

Meeting Agenda for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, January 14th, 2025
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom
Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690

Present: Leila Villaverde, Carl Lashley, Jeannette Alarcon, Joanna Lower, India Goodwin, Roy Carter, Fred Adams, David Jarmon, Beth Meyer, Jessica Glenn.

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and the December minutes.

Jeannette Alarcon motioned to approve the agenda and the December minutes. 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, Executive Director:

360 Report Update

Additions have been made to the 360 report for Board review. The additions were related to the discipline flow chart and who would be responsible for what. Additionally, there were suggestions for daily routines to be followed by teachers.

Recruitment Planned Strategies

Mr. Jarmon has been in contact with the principal of Aggie Academy and the Assistant Director of Generation Ed to collaborate on attending a parent meeting to inform the Aggie Academy families of our middle school program and to inform the families of Generation Ed about our Kindergarten program. Efforts have been made to connect with the Hayes Taylor YMCA Kiddie Kollege program to inform their families about Kindergarten. Information has been shared with the Board about advertisement opportunities in the community. One of our parents works in marketing and has agreed to create a marketing video for us to use on social media platforms. We plan to touch base on Tuesday to begin collaboration on this project. Staff have been asked to place recruitment flyers in businesses throughout the community. As an incentive, when they place flyers at a business and send a selfie of the flyers in the business, the school admin will grant them a “duty free” lunch or take on their morning or afternoon duty for them.

Bennett College Interns- We will hold an orientation with Bennett College School of Education Chair, Professor Phillips and 3 interns on Tuesday, 1/14/25. The orientation will consist of a tour of the building and a discussion on ways TEGS can support the interns.

TESG Community Collaborative

The Community Collaborative organization has been meeting regularly the past few months. The organization has discussed various events for family participation over the course of the school year. Some events are for fundraising while others are being suggested as family engagement. Tonight, I'd like to share a committee proposal for two fundraising events: Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser - No cost to organization. 50% of raised funds become assets to the school. We will set up a Double Good virtual fundraiser! It's 100% contactless, we keep 50% of all sales and the product ships directly to the buyer. Each family is encouraged to create a Pop-Up Store and sell Double Good popcorn! Prices for Signature Bags (5 cups each) start at \$11 and Curated Collections at \$31. The popcorn is delicious and award-winning! The second proposal is for a Color Run/Walk Fundraiser – This fundraising event would raise funds and boost school visibility in the community.

Beth Meyer, Director of Curriculum and Instruction:

Upcoming Professional Development

Currently I am working with our contact at NCDPI to ensure that all new staff are properly trained to administer DIBELS. In turn, we are working to ensure that classes are appropriately rostered to new staff members for assessment purposes.

Our Beginning Teachers will be spending January and February working through select chapters in Solving Thorny Behavior Problems: How teachers and students can work together. Through this we will be exploring how problem-solving conferences can be used to assist in collaboratively identifying root causes of behaviors and working together to develop strategies to help with improvement, while promoting student agency.

K House and 1/2 House will be participating in professional development workshops through their work with Dr. Hughes. These will be integral to helping plan and facilitate their 2nd and 3rd trimester units of study. There will be 5 sessions:

Teaching Inquiring Using Library of Congress Resources

Using Images to Elicit Student Thinking

Strategies for Fostering Argumentation

Integrating Hands-on Maker Projects

Designing Civic Action Projects.

Curriculum News

Houses have completed their curriculum mapping documents for the 2nd Trimester. We will spend PLCs for January/February solidifying plans, exploring ways for reteaching and extension of concepts as well as using recently collected student performance data to shift instruction.

Staff meetings will be focused on providing a space for discussions around vertical alignment and how we support the instructional goals for other Houses.

Students in the 3/4 House will be starting their cursive handwriting unit in the next few weeks. This is always an exciting time in this House, as students enjoy practicing proper letter

formation and begin to link letters together forming words. We use the program Cursive Handwriting Without Tears that incorporates multisensory activities that engage students and support the development of fine motor skills.

Assessment/Data Collection

As reported in our December meeting, Houses are completing and scheduling Check-Ins for math, reading and science. We hope to have these completed by the end of January. We will be completing MAP testing in 3/4 House at the beginning of February.

Field Trips

Students in 5-6 House were able to attend a showing of Wicked at Red Cinema just before break. This was an amazing opportunity for students to extend their comparison of the plot to that of The Wizard of Oz. We appreciate the support of the TESS Board of Directors in coordinating this for us, particularly Dr. Villaverde and Dr. Lower. Additionally- we appreciate Dr. Lashley sharing contact information of a former UNCG graduate, Dr. William Purcell, who taught a course at Appalachian on this topic, suggesting him as a resource for further exploration. Thank you for being engaged and involved and always willing to share an idea or help us connect with others. We simply could not do the work we do at TESS without your continued support!

Jessica Glenn, Director of Operations and Student Services

Jessica Glenn shared that current enrollment is 181. There are 43 students with IEPs. Enrollment is open for the 2025-26 school year and applications have started coming in and a recruitment update was provided.

An edited attendance policy was shared with board.

