

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 5:30 pm
[Join Zoom Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690

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

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

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and approve the April 8th Board Meeting Minutes and the April 30th Finance Committee Minutes. Fred Adams motioned to approve the agenda and the April 8th and 30th minutes, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There is no public comment.

Director Reports

Leila Villaverde noted that we were starting with Ms. Glenn's report because she needed to leave early.

Report from Jessica Glenn, Director of Operations and Student Services

Enrollment

Current enrollment is 168 students

Diverse Learners

- 41 with IEPs and 1 in referral process.
- All IEP meetings due through Sept 30 have been scheduled and are in compliance.
- Looking at needs and planning service schedule for next year.

Lottery Chart

- We are opening some seats. Jessical Glenn will keep the chart updated for reference.

Infinite Campus

Bi-weekly meetings still going; on track for June transition of official launch. Full staff will be trained during a half day workshop on a BOY workday.

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Facilities

- HVAC work was completed. Now it is cold so they are working on that.

- New Janitorial Company came on board 3 weeks ago and that start has been great. Mr. Chris is very good to work with. If texted or emailed about areas misses, the next time around they are addressed. He's , been on site and training an extra couple people to help.

End of Year

- Eighth Grade Celebration book has been chosen and are being signed.
- End of year spending wrapping up
- Meeting with OT this week for handwriting curriculum.
- 8th grade celebration and 7/8 dance in progress. Excited for that theme and décor.
- Mr. Jarmon can share exciting news of Bennet from last.

Report from David Jarmon, Executive Director

Parent/Guardian Information Sessions

We held a parent information session for rising 1st – 8th grade families on Monday, May 5th. We had about 4 of our approved families attend as well as some who were on the waiting list. We held another information session for rising Kindergarten families on Tuesday evening. We will hold our final session tomorrow for rising Kindergarten families at 9:15.

Senator Visit

On Friday, May 2nd, Senator Phil Berger made a visit to TESH. He, along with his constituents, were led on a tour of TESH. Senator Berger made the visit following a visit from member of Congress. The visits have been made to share with state leaders the excellent work we are doing here in the community in hopes that some funding will be allocated to assist with our future projects.

Meeting with Office of Charter Schools

On Wednesday, May 7th, Mr. Jarmon and Ms. Glenn met with Ms. Niewinski of the Office of Charter Schools to review suggestions for our charter renewal application. We reviewed some of the original processes that were in the original application. She shared that anything that wasn't still being done should be amended on the application. She will meet with us again at the beginning of the month.

Teacher Appreciation Week

The Community Collaborative Organization was very supportive of the TESH teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week! On Sunday, families met at TESH to "Chalk the Walk" into the building with inspirational comments. On Monday, the staff was treated to a day of "Welcoming with Warmth" with a cozy coffee bar and morning treats. Tuesday, the staff had a day of 'Nourishing the Change Makers' with a Taco Tuesday luncheon. Wednesday was "Wellness Wednesday" where staff had a DIY trail mix station and self-care kit station. The week ended with "Thankful Thursday" with lunch by Chef Ben. It was put together well and well received by teachers and staff. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the Board for getting it all

started with the Wired Coffee Bus on Thursday, pre- Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks for all you do to support us!

Giving Campaign Rewards

The past few weeks, we have been following through with the rewards that students earned from the Giving Campaign. We honored Principal for a Day, students on the walking field trip to Something BARowed, and the ½ House had their Pajama Pizza Party last week to wrap things up! All the activities were fun and the students really enjoyed it.

TESG 2025 T-Shirt and SWAG

We want to remind all families that the TESG 2025 edition of the T-shirt is now on sale through tomorrow. The t-shirt was designed by Ms. Jazmine, our Art teacher and by A. Lipscomb, a current 7/8 House student. In addition to the t-shirt, families can purchase TESG SWAG such as the TESG mug, decal, and magnet.

8th Grade Celebration

The 8th grade celebration will be at Bennett College. As one of our community partners, they provided the space at an exceptionally reasonable price of \$100 The event will be on June 4th.

