

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

Present: Leila Villaverde, Jeannette Alarcon, Joanna Lower, Fred Adams, David Jarmon, Travis Laughlin, Roy Carter

Guests: Aimee Harrison, Kristen Kevorkian, Amanda Davee Lomax, Brandon Morrison, D Jackson-Diop, Beth Meyer, Kristen Lowe, Carline Kernahan, Rachel Morton, Jessica Glenn, Taryn Thomas

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm and welcomed all guests.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Fred Adams motioned to approve the agenda, Jeannette Alarcon seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the March minutes. Jeannette Alarcon motioned to approve the March minutes, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation: Dr. Harrison, Bennett College

Dr Annie Harrison spoke about a residency program with Bennet College in partnership with The Experiential School of Greensboro. The residents working toward their teaching licensure would work at TESH as Assistant Teachers while doing their coursework with Bennett College. Next steps are to update the current memorandum of understanding TESH has with Bennette College to include the components of the new residency program.

Brandon Morrison asked if the residency was paid. Annie Harrison responded that the residents would be paid a \$20K stipend funded through a grant from the Department of Education. She also noted that mentors to the residents would be paid a stipend of \$3K.

Joanna Lower asked about numbers for the fall semester. Annie Harrison responded 2-3 and that was negotiable. She noted that their courses would be offered in the conference room and if needed Bennett is only 4 blocks away so if needed on campus meetings could be arranged.

Leila Villaverde asked about the timetable for the Memorandum of Understanding. Annie Harrison indicated that she could draft it tomorrow and was aiming for the end of April to be reviewed by attorneys.

Davide Jarmon thanked Annie Harrison for attending the board meeting to share about the program.

Report from Executive Director

David Jarmon reported that on Thursday, March 12th, TESH hosted an Open House for prospective families from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. There was a brief introduction from the administrative staff and families had the opportunity to tour their respective grade level Houses as well as visit with our artists. TESH is continuing with our “Touring Tuesdays” each week. Prospective families can sign up for these tours on the TESH website.

Curriculum and Instruction Highlights

David Jarmon shared that Ms. Natalie Sowell (a current parent) is the current Director of the UNCG school of Theatre. She recently invited TESH K-4 students to attend a Touring Theatre performance put on by UNCG theatre students. There was a cost to attend the event; however, Ms. Sowell found a grant to cover the cost for all K-4 students, teachers and chaperones. The event will take place on April 16th at 9:30 am at the LeBauer Park performance area.

Kindergarten – Our students are taking a trip to the library this week. We love that we are continuing to instill reading in our young students. They are currently using story problems to compare addition and subtraction. Current books: My Classroom Community and What Would Danny Do?

1-2 House – Students are having their 1st marketplace sale on Wednesday. They will study the moon for a few weeks and then go into force and motion. In math students are learning about time and money. Some students have formed their own book club to practice reading skills.

3-4 House – In Science, students learned a lot about the solar eclipse that we experienced yesterday. The students have had discussions about the fundamental rights of people locally as well as globally. In math, they are continuing to work on addition and subtraction problems as well as multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. Word problems are a huge focus.

5-6 House – Students got an understanding of the Vietnam War and compared war experiences to what people experienced on the Middle Passage during the Atlantic Slave Trade. They integrated this with ELA, studying the novel “Inside Out and Back Again.” In Science, students are having discussions about genetics and heredity. They had discussion about how each relates to animals and plants. They are also learning about weathering, erosion, and disposition. In mathematics, they have been practicing the multiplication of decimals and algebraic exploration.

7-8 House – In mathematics, students are beginning to review learned material to master objectives. They have learned about probability, statistics and the creation and interpretation of two-way tables and frequency tables. 7th graders are reading the book Patient Zero. 8th graders continued discussion on the concepts of racism, identity, discrimination, and diversity. 7th and

8th graders are studying evolution and genetics. They will soon learn about Geological Time, Traits, Heredity and Variation.

Tutoring (Grades 3-8)

The TESS tutorial program that began Monday, Dec. 11th continues. Select students receive tutoring 2 days week on Mondays and Tuesdays with the exception of the 1st Monday and 1st Tuesday of each month to allow teachers to attend Leadership Team meeting and Staff meeting.

Garden Arts – K-2 students are initiating plants for the sensory garden that will be in the planter closest to the entrance. K students are responsible for the sight and 1-2 students are responsible for the smell. 3-6 students are planting melons, radishes, cucumbers and more! 7-8 students are practicing garden upkeep and preparing for the upcoming plant sale with the Community Collaborative.

Visual Art – K-4 students are painting native flowers found in NC and talking about why they are important. 5-6 students are experimenting with tempera paints. They have also constructed paper sculptures that we can interact with. 7-8 students are diving deep into art by creating projects that utilize 2 or 3 elements at a time. They have worked with line, shape, color, form and texture.

Music – K-2 students are learning how to read melodies. Soon, they will begin learning the ukelele. 3-6 students recently completed their cover band projects where they created a band and performed popular cover songs. They will be reviewing how to read music. 7-8 students just finished learning about the ukelele and the basics of music production.

Theatre – 5-6 students have been working on independent projects of creating musical ideas inspired by their favorite book. 7-8 students have been doing the same based on a movie genre of their choice.

Movement / Dance – Students in K-2 are beginning to learn about choreography where they also create it. Students in 3-8 are doing the same; however, they are also researching videos to assist in the creation and learning of their choreography.

There were no questions.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Salary Scale approval

Leila Villaverde shared that she reviewed TESS's salary scale to provide small increases for next year. She noted that the significant budget concerns due to enrollment was not something we are going to be able to recover from quickly and that we will continue to work on that. Charter school funding is based on enrollment and that is why enrollment is key. The salary scale was revised to provide small increases for next year to try to be competitive with other schools and address salary progressions that had gotten distorted due to percentage increases required by the state in previous years. Leila Villaverde opened for questions or a motion to approve. Joanna Lower motioned to approve the proposed salary scale, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Joanna Lower shared that the TESS Spring Swag Sale was underway.

Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Jeannette Alarcon motioned to adjourn, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.