

Meeting Agenda for the Board of Directors  
The Experiential School of Greensboro  
Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 at 5:30pm  
Join Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690

Present: Leila Villaverde, India Goodwin, Carl Lashley, Max Negin, Joanna Lower, Roy Carter, David Jarmon, Jessica Glenn, Beth Meyer

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

#### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Max Negin motioned to approve the agenda and the March minutes, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Director Reports**

#### **Report from Executive Director, Mr. David Jarmon**

##### *Charter Renewal Visit*

On Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, we had a visit from the Office of Charter Schools. The visit was a part of the charter renewal process. Two consultants with NCDPI met with a Board Committee, Parent Committee, Staff Committee and Administration Committee to ask questions related to operations, staff climate, parent perceptions and Board organization and policies. We received feedback from our guests that we will review and analyze with the Board. The renewal process will require that we complete other tasks prior to renewal. We are expected to renew in 2026.

##### *Senator Visit*

On Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, we had the owner of the building visit with Senators Dana Jones and House Representative Alan Branson. They had a tour of the building and areas that we are looking to receive funding for upgrades such as the building beside the school and the vacant field at the end of Hughes St. The field would be upgraded to include a basketball court and gazebo for an outdoor classroom and the building would be open to many possibilities. We had an opportunity to take a photo with several of our students from each House. The visit poses some positive outcomes for TEGS. We have asked our partners at NC A&T, Bennett College, UNCG, and Elon to submit letters of support as to how TEGS is an important piece to their program. These letters will be shared with Senator Jones and House Representative Branson to share with legislators.

##### *Final Rounds of Observations*

The admin team is now conducting our final rounds of observations. Teachers are providing engaging lessons on a daily basis for students.

### *Tips for Student Success*

Each morning during the morning message, I give students tips for success as a student, to be successful in class. Since we do not focus on testing, I use this as a strategic method of giving testing tips as well as tips on how to be a successful student.

### *End of Year Celebration*

The Leadership Team met earlier today. Part of today's discussion included collaborating on an End-of-Year celebration for the students. We thought it would be a good idea to do as we did last year with the Jammin' with Jarmon event in the parking lot. We would do a K-4 production and a 5-8 production. The projected date is May 22nd with K-4 being held from 12:15 - 1:15 and 5-8 being held from 1:30 - 2:30. It would again be held in the parking lot and include Kona Ice or some type of frozen treats. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade "graduation" is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Bennett College at 6:00 PM. The 7/8 dance will be held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in the school cafeteria from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Carl Lashley asked to be reminded why the senators made the visit. Leila Villaverde explained that Kotis invited them; that they were interested in seeing the school and the land around the school. They are on the appropriations and education committees and had interest in the development in this part of Greensboro.

Joanna Lower asked if the traditional moving up activities were also included in this year's end of year celebrations. David Jarmon indicated that those were a part of the plans. Joanna Lower suggested other celebratory activities be available during the Jarmon Jam such as chalk, bubbles, different ways students could be engaged in addition to the music/dancing.

### **Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Beth Meyer**

#### *Completed Professional Development:*

- Our March NC Reads Book Club was a hit this month! We continue to have a handful of staff members who participate. This month we read *On the Swamp* by Ryan Emanuel which focuses on the fight for indigenous environmental justice.
- The February book was such a hit, several staff members are planning a book club for spring break on *The Filling Station* by Vanessa Miller. The plan is to complete the reading over break and get together once we return. Several staff members and parents have found Miller's writing to be engaging as she brings historical events to life for the reader. I would say that our avid readers have found a new favorite author!
- Our K-2 teachers continue to receive professional development through their work with Dr. Hughes.

#### *Curriculum News*

- Spring is here and we are in full bloom at TEGS!
  - Ms. McKinnon and our students have been working hard in our gardens to get them ready for the season. Students are currently growing: brussel sprouts, swiss chard, kale, radishes, spinach, garlic, broccoli, corn, and cauliflower.

- Keeping with our overarching focus on the environment this spring, several Houses are currently completing units of study that tie in soil, plants, animal life cycles and ecosystems:
  - K House & 1/2 House are both learning about pollinators and how they play a crucial role in plant reproduction as they facilitate the transfer of pollen- enabling fertilization. 1/2 is also beginning an environmental justice unit that will tie in concepts they have learned throughout the year in class as well as Garden Arts.
  - 3/4 House is exploring how environmental factors aid in the survival of plants. They are carrying out investigations to infer how the basic properties and components of soil determine its ability to support the growth and survival of plants. We hope to see our seeds sprout after break!
  - In 5/6 House, our 6th graders are exploring the structures, processes, and behaviors of plants and how they enable them to survive.
  - In 7/8 House, our 8th graders are focused on ecosystems, exploring how organisms interact with and respond to biotic and abiotic factors in their environment.
- In terms of future garden bed updates:
  - Ms. McKinnon will be rotating the beds and beginning preparations for her summer crops. She was able to visit a local farm and get strawberry plants for students to add to our gardens.
  - We have also been discussing adding lavender and rosemary to the herb section which currently features oregano, mint, and thyme. Ms. McKinnon hopes to incorporate how to dry and make various spices using the herbs.

#### *Beginning Teacher Program*

- On April 24th, Laura Papsun with NCDPI will be coming to TESS to complete our monitoring visit based on the Work Plan that Mr. Jarmon and I created at the end of last year. She has been an amazing source of support as I learn the requirements for Beginning Teacher programs.
- At the beginning of each year, I complete a self-assessment of our Beginning Teacher program and select a targeted area to improve. This year our focus has been on Standard 4: Beginning Teacher Professional Development. I will be meeting in the next few weeks with our peer partners, Ashley Tate and Joseph Cutts, from the Arts Based School in Winston-Salem to complete the process so we can report back to NCDPI. These meetings have been helpful previously because we are able to discuss what is working well and give one another suggestions for improvement.

#### *Assessment/Data Collection*

- To ensure we are spacing out the testing that students must complete for the end of year, I created an EOY Testing Snapshot with Ms. Long.
  - Aside from the standard EOG tests that are reflected in the more detailed testing plan, you will notice:
    - The NC ENSI window will run from April 23rd- April 30th.
    - The DIBELS window will run from May 1st- May 15th for K-5th grade.

- Ms. Glenn and I will be supporting the 3/4 House to help complete DIBELS assessments.

#### *Student Led Conferences*

- It was a pleasure to see our students walk their families through the building, highlighting their learning. A considerable amount of work goes into planning student-led conferences and we would like to thank our teachers for the way they support our students in reflecting on their learning.

#### *Mid-Trimester Progress Reports*

- This week teachers are preparing mid-trimester reports. These will be sent home with students on Friday, April 11th.
  - Based on survey data I collected recently, our teachers would like to have continued discussions about grading. This week in PLCs teachers will be taking a closer look at how they are currently assessing/grading their students and discussing competency based grading. Our discussions will be focused on ensuring our grading practices align with the actual purpose of education: *helping students learn and grow*.

Joanna Lower asked about report cards for next year and suggested we make Integrated Studies consistent across grade levels. Beth Meyer concurred and noted that Infinite Campus will be released soon, and she'll connect with Jessica Glenn on entering grades to the live site. Leila Villaverde noted that we tried that with PowerSchool and it extremely clunky. Jessica Glenn noted she was in a demo class. She also noted that there was an infinite campus messenger we may want to consider instead of MailChimp and phone services and that might be budget savings too.

#### **Director of Operations and Student Services, Ms. Jessica Glenn**

Enrollment: 171 (39 Diverse Learners with 3 in referral process)

We still have a constant flow of tours weekly.

HVAC repairs will occur over next week while students are on Spring Break.

Yearbooks are on sale until April 30 for \$20. The school gets \$8 proceeds from these and the first 50 are 100% proceeds based on our contract with Strawbridge. Ordering is online. So far, we have sold 35 of these.

360 Survey has been sent to all parties needing to fill it out with due date of 4/11/25.

EOY Testing starts May 23rd.

New janitorial company starts April 21st.

NC Check Ins, DIBELS, and MAP testing are going to be administered in the next 2 weeks.

IC biweekly meetings continue with the implementation team. Online and virtual trainings are starting. Full staff will be trained during half day workshop at BOY workday. Official launch is at the end of June.

We are beginning to look at Rosters, schedules, and other needs for next year.

3/4 House staffing has been worked out in a way that we all believe will benefit the students in the best way to continue learning and prepare the students for EOY testing.

*Diverse Learners:* Indicator 11 Timely Placement corrective action is complete according to NCDPI and OEC. We completed all the required training and documentation. Looking at needs for next year and how to group students and staff working with them.

Joanna Lower asked about hosting a Kindergarten Event – inviting all applicants. David Jarmon suggested adding Head Start too. And Joanna suggested UNCG and A&T lab schools. Max Negin concurred that a Kindergarten session may be beneficial for recruitment as this is a big decision for families. There was also discussion about hosting a session for 1-8<sup>th</sup> grade too.

David Jarmon indicated that Ms. Jade Young is starting on Thursday. She has a background in education, theater, and American Sign Language. Ms. Young will be working as a TA Monday through Wednesday in 5-8 and in 3/4 on Thursdays and Fridays.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Leila Villaverde indicated that we met with accountants and went through the budget; shored up. We have a little surplus this year because we are being funded a year behind. We have the funds from enrollment last year. That is why it is important we reach our 200 target which will affect us 2 years from now. For now, there are changes with funding and we didn't receive information on that. Keep in mind next year will be challenging. Based on the accountant, we will be half million in deficit if we remain the same, so we are looking at options. And to see about increasing teacher salaries given we are at a gap between our neighboring district. We are losing really good candidates because of the pay gap. So we will be looking at that and once we get more information, the finance committee will meet and look more closely at options.

### **Curriculum Committee**

We did have a curriculum committee meeting; testing data was reviewed, and progress and instructional support was discussed. The reports the admin team provided for those meetings were very thorough. For the curriculum we are looking at growth on standardized tests so we can show that to the Charter School Advisory – if you make growth in subgroups, they will consider that along with finance and governance which we have always been fine on. The test scores is what has kept us at a 3-year renewal period. Our population has changed, and we've experienced a significant amount of teacher turnover, there are contextual things that help us understand but we have to get focus on that.

### **Announcements**

- 360 surveys have been sent out.
- Spring Swag Sale should be coming out soon. There is a tight timeline but we are making progress on the 2025 shirt.
- Red Theater is open to doing advertising/information session.
- Dr. Goodman going to look into ideas for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration book and share with Dr. Meyer.

### **Adjourn**

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn, Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.