



Explore Schools

Community schools. Outstanding results.

Explore Charter Schools of Brooklyn Board Meeting Minutes –October 28, 2020

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Jana Reed, Lindsay Matovich, Angie Brice Thomas, Lola Adedokun, Shawn Jenkins

ESI Board: Morty Ballen, Brian Coad, Lizz Pawlson

Explore Staff: Carrie Mauer, Christina Froeb, Jeremy Thomas, Rachel Modica Russell, Karen Francois, Latasha Williams, Ashley Dickens, Anwar Abdul-Rahman, Cal Massiah, Nadia Despenza

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

ECS Approval of Minutes

Jana Reed motioned to approve the minutes from the ECS Board Meeting held on September 23rd, 2020

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Black Excellence & Board DEI Update & Discussion

Rachel Modica-Russell, Managing Director of Talent provided an update on the 5-point plan & DEI action plan progress monitoring. The update included a new process for selecting the Ex Officio Family Representative to the Board. The new process involves key stakeholders from the schools and network and concludes with a nomination for the Board to consider at the November meeting.

Additionally, the Board's DEI committee provided an update detailing changes to the process for identifying new board members that includes incorporating more touchpoints with school and network staff. The Board and community members present discussed additional touchpoints potential members should have and with whom and what a potential membership committee could look like and the role it would play. The Board DEI committee also discussed the possibility of retaining a DEI consultant to support the Board in aligning with the network's DEI and anti-white supremacy work. Finally, the Board DEI committee discussed reviewing the bylaws with an equity lens and taking steps to increase transparency.

Following, members of Black Excellence and the Board engaged in a discussion around the items presented. Additional topics from the discussion included increasing current board member touchpoints with the community, including with students and families as well as staff.

Principal Spotlight

Latasha Williams, Principal at Explore Lower discussed her experiences with reopening, managing through COVID-19, remote learning, and her early impressions of hybrid instruction. She then engaged the board in a Q&A where members asked about the process she took to develop her approach to hybrid and remote learning as well as her impressions on K-2 remote learning.

ED/Superintendent Update

Carrie Mauer & Christina Froeb shared updates on the network's progress with reopening, recent changes to the state's micro-cluster approach to increased positivity rates of COVID-19, new procedures for onsite COVID-19 testing, and hybrid attendance and learnings from in-person launch.

Karen Francois, Managing Director of Curriculum & Instruction, gave an update on programmatic shifts this year including how anti-white supremacy is embedded in termly goals and how assessments have been altered to account for remote and hybrid learning.

Finally, Christina Froeb gave an update on the ReimagineExplore2021 strategic planning including the addition of a 6th strand around student and community wellness, which aligns to Black Excellence's 5 Point Plan.

FY20 Audit/Q1 Preview

Ashley Dickens, Managing Director of Finance, provided a Q1 fiscal update for each of the four charters, and Lindsay Matovich, Board Treasurer, gave a summary of the FY 19-20 financial audit. She highlighted that it was a clean audit and that we ended the year with a \$467K surplus.

Public Comment

This time is to open the floor for public comment (pertains to Explore Schools Board rules of public meeting).

Morty Ballen shared the tragic news of a former Explore Student, Luis Caballero, who was shot and killed. Morty asked that his name be honored in this form.

Latasha Williams invited interested board members to join any parent or staff meeting in the future, she'd happily share the invitation.

Jana Reed asked Carrie Mauer and Christina Froeb to invite other principals to do the same if they'd like.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.