Report from Beth Meyer, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Completed Professional Development:

- Our April NC Reads Book Club book for this month was [*Hungry Roots: How Food Communicates Appalachia's Search for Resilience*](#) by Ashli Quesinberry Stokes & Wendy Atkins-Sayre.
- For the month of May, our book club book is *The Girls We Sent Away* by Meagan Church.
- Beth Meyer is exploring future collaboration with Scuppernon Books with book clubs and author visits.
- K and 1/2 House continue their work with Dr. Hughes, completing observations of each other's teaching and sitting together to reflect on the strategies they are incorporating.

Beginning Teacher Program

Technical Assistance Visit

- Beth Meyer reported that in early 2024 TESG had a monitoring visit for our Beginning Teacher program. Laura Papsun, our regional facilitator, felt this would be a good process for Beth in her role at TESG to participate in to ensure that she understood the requirements for TESG's Beginning Teacher program. Working closely with her through this process, Beth Meyer found this to be extremely helpful. During the Monitoring Visit, we found that there were 3 areas to focus on:
 - Sound Induction Process
 - Mentor Assignment/Guidelines
 - Mentor Orientation
- Based on the results of this visit, with guidance from Laura Papsun, Beth Meyer developed a Work Plan to address the areas of concern.

- For our visit in April 2025, Beth Meyer organized evidence to support that we followed the work plan and improved upon our existing practices.
- Ms. Papsun was impressed with how we have addressed the areas for improvement and has connected Beth Meyer with other schools to serve as a model for the tracking practices she developed.
- TESS is off the work plan.
- Each year there is a peer reviewer and Beth Meyer has been collaborating with the Arts School on this. This upcoming year there will be a focus on mentoring and the two schools are looking at ways to collaborate.

Looking Ahead to 2025-2026

- Professional development has been a point of discussion for both the BTs and the mentors. Next year we will be using the companion set:
 - *The First Years Matter: Becoming an Effective Teacher: A Mentoring Guide for Novice Teachers* by Carol Pelletier Radford
 - *Mentoring in Action: Guiding, Sharing, and Reflecting with Novice Teachers* by Carol Pelletier Radford
- This set has a year long curriculum that helps novice teachers proactively prepare for their first few years in the classroom, maximizing effectiveness as they:
 - Apply mentoring lessons to differentiate instruction
 - Integrate student voice
 - Prepare for teacher observations and standardized testing
 - Gather evidence to document their progress.
- In turn, the mentor companion text highlights the importance of teacher leadership and how mentoring can influence teacher effectiveness, focusing on:
 - Planning mentoring conversations and observations
 - Differentiated support to meet the varied needs of novice teachers
 - Setting goals to prevent teacher burnout by sharing social and emotional learning skills
 - Gather regular student feedback from student work samples and surveys.
- Each month has a specific focus that is outlined below:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Focus</i>
<i>August</i>	Orientation to the School and Community: Resources and Values
<i>September</i>	Beginning the School Year Successfully: Creating a Community of Learners in the Classroom
<i>October</i>	Teaching for Understanding: Planning and Delivering Effective Instruction
	Assessing Diverse Learners: How do Teachers Know Students Have Learned?

<i>November</i>	
<i>December</i>	Maintaining Balance: Teaching and Keeping Students Interested
<i>January</i>	Beginning a New Calendar Year: Looking Back and Moving Forward
<i>February</i>	Engaging Students in the Curriculum: Focus on Content Through Active Inquiry
<i>March</i>	Collaborating with Novice Teachers: Observing and Building a Trusting Relationship
<i>April</i>	Standards: Creating Meaningful Standards-Based Learning Experiences for Students
<i>May</i>	Assessing Students' Progress: High-Stakes Tests and Teacher Assessment
<i>June</i>	Completing the Year & Final Reflection

Leila Villaverde shared that she was glad to hear the connection with the Arts Based School is going well. Beth Meyer concurred.

