



Explore Schools

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Explore Charter Schools of Brooklyn Board Meeting Minutes–November 23rd, 2020

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

ESI Board: Lizz Pawlson, Brian Coad, Morty Ballen

Explore Staff: Carrie Mauer, Christina Froeb, Jeremy Thomas, Rachel Modica Russell, Karen Francois, Ashley Dickens, Yasmin Mohsin, LaKiesha George, Calvin Massiah

Explore Parent: Nekeisha Afful

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

ECS Approval of Minutes

Hank Mannix motioned to approve the minutes from the ECS Board Meeting held on October 23rd, 2020

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Board Subcommittee & Membership Updates

Rachel Modica-Russell, Managing Director of Talent, shared an update regarding the family board representative position. Rachel detailed the selection process, including the formation and work of the family board representative committee made up of staff across the network as well as a parent representative. In identifying a nominee, the committee established an application process and advertised the position within the network's community. The committee nominated Nekeisha Afful, parent at Excel Upper, for the role of Ex Officio Family Representative. Rachel also detailed next steps including formal touch points with board members and a vote on her membership scheduled for the December meeting.

Shawn Jenkins provided an update on next steps for new board members and the process for vetting candidates moving forward. Shawn outlined that there is a candidate being considered currently and that the board is working with school and network leadership to get community involvement in the process. Shawn also introduced the idea of expanding the DEI subcommittee into the DEI and Membership Subcommittee to take on establishing the process for identifying and nominating new candidates. Shawn proposed that the board look to expand to 12 members to address diversity goals more immediately. After discussion, board agreed on goal of finding at least 3 new members in the immediate future. Finally, Shawn identified new member onboarding as another process the new committee will review and improve upon.

Nekeisha Afful then joined the meeting to introduce herself and talk about her decision to apply to be the Ex Officio Family Representative.

Lizz Pawlson gave an update on ESI board membership including her relocating to Rhode Island and decision to step down as the Chair. Lizz encouraged Jana Reed to apply for the role of Chair given her experience as Vice Chair. Should Jana decide to apply for the position, she would give up her role as Vice Chair on the ECS board which would then also have to be filled.

Lindsay Matovich concluded this section by sharing an update around the DEI committees review of board policies and bylaws from an equity lens. The committee has drafted language reflecting the network's DEI beliefs and will share the recommendations.

Talent Update

Rachel Modica-Russell, reviewed the FY 20 network and school-based recruitment and staff retention data. She highlighted trends and discussed implications these trends will have on the FY 21 recruitment season. Board members asked follow-up questions around the retention of new leaders who identify as BIPOC and how the network is approaching recruitment in the next year given that retention may have been inflated by COVID. Rachel will prepare satisfaction data analysis for the February meeting to help preview the next recruitment season.

ED/Superintendent Update

Carrie Mauer & Christina Froeb shared an update on the recent decision to return to fully remote instruction and close the buildings until January 11th at the earliest. Christina also shared early data from the Term 1 Family Survey indicating high satisfaction among parents with both hybrid and remote instruction.

Karen Francois, Managing Director of Curriculum and Instruction, discussed recent mathematics interim assessment data. Board members discussed how reasonable the data could be compared to previous years given COVID and the implications of the data on instruction, including considerations for K-2 students such as touch screen devices.

ESI Q1 Fiscal Update

Ashley Dickens, Managing Director of Finance, provided an ESI Q1 fiscal update. The board discussed the likelihood that the budget assumptions would remain true for the remainder of the year and the possibility of additional relief from the state or federal government.

Public Comment

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

No public comment at 7:41

Executive Session

ECS Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Hank Mannix motion to go into executive session at 7:42 pm and invited the ESI board to join

Jana Reed seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Hank Mannix motioned for the ECS board to come out of executive session at 7:55 pm.

Jana Reed seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55