

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, October 11th, 2022
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740
Passcode: 222690

Present: Leila Villaverde, Greg Bush, Roy Carter, Carl Lashley, Joanna Lower, Fred Adams, Tinisha Shaw

Guests: Kristen Kevorkian, Kristen Low, Brooklyn, Andrea Smith-McAdoo, Lisa Princell, Karen Obas, Rachel Morton, Caroline Kernahan, Amanda Davee-Lomax, Alexis Roderick, Michelle Bednarek

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of September Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve minutes from September meetings. Greg Bush motioned to approve the September minutes, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Kristen Kevorkian

Kristen Kevorkian shared this was her fifth year at TESH and that she was speaking to lack of communication from the Board and to several policy changes not communicated. She noted the Student Handbook was recently updated and not discussed or voted on. She suggested changes be highlighted for families and shared with students. She stated that discipline was focused on restorative practices and some students have been denied this opportunity, and if policy has changed it should be explained. She shared that parents were no longer allowed to substitute teach and that this should be explained to parents who previously substituted. She noted directions on how to speak at a Board meeting were not on the website as discussed in a previous meeting that the Board was updating the Board section of the website with such information. She stated that parents in the past have asked to be on the Board and have been denied. She shared parents had already started plans for the Community Collaborative before changes in family involvement were shared.

Report from Executive Director

This month there was continued focus on monitoring attendance, creating systems to manage information student data, and updating parental contact information. We completed student enrollment after the first 20 days of school. We also had some staffing shifts in the Kindergarten House, 3/4 House, 7/8 House, and the Arts Team. As we continue to grapple with Covid and now the Flu, we are still having to remind parents to make sure that their students come with masks. Baseline testing is being completed. Each House completed their MAP testing last week. This data will be used for student interventions and teacher unit planning. This month students have begun engaging in the local community. Students have begun their walking field trips to Greensboro Public Library, Civil Rights Museum, the Magnolia House, and Lebauer Park. Currently we are launching a schoolwide food and clothing drive. The Giving Tree campaign began October 5 and will continue to November 10.

20-day School Transportation Update

- ~ 33 students ride Bus 1
- ~ 38 students ride Bus 2
- The afternoon bus trips have the largest number of students riding to after school at CTG or CVA.
- Bus arrivals in the mornings are ~8:30-8:38am. Bus departures in the afternoon ~3:30pm.
- Updated bus times for morning arrival has helped in getting students picked-up/dropped off on time.

School Updates

- Continuing concern about My Hot Lunchbox. Possible shifts for next year to lunches being catered and provided through a local vendor/caterer.
- Next Fire Drill is scheduled for Oct 28, 2022. Tornado Drill Practice will start the week of October 17-21. The Tornado Drill will be Oct 25, 2022.
- Mask Policy (5-7 packs of masks a day). We still have to pass out more masks in the morning than we like, however we have seen some increase in mask wearing at morning arrival especially from our student walkers.
- 2022-2023 School Picture Schedule: Shared house newsletters. I will share through mailchimp. October 18 is fall pictures (12/2 – make up), Jan 26 class pictures, March 10 Spring pictures, and 4/28 Kindergarten end of year pictures.
- October 5th Parent Night was a success: Meeting teachers, parents visiting the classrooms, updated parent data, clarifying attendance, arrival, and dismissal policies, shared information about The Giving Tree Donation Drive and the book drive for the community library.
- From October 5th - November 10th, TEGS will be hosting a Giving Tree to support the needs of students and families at the school. Families can use this form to sign-up to donate or receive items based on need.
- Student Services: October is anti-bullying month. Oct 3-7 was Hello Week -The 7/8 ambassadors met and greeted parents and students at the gates and 1/2 hall. Student Services has a focus for each House this month. K House kindness, 1/2 House safety/personal space and friendships, 3/4 Listening & Learning, 5/6 Conflict Resolution, and 7/8 Consent/Boundaries.
- 7/8 Ambassadors went to Guilford College for Every Campus a Refugee and participated in activities with students who consider themselves refugees.
- Kindergarten and 7th grade immunization records have been submitted and documented in PowerSchool for the majority of all students. The final day of submission is November 1st.
- Student Services has been working to develop a partnership with Bryan YMCA to create another after school option for next year and to do some camps when students are out of school. Bryan YMCA has partnered with other charters in the past and are working on an update for TEGS for next year.

Re-envisioning Community and Family Collaboration

- Defined process for house support based on the needs of the teachers.
- Chaperones and volunteers for field trips and walking field trips can be filled with a basic sign-up sheet.
- In-school volunteers will have to complete a volunteer application to create an approved database of individuals (parents, grandparents, community members) for teachers to choose from. This list can be aligned to specific houses/activities/projects.
- We have completed background checks for half of those who signed up for volunteering. Sensitive confidential information is used only for the running of the background checks and then deleted for security purposes.

- Revised and updated 2022-2023 Family Handbook is now available to parents through the school website.

School Improvement Plan/ School Improvement Team

- Begin the SIP process including reconstituting a school improvement team and notifying stakeholders, and by November 4th submitting a preliminary plan for improvement to the school's board of directors.
 - Ensure relevant staff are trained in NCStar. (NCStar Training November 1-2, 2022 in Johnston County)
 - By November 4th, notify parents.
 - By December 9th, submit SIP in NCStar for review and feedback.

Academic Goals

- PowerSchool training is Friday, it will provide a single system for parents to review student attendance and grades. First round of MAP testing is being completed this week. This assessment data will support teacher plans for academic growth.
- Next month there is a focus on establishing Beginning Teacher Meetings and observations and CEU system for PD documentation.

Tinisha Shaw opened it up for questions. Leila Villaverde noted what we could make some changes to the MyHotLunchBox choices for January. Joanna Lower asked, in addition to the parent handbook being on the website were plans for it to be sent out in House Newsletters this week. Tinisha Shaw concurred.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Calendar discussions

Tinisha Shaw shared that she had been having conversations with staff about the Calendar. We currently have 1239 instructional hours, and the minimum requirement is 185 days or 1025 hours. She is proposing additional days for professional development days for staff. She noted there are several new teachers and more time for professional development on project-based learning and integrating social justice standards would be beneficial. Tinisha Shaw also shared that with this proposal she looked at how to support families with childcare as well as aligning days with GCS or attaching days to other days we already have scheduled off. CTG and CVA already are open on some of the days because they are also days that GCS has off and/or are waiting for days to create programs for us. The YMCA is also interested in doing some day camps this year during the proposed PD days. Tinisha Shared that student services are also working on gathering extra food and partnering with backpack beginnings for the extended breaks. Tinisha Shaw shared the added dates proposed for additional PD days: Oct 28 & 31, Nov 28 & 29, Dec 15 & 16, Jan 4, 5, & 6, Feb 21, March 2, 3, & 8. Tinisha Shaw shared that she proposed these dates for Teachers to examine data to inform lesson plans to support student needs and interventions, responsive classroom training is also included, as well as alignment of experiential education and project-based learning, and integrating content and social justice standards, as well as building community. She noted this addresses the goal for this year to focus on project-based learning and making sure we are using data to inform practice. She opened it up for questions.

Leila Villaverde confirmed there was still a buffer should we have inclement weather. Tinisha Shaw confirmed with the proposed changes we would still have 1148 hours. Roy Carter asked about leveraging senior teachers to help and noted that we have such a range of newer and senior talent. He suggested leveraging the talent that we have on staff and let them know in the spirit of help and fellowship share their strategies with the group. Tinisha Shaw thanked Roy Carter for bringing that idea up. She noted she could think of several veteran teachers. She shared that veteran teachers had received training on responsive classroom and were leading the training with the whole staff. She recognized the importance of hearing from teachers they have been able to put theory to practice. Joanna Lower indicated that she supported the PD days to support the work environment and allow teachers the time to do the work to provide the best instruction and learning opportunities. She asked how Oct 28 & 31 were selected and if Oct 31 and Nov 1 were considered based on observations of the calendar. Tinisha Shaw responded that GCS was also out on Oct 28 & 31, so CVA and CTG were already open for day camp. Joanna asked if the dates in December and January were either/or or if both were being proposed. Tinisha Shaw indicated ideally, they would like the dates in December and January.

There were no further questions. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the proposed calendar changes. Fred Adams motioned to approve the calendar changes, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde noted that the calendar will be adjusted and posted as soon as possible. She also noted that next year's calendar will be posted this month for feedback and these revisions will be helpful in thinking about next year's calendar too.

Announcements

Joanna Lower shared that Giving Tuesday is November 29 and around the second week in November we will be launching our Giving Campaign, TESSG's main fundraising effort which ends about a week following Giving Tuesday. She asked that folks let her know of individuals who may be interested in matching or supporting giving efforts such as giving at certain increments based on participation to help promote participation.

Roy Carter shared that there is an exhibit at Henry Clinton Gallery in the Dudley Building on the campus of A&T University. In collaboration with Preservation Greensboro, the exhibit honors the work of Black Architects and Builders in NC. The timeline of the exhibit goes as far back as during slavery, through Jim Crow and segregation. There are Architects, Masons, Hands-on Builders represented, and it is an opportunity that connects culture, education, history, STEM. He recognized Benjamin Briggs of Preservation Greensboro as one of the organizers, noting this is one of two exhibits. The exhibit runs Oct 19 – Dec 9, first floor of the Dudley Building (behind the Famous Four statue). The gallery is open 9:00 – 5:00. Anyone can reach out to Roy Carter or call the gallery to set up a visit. Tinisha Shaw noted this would be great to share with staff. Joanna Lower noted that a class had gone to the Dudley Building in the past and busses were used but, that it seems within walking distance that it could be a walking field trip. Roy Carter noted that Go Far sometimes goes to Dudley and stops for a drink of water and then runs back to the school.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.