Joanna Lower asked David Jarmon why Ms. Niewinski of the Office of Charter Schools referred to the original charter and not the amended one. Leila Villaverde explained she believes she has the most recent charter and noted that the original was written in 2016. Since then, we've done some amendments throughout but not with curriculum. The iCan statements which we did at the beginning and then moved away from them and the 8th grade panel presentation which we did the first year in science and also moved away from needs to be amended. The mission was changed in 2017 and the charter system was different, so that got missed along the way so we'll take care of that too along with the nutrition plan. Joanna Lower thanked Leila Villaverde for the clarification.

Standing Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee report - None
- Grievance Committee report - None
- Finance Committee report

Leila Villaverde shared that the Finance committee met for a very long time and discussed the budget recommendations. As a refresher DPI funds schools a year behind so, because enrollment went down this year (particularly in one house) we'll have to accommodate that change in enrollment to balance the budget for next year. We also recognized that there was a pay scale gap with our neighboring district so we aimed to lessen that gap by equalizing our

general education pay scale with our EC pay scale, which has also been done by our neighboring district. We also created a non-licensed scale which provides incentive for licensure. The finance committee did some good work.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Salary Scale Approval

Leila Villaverde referenced the new salary scale to be approved. It contains 3 categories: General Education Licensed, Exceptional Children Licensed (which are the same now) and the non-licensure category is lower. Joanna Lower clarified that licensure does not include emergency or residency. All categories include an annual bump for years of experience. Leila Villaverde asked if there were any questions on the new salary scale. There were no questions. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the new salary scale, Carl Lashley motioned, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Budget Approval

Leila Villaverde shared that the board and admin team met with the accounting firm a month ago and it went well. They provided professional development and discussed the budget which went through some revision and was reconciled. Leila Villaverde took the budget to the Finance Committee meeting where additional work was done. The final budget is balanced and ready to be voted on. Because we'll have a surplus this year, purchases are being made to prepare for next year. Leila Villaverde asked if there were any questions with the proposed 25-26 budget. There were no questions, and Leila Villaverde entertained a motion to approve the budget. Fred Adams motioned to approve the 25-26 budget, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of charter amendment

Leila Villaverde shared the original charter application was in need of some revision as pedagogy moves and lives. We no longer utilize iCan Statements and are not implementing the portfolio/exit panel experience for 5th and 8th graders. We have reprioritized our focus to attend to testing improvements and reflections/presentations through our project-based curriculum. The mission was not revised; it was previously approved, but we need to update as an amendment with this process. There were no questions. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the charter amendments, Fred Adams motioned, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor the motion carried unanimously.

4. Re-approval of participation in Federal Nutrition Program

Leila Villaverde reminded the Board that we had approved participation in the National School Nutrition Program last year but, was unaware that also required a formal charter

amendment so we need to re-approve for that addition. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to re-approve participation in the Federal Nutrition Program, Joanna Lower motioned to again approve participation in the Federal Nutrition Program, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. 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, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Joanna Lower motioned to go into closed session for the reasons stated, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 6:07 pm and returned to open session at 6:19 pm.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the personnel decisions that were made during closed session. Fred Adams motions to approve the personnel decisions, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

David Jarmon noted the first day of testing was next Friday and Thursday was going to be the Jammin with Jarmon celebration. He inquired about the possibility of also having a sprit week. Carl Lashley indicated that a spirit week that centered the student's social emotional health may be appropriate but discouraged anything that added more focus to testing. He emphasized that he was not opposed to creating a fun environment that related to kids attitudes as long as it did not create testing pressures.

Joanna Lower shared that all 360 data was collected and analyses were underway.

Roy Carter shared that an art exhibit, by a group of African American artists and educators called We Are Here was opening on the 23rd for the next 5 months at the Gantt Museum in Charlotte. Roy Carter explained that that exhibit featured the works of a group of Black and Brown male artists who started meeting virtually during the Covid pandemic for conversations and fellowship. He shared how the phrase "We Are Here" related to the exhibit countering ideas of separation.

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 6:32 pm.