

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, May 14th, 2024
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

Present: Leila Villaverde, Carl Lashley, Roy Carter, Joanna Lower, Travis Laughlin, Fred Adams, David Jarmon

Guests: Beth Meyer, Jessica Glenn, Kris Debell, Morgan Long. Peter Antognetti, Brandon Morrison, Amanda Davee Lomax, Kristen Kevorkian, Lexi Renee, JE Chavis, Laruen McLaughlin, Kristen Lowe, Rachel Morton, Eugenia Gwynn, Erika Liseth, Carmisha Wright, Jen, Regniald Griffin, Jade Chiu, iPhone, EB, Caroline Kernahan

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve minutes from meetings in April (9, 10, 11, 16, 19, 23). Carl Lashley motioned to approve the minutes from April, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: K. Kevorkian

Kristen Kevorkian shared that her family has been a part of TESSG for 6 years. She spoke of research related to disciplinary policies and referenced the National Education Association that calls to end the overuse of suspension and expulsion. She shared the NEA recommends restorative practices, respect, and compassion, avoiding 'zero tolerance' policies. She noted TESSG includes restorative practices on the website and TESSG's charter was revised and no longer includes NEA's statement. She also acknowledged the family handbook had been revised and families may not be aware of new policies. She claimed the school is departing from its original goals. She perceived that families have seen an increase in suspension and exclusions and thinks the changes are punitive, with administration being subjective and applying unequal discipline. She asked the Board of Directors to look at the National Education Association's statement and research about discipline.

Report from Executive Director

David Jarmon greeted everyone and then thanked the Board of Directors for their service for the 24-25 school year. He shared he had been in administration for over 25 years and appreciated all of the support and learning he has done this year.

David Jarmon shared that on Monday, May 13th TESSG began a new lunch program through the Healthy School Food Collaborative. Forms were sent home to families for establishing accounts a week in advance and offered support for getting them signed up. To date, we've had 2

successful days of implementing this new lunch program. The students are excited about receiving hot lunches and the chocolate milk is a huge hit!

The Community Collaborative Organization held a plant sale on May 4th at the Corner Farmers Market in Greensboro. Despite the low temperatures and rainy day, they were able to raise over \$1000 for the school! These funds will support our Garden Arts program as well as TESS staff appreciation efforts. Special thanks goes out to Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Lowe and others who grew plants, set up the display and did an outstanding job all around.

TESS will host “moving up day” on Friday, May 31st. This is a day when current students entering 1st grade, 3rd, 5th and 7th grade will have an opportunity to visit their respective House, meet staff and ask questions and/or hear about what to expect when they move up. We are excited about this day and looking forward to it. Kona Ice will be on site for treats for all and we will hold a Jammin’ with Jarmon party in the school parking lot! Additionally on this day, we will host the 7th and 8th grade dance at 6:00 in the evening in the school cafeteria. On June 3rd, the 8th grade celebration will be held at Bennett College. Detailed information will be coming home to 8th grade parents on Friday.

Curriculum and Instruction Highlights

- Kindergarten – Our students have been continuing their unit on Social Justice by discussing ways to advocate for themselves and others. This week, they will be reviewing addition and subtraction problems.
- 1-2 House – Students are using prisms to study light waves and are going to be making phones with cups and string to study sound waves. Soon, they will be working with magnets to study push and pull forces. Reading skills are still being enhanced while teachers are conducting Dibels assessments. 1st grade is working on time in math and working on addition within 1,000 in 2nd grade.
- 3-4 House – Students have been working on projects involving civil/human rights. They had a living museum today that parents were invited to attend. If you were able to stop by, you were able to see some great work by our students. Each student was able to choose a person, event, or issue of civil/human rights, research their topic and present their project. Very inspiring!
- 5-6 House – Social Studies: This week in social studies, students discussed the Black Panther Party. They discussed reasons why the Black Panther Party felt the need to create the social programs they did and unpacked biases that impacted how the BPP is talked about. Science: This week, students worked on their unit project which challenged them to design a rover with specific tools and machinery geared towards their chosen celestial body. Students created digital presentations like slideshows and animations, wrote persuasive paragraphs about their rovers’ features, and drew up mock blueprints of their ideas.
- 7-8 House – Math Students have been working hard to finish up units of study and prepare for the upcoming EOGs. 7/8 Teachers have been using the NCDPI released EOG test forms to help students prepare for the EOGs. This week in 7th grade math we concluded our statistics unit following our class discussions regarding “biases” and

“descriptive statistics”. Math 8 also wrapped up one of their units focusing on volume calculations. The subject matter emphasized the comparison of volumes of various figures (Spheres, cylinders, and cones). Math 1 continued their EOG preparation involving scientific notation. Students practiced their skills at converting numbers from standard form to scientific notation and vice versa. ELA -This week, 7th graders worked on a mini project that aimed at crafting a poster/collage about kindness. 8th graders worked on presenting their call-to-action poster about anti-discrimination. Science - Students will use their knowledge of energy and human impacts to create a resolution to advocate for their future without pollution or sacrifice of certain natural resources.

The Arts Highlights

- Garden Arts – Students have been watching a series of videos that explain the general art of gardening. They have explored what time of year to plant certain types of fruits and vegetables. They have also explored how to prepare the soil for gardening. Based on what they are learning, students get a chance to map out their own garden that includes what they will be growing.
- Visual Art – Students have been completing projects that were assigned a few weeks ago. Lessons are currently being created by our newly hired LTS who has filled the position vacated by our former teacher.
- Music – K-2 is on their last week of a four weeklong ukulele unit, 3-4 is reviewing ukulele, 5-6 is doing music production on a music program BandLab, and 7-8 is working on their parody music videos!
- Movement / Dance – Students have been creating mini commercials using movement/dance routines choreographed by the students.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports. Leila Villaverde shared that the finance committee had met previously and worked on a proposed budget for next year. She noted that we had also been tasked to manage the deficit this year. We are waiting for projections from the accountant for that final number, so we know what we will need to pay ourselves back from saved funds utilized this year. The proposed budget is coming up for approval and she explained that every year, the board projects what the budget will be based on the current year’s numbers.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Approval

Leila Villaverde introduced the proposed 24-25 school budget. There were no questions. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the 24-25 school budget. Roy Carter motioned to approve the 24-25 school budget, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Leila Villaverde explained to the audience that the next item of business was to go into closed session and that guests could sign off at this point or they would be put into a waiting room while we went into closed session and brought back once we returned to open session.

2. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a prospective employee in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Joanna Lower motioned to go into closed session for the reason stated, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 5:48 pm and returned to open session at 5:57 pm.

Leila Villaverde welcomed everyone back to open session and called for a motion to vote to approve the personnel decision made during closed session. Joanna Lower motioned to approve the personnel decision, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjourn

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 6:00 pm.