

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, October 8th, 2024
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom: Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690

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

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and the September 10th, 23rd, and October 4th minutes. Travis Laughlin motioned to approve the agenda and the minutes noted, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Reports from Administrative Team

David Jarmon provided the Executive Director report as follows:

David Jarmon congratulated Dr. Carl Lashley on being selected to give the Keynote Address at the North Carolina Council on Exceptional Children's 2025 39th Annual Conference, "Empowering Educators: Evidence-Based Practices for Exceptional Learners".

Community Partnerships

David Jarmon reported that he was excited about our current established partnerships and is working to create more opportunities for our school, students and our community. He shared that currently, we have partnerships with NC A&T with their Art department and Cooperative Extension. We have partnered with Scuppernon Books in downtown Greensboro and look forward to some upcoming events with them. We value the partnership with the downtown Library where many of our students visit with the school and on their own time. We have presented partnership opportunities to the Board and will hopefully have an opportunity to share with our school community. We are in the process of fine-tuning details of a program with Bennett College. If all goes well, this program will begin in the Spring of 2025.

David Jarmon indicated we are very excited about an opportunity to have a TESS Basketball Team and Cheerleading team in connection with the downtown Bryan YMCA of Greensboro and noted an informational meeting scheduled for Thursday evening at 6:00 PM on Zoom.

Innovation Station @ NC A&T

Innovation Station is a 41-foot long, 8.5-foot wide, 12.5-foot high mobile science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) lab and makerspace. Inside are 15 workstations, including one wheelchair-accessible desk. The exterior of the vehicle is equipped with a 20-foot awning, an interactive monitor and a public address system for outdoor programming. In the STEM lab, participants can gain skills in the engineering design process, robotics, video game design, computer programming and hardware engineering. The makerspace is a collaborative workspace where participants can bring ideas to life with both low- and high-tech equipment. Here, participants gain skills in electronics; 3D modeling and printing; innovative problem solving and critical thinking. David Jarmon shared that he was excited to announce that the Innovation Station Lab will visit TESH on October 29th, 30th and 31st. Our focus will be on Robotics and all students will have the opportunity to be a part of this experience.

Title 1 Update

David Jarmon shared that TESH has received Title 1 status for this school year. As a result, we have been allotted Title 1 funds to utilize in unique ways to support children and academics. TESH's Title 1 plan is currently under review with the state.

Grant Recipient

Mr. Blanchard, our music teacher, was recently awarded an \$1800 grant through the Peter Marsh Foundation. With this grant, Mr. Blanchard, along with TESH music students, will provide music performances at local senior facilities (retirement communities, senior centers, care facilities). This will be a great service-learning experience for our students as well as a great way to inform the community about TESH.

Community Collaborative

The Community Collaborative Organization will hold its first meeting of the year on Monday, October 14th at 6:00 PM. We hope that many of our families will be a part of this organization and that we are able to do some great things in our school community.

Teacher Observations

David Jarmon noted that we are at a point in the school year where teachers and staff have gotten acclimated with the working procedures and expectations as it relates to the daily operations of school. The school administration has begun our 1st round of observations. The 1st observation is an announced observation. For the most part, we are proud to see great lessons being taught and learned throughout the building.

360 Plan Update

Each year, the Board submits a questionnaire to parents, students and staff to receive feedback from all stakeholders on various aspects of school operations. We, the administrative team, review the data and devise a detailed plan to address the feedback. To date, we have reviewed the feedback in detail and would like to highlight a few of our proposed improvements:

- Increased Restorative Conversations
- Intentional Professional Development for Staff
- Data Driven PLCs that focus on Student Learning

- Required Field Trips for each House, each Trimester
- More Collaborative Conversations during Staff Meetings

David Jarmon shared that a detailed description of these areas will be submitted for the Board to review.

David Jarmon reported on behalf of the School Counselor. He noted that the School Counselor – Ms. Egerton – had submitted a mental health report and completed a mental health and first aid training. We currently have 20 students utilizing Backpack Beginnings and 1 student with the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. Ms. Egerton has done individual and group counseling, as well as classroom guidance. Recent topics was an intro to her role, boundaries, and bully awareness forthcoming. She is looking into possibilities to promote career development such as having guest speakers or a career fair, for example. She is facilitating 504 meetings, meetings with parents, and doing student check-in. She is teaching the Mindful Living class with the 7/8 House and aims to start the student ambassador program soon.

