



Explore Schools

Community schools. Outstanding results.

Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes –March 23rd, 2021

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Hank Mannix, Lindsay Matovich, Angie Brice Thomas, Lindsay Danon, Shawn Jenkins, Nekeisha Afful, Reshma Patel, Lola Adedokun

ESI Board: Jana Reed, Brian Coad, Morty Ballen

Other Attendees: Carrie Mauer, Christina Froeb, Jeremy Thomas, Rachel Modica Russell, Ashley Dickens, Karen Francois, Alex Candee, Calvin Massiah

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

ECS Approval of Minutes

Lindsay Matovich motioned to approve the minutes from the ECS Board Meeting held on February 23rd, 2021

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Membership & Committee Updates & Votes

The ECS board introduced Lola Adedokun as the new vice-chair, pending board approval, along with Shawn Jenkins as the new chair of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion committee and Nekeisha Afful and Reshma Patel as new members to the Finance and Accountability committees, respectively. The ECS board then voted on the updated 2020-21 officer slate & committees. Following, both Boards of Trustees voted on the changes to their respective Bylaws. The changes were proposed by Lindsay Matovich and Jana Reed who reviewed both documents through an equity lens with support from LaKiesha George, principal at Exceed Lower.

Hank Mannix motioned to approve proposed ECS Officer Slate & Committees

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Hank Mannix motioned to approve changes to the ECS Board of Trustees Bylaws

Lola Adedokun seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

ED/Superintendent Update

Carrie Mauer & Christina Froeb shared an update on COVID-19 and the plan for returning to hybrid instruction on April 12th. This included data on our families opting into hybrid instruction and trends from recent surveys and conversations with staff about reopening. Then, Alex Candee, Senior Director of Student Culture, and Christina Froeb, presented details on the current supports in place for students, staff, and families and the plans for improving those supports going into next year. Time was reserved for board members to ask questions and propose additional ideas for next year plan. Board members asked about how the relieve fund is being used, what the network is thinking regarding incorporating flexibility for staff when in-person next year, and how the network was messaging available supports to families to ensure hesitant families know they are available. Christina Froeb gave a brief update on NY State exams and Carrie Mauer shared an update on expected PPA and federal funding and potential implications for the budget.

Talent Update

Rachel Modica-Russell, Managing Director of Talent, walked board members through several additional cuts of staff satisfaction survey data as a follow-up to last month's talent update. Rachel shared cuts of the staff satisfaction survey data along racial identity lines, calling attention to disparities across lines of race. These disparities aligned to focal points of org-wide talent and anti-white supremacy work. Time was reserved for the board to ask questions. The discussion included conversation around affinity group opportunities and gathering additional insight into staff experiences through focus groups. Based on the data, the network is looking to further review the qualitative responses

along racial identity. A second round of staff satisfaction surveys will be conducted at the end of the year and will be used to track progress overall, as well as across racial identity lines.

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 7:21 pm and invited ESI board members and Ashley Dickens to join
Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion
The motion was unanimously approved

Hank Mannix motioned for the ECS board to come out of executive session at 7:48 pm.
Lindsay Matovich seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

Q2 ESI Finance Update

Ashley Dickens, Managing Director of Finance, provided an update on Q2 ESI financials.

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 7:58 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm