolina Peacemaker, we missed the deadline for the Greensboro Magazine, and we might consider Four Seasons once the weather is better and cases are down and more folks are going to the Mall.

Kindergarten: 70 applicants for 36 openings

First grade: 18 applicants for 10 openings

Second grade: 5 applicants for 9 openings

Third grade: 4 applicants for 8 openings

Fourth grade: 5 applicants for 11 openings

Fifth grade: 2 applicants for 6 openings

Sixth grade: 11 applicants for 12 openings

Seventh grade: 6 applicants for 10 openings

Eighth grade: 4 applicants for 6 openings

Tracy Shaw shared that in her experience we will have a wait list in 6th grade, for families looking for middle school. Leila Villaverde asked if there were any updates related to updating the recruitment video. Tracy Shaw clarified that they were planning to use the same video that will be used for the virtual visit. We have filmed talking about different aspects of the school, doing voice overs, and having students say some things. Tracy Shaw indicated that she was to have something tonight review tomorrow and she would share for feedback before finalizing.

Standing Committee Reports – no standing committee reports were made.

- Curriculum Committee report
- Finance Committee report
- Grievance Committee report

Old Business – there was no old business.

New Business

1. Mask mandate vote.

Leila Villaverde asked for a motion to continue the TESS mask mandate. Roy Carter motioned to continue requiring masks at TESS, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Leila Villaverde noted there was no other new business for tonight and asked if there were any announcements.

Announcements

Roy Carter shared that he was contacted today by former student at A&T. Sterling Freeman was an art major and working in elementary, primarily 2-5 and he has started littlelightseries.com. He provides education resources and materials. It is going well and he knows about TESH from his time at A&T. He has his second children's book coming out with a signing at the Children's Museum in March. He would like to have a relationship with TESH, he's worked with other schools as well. Roy Carter suggested we go to his website and noted that he was proud of him and would like us to think about how we could involve him with K-4 groups. His books Goodnight, Little Dreamer and Wake Up, Little Dreamer. He is the author and illustrator. Leila Villaverde shared that we were going to have Sterling Freeman come the year we shut down for Covid. He was going to do a reading and signing at TESH so, hopefully we can have a redo now that Covid numbers are looking better. We also have virtual platforms to Zoom him in.

Joanna Lower shared that a call for student designed TESH t-shirts is out and a design will be included in the Spring Swag Sale in March.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Jay Hawkins seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde thanked everyone for attending and wished them a lovely even and then adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.