



# Explore Schools

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## **Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes –January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Hank Mannix, Jana Reed, Lindsay Matovich, Shawn Jenkins, Nekeisha Afful

ESI Board: Lizz Pawlson, Jana Reed, Brian Coad, Morty Ballen

Other Attendees: Carrie Mauer, Christina Froeb, Jeremy Thomas, Rachel Modica Russell, Karen Francois, Reshma Patel, Kyonne Rowe, Charity Harrell, Nadia Despenza, Brian Giglio, Camille McGregor, Marisa Forbes Ingram

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

### **ECS Approval of Minutes**

Hank Mannix motioned to approve the minutes from the ECS Board Meeting held on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

### **DEI & New Membership Committee Updates & Board Votes**

ECS Board of Trustees welcomed Reshma Patel as the newest prospective member of the Explore Charter Schools Board of Trustees.

Hank Mannix motioned to approve membership of Ms. Patel to the Explore Charter Schools Board of Trustees

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

The ESI Board nominated Jana Reed as chair with Lizz Pawlson remaining as a board member. The ESI board also discussed changes to the ESI Board Bylaws and made the decision to delay voting on those changes until additional feedback from community members can be incorporated and a new version created.

### **Black Excellence 5-Point Plan Update & Conversation**

Rachel Modica-Russell, Managing Director of Talent, provided an update on the 5-point plan & DEI action plan progress monitoring. The board asked questions around the process of addressing the 5-Point Plan and how updates are being communicated with the Explore community.

Following, members of the DEI & New Membership Committee shared updates on new board membership process and selection criteria. The specific expertise the board is looking for, including finance, legal, and community relationships/partnerships were discussed as well as the importance of mission alignment in candidates. The discussion also included how best to advertise and promote openings on the board and the steps of the vetting process, including the involvement of staff. Finally, the board discussed the onboarding process for new members and promised to share updates on the process at the next meeting. Before concluding, the board discussed additional efforts it is taking to address point 1 of the 5-Point Plan including updating policies with a anti-white supremacy lens, actively engaging with the Explore community, and engaging an antiracism consultant to work directly with the board.

### **ED/Superintendent Update**

Carrie Mauer updated the board on the plan for launching hybrid learning on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The board asked how and when the network would make the decision to return to hybrid learning, noting that the community would be given at least three weeks' notice of any additional delay.

Additionally, Carrie Mauer shared updates on the network's strategy to establish a centralized in-person learning center to support prioritized learners during remote instruction in advance of launching hybrid instruction. The board asked questions around how prioritized learners were selected and what the capacity was of the center. Students living in

shelters were given first priority and additional students will be invited to participate based on staffing availability. The board briefly discussed vaccine rollout.

Christina Froeb shared a mid-year step back looking at recent data trends from across the network, both qualitative and quantitative. The board asked clarifying questions about the data, focusing on chronic absenteeism and next steps the network was taking.

**Public Comment**

Camille McGregor shared ideas around how best to get ahead of anti-white supremacy work with curricular resources by working with schools to improve the way we celebrate Black History Month.

No public comment at 7:27

Meeting adjourned at 7:28