The proposed calendar for the 25-26 school year was also shared.

Jessica Glenn explained that she has been involved with the Infinite Campus transition from PowerSchool (timeline, biweekly meetings, team, submissions-calendar/class formats/grading period/grades, etc.)

Leila Villaverde asked if there were any clarification needed from the reports.

India Goodman asked about the curriculum mapping that Beth Meyer spoke about. Beth Meyer responded and indicated that once they were polished, she would send them to India for her review and that she could send one that she has done in the past more immediately.

Joanna Lower asked about the outcomes the 3-field trip study of the wizard of oz and how students were demonstrating what they had learned from those experiences, thinking about student led conferences that are approaching. Beth Meyer indicated that that student had engaged in perspective taking and highlighting in House newsletters and that she would be reconnecting with the 5/6 team.

There was some discussion about the fundraisers proposed. David Jarmon indicated the Double Good Fundraiser would roll out in the next couple weeks and lasts 3-4 days.

Old Business

1. 360 plan revisions

Joanna Lower shared the flow chart and additional details were helpful. Others concurred.

2. Attendance Policy revision discussions

Joanna Lower and Carol Lashley both indicated they had provided some edits. It was determined that “pick up early” was clearer than the term “early release”. Jessica Glenn clarified that students must be at school from beginning – 11:30, anything after 11:30 are early pick up. Leila Villaverde emphasized the importance of communication among parents, teachers and students, if there becomes a pattern. David Jarmon had questions about consequences related to tardies and early pick up. Leila Villaverde indicated that we would need to rely on the state statutes. Fred Adams concurred and suggested a new policy be vetted by the attorney. Jeannette Alarcon also emphasized the clarification in statute and the nuance between hours in school and days absent. Leila Villaverde indicated after edits were made then she could consult with the attorney and bring it back to the board.

3. Calendar

The calendar was discussed. There was question on whether to make Sept 12 an early release or remote day due to the Folk Festival downtown and access to the school building. Because the roads are blocked early in the day (10-11 am), an early release is not helpful therefore it was decided that Sept 12 would be a remote learning day. The calendar will be posted for public comment. Joanna Lower motioned to approve the calendar, pending no major issues were raised from the public were raised, Fred Admas seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports.

New Business

1. Recruitment plans

Leila Villaverde shared that the numbers from last year funded us for this year, and next year’s funding will be based on this year’s numbers. Currently enrollment is low so, with recruitment we need be sure Kindergarten is full, and we have a robust wait list in the other Houses. Regarding the recruitment plan think about tours, information sessions, and other ideas. There was discussion about advertising. We have a quote for advertising at the DMV. It was noted that the generation we want to attract are on social media. They get a lot of their news through social media. India Goodman noted, with radio and tv, much of that is streamed. IG/social media reels were noted. David Jarmon shared that TESSG has a marketing expert willing to help us. Joanna Lower indicated she’d like to see a scope of work in writing to get a better sense of what is being donated. Leila Villaverde suggested insight into the direction and content and access in the building. India Goodman concurred with written parameters, number of reels, how much in-kind, voices included (e.g. ED, student, parent, teacher). She also noted the amount of work it takes to make a single 1-minute reel. Carl Lashley shared he had some experience with this and could assist with

crafting parameters. Jessical Glenn indicated she was going to look into running ads on Facebook and Instagram.

2. HVAC repairs

Leila Villaverde explained that there is a significant repair that we must do. The Tenant incurs most of the cost. Hvac is nebulous areas because it is both in and outside, and this repair is on us. Two quotes, one is for 69K and one 83K, leaning towards 69K. The wiring was cut at some point a couple years ago and it's all electronic and the systems must talk to each other. Currently it's very warm in some parts of the building and then other parts it's cold. The Landlord folks are going to come out tomorrow, and repair during spring break, and then we can control our own temperature. We have a payment plan. Instead of one major area for temperature control, we will have different spots in the building, so it could end up being less expensive to heat/cool. We have the 69K in the surplus and we need approval from board to access the surplus. Leila Villaverde spoke to Kotis' folks about being a non-profit to cover these costs, also explained how charter schools get funded. Joanna Lower motioned to access the reserve to pay for the HVAC repairs, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Roy Carter shared that there are two new exhibits at A&T's art museum. On the first floor there is a cultural exhibit from the donations of Celeste and Regional Hedges. They are avid African art and textile collectors. It is an amazing body of work, and they will also be doing a speaking engagement and tour of the collection. On the second floor there is an exhibit from the Yale Quantum Institute, in relationship with biology and education programs. The exhibit talks about quantum computing and increases exposure to the public around quantum. Ant man, although wrong, it helps people to start thinking about quantum. Art students and faculty and different folks met online and responded artistically. It's interesting to talk about the cost of this intellectual capital, but in water usage alone, how many gallons, to ask a quantum computer a simple question. The machines that are processing that query must have systems that are cooled, all of that sharing and searching impacts the planet. The exhibit starts Monday and runs through Feb 17, 9-5. Monday through Friday, and Saturday on special request. TESSG is welcome.

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 6:45 pm.