David Jarmon shared they were exploring having a Bully Prevention Spirit Week October 21 - 25 with proposed themed days.

Roy Carter noted you can't meet violence with violence referencing "stomp out bullying" and offered the reminder to be careful with language. David Jarmon responded that they had met about this yesterday and no one had thought about it that way. Joanna Lower added that she was having some cognitive dissidence and struggling with this messaging, without the focus of the humanity of relationships within communities and strategies for students. There was further conversation about this, and Travis Laughlin summarized, it's how we address this within the framework of the school philosophy. Leila Villaverde suggested that Beth Meyer align with the curriculum and instruction, as extension experience. Beth Meyer explained that she had already shared ways this could be done with Ms. Egerton with classroom read alouds and resources, so that was in the works.

Beth Meyer provide the Director of Curriculum and Instruction report as follows:

September PD Opportunities Completed:

- Dr. Varker and Dr. Small met with Houses during PLCs on September 25th. During this time they were able to tailor their approach to specific needs based on Houses and individual teachers. Prior to the start, teachers completed a survey to assess their knowledge so that targeted support could be provided. This time was used to provide support in deeping their understanding of Experiential Education as well as help brainstorm ideas to support current and upcoming units of study. They also invited staff to attend the Rebecca Carver Institute that will be held on October 26th at UNCG where Mr. Morrison and I will be presenting on the Possibilities and Limitations of Experiential Education, sharing a bit about our experiences at TEGS.
- Ms. DeBell led a professional development opportunity for our staff on Responsive Classroom that was focused on logical consequences.

Units of Study

- Houses continue to reinforce procedures with students and revisit established expectations.
- K House is extending their discussions about communities from their immediate classroom community into the local community around us. They are learning about the ways people work together to improve communities.
- 1/2 House is diving into a science unit on sound. They will be learning about the relationship between sound and vibrating objects, tying in how those who are differently abled in relation to sound/hearing are impacted. Additionally they will be learning about how noise pollution disproportionately affects certain communities.
- 3/4 House is extending their unit on identity to learn more about the unique ways we support each other in the communities in which we live. To explore the different aspects of their identity students have been creating identity trees. They will then move into learning about ecosystems and the environmental factors that impact plant growth and development. They will finish up this trimester by learning about government and the elections process.
- 5/6 House is reading *The Giver* for their House book club and tying it into their study on governance. Students are learning about the different types of governments and what they look like based on the relationship between the people who govern and the people being governed.
- In 7/8 House, the 7th graders are learning about the European Renaissance while 8th graders are exploring the Declaration of Independence, Constitutional Convention and key battles of the Revolutionary War. In science, 7th graders are learning about cells, tissue and organ systems. In 8th grade science classes, students are taking a closer look into the history of Earth and its life forms based on evidence of change recorded in fossil records and landforms.
- In Visual Arts, students have been exploring the relationship between the elements of art and principles of design in art. They have been working on a variety of projects to showcase their learning and are eager to display these at our TESS Book Fair and Family Night.
- In music, our K-2nd grade students are learning about expressive movement and instrument exploration. In 3rd-6th, students are composing ostinato music which is a repeating musical pattern. Lastly, 7th and 8th graders are creating modern band instruments.
- Through a partnership with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension and 4-H Ms. McKinnon is hatching chicken eggs and learning about chick development. This week Houses began fall planting which encompasses leafy greens and root vegetables such as carrots and radishes.
- For the November Board meeting, I will be highlighting only mathematics. We will be devoting time in October to discussing our current units of study and seeing how the concepts build on each other as students progress through the K-8 standards.

Assessment/Data Collection

- The BOY window for DIBELS closed this past Friday. In PLCs this upcoming week we will be discussing the available data and planning next steps in terms of instruction.

- Read to Achieve testing will take place on Thursday, October 10th. This test is administered to 4th grade students who did not demonstrate reading proficiency on the 3rd grade ELA end-of-grade test measures. To limit disruptions to the instructional day, myself and Ms. Glenn will be administering.

Field Trips

- October 1st marked the start of our first library visits. Mr. Pete and Ms. Stacey who are in charge of the children's section of the Greensboro Public Library provided us with available times for Houses to visit. This was created to ensure they had adequate staffing to support our visits. Each House will be going every other week. I reached out to Ms. Stacey for information about the impact our school has made on the library and am waiting to hear back.
- K House will be going to visit the Children's Museum on Friday, November 1st to extend their learning about communities.
- 5/6 House planned a trip to Guilford Courthouse National Military Park on 10/26. This will help frame students' understanding of what the American Revolution was like and provide additional context.
- 7/8 House is finalizing plans for a field trip about Indigenous groups of North Carolina. We have solidified a visit to the Greensboro Historical Museum and are hoping to arrange for students to also visit the Museum of Anthropology on the campus of Wake Forest University.
- Ms. Jazmine is looking ahead to an upcoming photography exhibit at the University Galleries on the campus of the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

1st Trimester Family Night/Book Fair

- On November 14th we will be having our second annual TESH Book Fair and family night. Teachers are working closely with Scuppernon Books to select titles to feature for students. I recently met with Brian Lampkin at Scuppernon to discuss logistics. I am excited to share that he is reaching out to secure a local children's author and illustrator. Once that is confirmed I will share more. This will also be a time where families can visit Houses to see what students have been working on during the 1st trimester! More information will follow, but please mark your calendars!

Beginning Teacher Support Program

- In September I completed a self-assessment of our Beginning Teacher Program at TESH. We do this annually and complete a peer review process with another school. Last year we partnered with the Arts Based School in downtown Winston-Salem and we chose to continue to support one another with the peer review process. Our focus standard for 2024-2025 is standard 4 which deals with beginning teacher professional development. The goal for this year is to provide Beginning Teachers with a variety of professional development opportunities based on individual self-assessment or interest surveys. Book clubs will be offered each trimester, tailored to the needs of Beginning Teachers in alignment with our school philosophy/mission. We will have two

separate book club opportunities for our Beginning Teachers this trimester: *Black Ants and Buddhists* by Mary Cowhey and *Teaching Literacy in Troubled Times* by Skerrett and Smagorinsky.

Jessica Glenn provided the Director of Operations and Student Services report as follows: Jessica Glenn shared that she and the EC Staff had completed the required training for this year and that she had submitted applicable reports to the Department of Public Instruction. She indicated this past year 3 student referrals fell outside the 90-day window, 1 which fell during the summer, and the other 2 were delayed within a few days, due to scheduling conflicts. Jessica Glenn has set up additional systems when referrals are received to accommodate the 90-day deadline. We are currently in compliance. She noted that the Diverse Learners department has anchored schedules meeting all service times. She noted she is following up with some out of state referrals. Enrollment is 191 students including 50 with IEPs. Student demographics include 43% Black/African American, 35% White/European American, 13% Multiracial, 9% Hispanic/Latino/a. 45% Female and 55% Male.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee Reports.

Leila Villaverde shared that last year we were successful in reducing a half million-dollar deficit from the budget to 21K. We have not received ADM yet nor do we have a final budget from the state, so we do not know per student funding allocations. Because we qualified for Title 1, we will receive that funding too. Once we receive funding numbers, we'll be able to adjust accordingly.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Roy Carter motioned to go into closed session for the reasons stated, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 6:13 pm and returned to open session at 6:40.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to vote on personnel decision made during closed session, Fred Adams moved that we vote on the personnel decision discussed in closed session, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Joanna Lower shared that she had started preparing for the Giving Campaign, that she had looked at two platforms, and believes the one from last year still meets our needs best. She noted she would be meeting with Beth Meyer to discuss some possibilities for this year.

Roy Carter noted that A&T Homecoming is next weekend and that reminders that it is on one day may need to be shared.

David Jarmon shared that he has a meeting for a potential grant that may be able to help fund the hvac project and a public announcement system for the budling.

Leila Villaverde shared that a senator was planning to visit the school the afternoon of October 14th. She will be getting a tour of the white building and the land behind that, as well as seeing the school for about 30 minutes.

Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Carl Lashley motioned to adjourn, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.