



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes –May 25th, 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, Lizz Pawlson

Other Attendees: Carrie Mauer, Christina Froeb, Jeremy Thomas, Ashley Dickens, Karen Francois, Cal Massiah

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Hank Mannix began the meeting by acknowledging that today is the 1-year anniversary of George Floyd's murder.

ECS Approval of Minutes

Hank Mannix motioned to approve the minutes from the ECS Board Meeting held on April 27th, 2021

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Morty Ballen motioned to approve the minutes from the ESI Board Meeting held on March 23rd, 2021

Lizz Pawlson seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Board Membership & DEI Subcommittee

The Membership & DEI subcommittee provided a brief update on the selection process for new board members, including the identification of 2 strong candidates currently in the process of being interviewed by various stakeholders. The next step in the process is for candidates to meet with school-based staff over the next couple of weeks. Board members asked what, if any, trends the subcommittee was identifying in the candidates. Trends included, a commitment to the neighborhoods our schools serve and a deep interest in our mission statement and approach to instruction.

ED/Superintendent Update

Christina Froeb began with a look at recent academic data from the last round of interim assessments. The board discussed the remote administration of the tests and the issues with comparability to previous years. Following the review, Karen Francois, Assistant Superintendent, provided a deep dive into Explore's approach to unfinished teaching and learning. This included a discussion on how instruction would feel different next year and what measures the network is using to assess implementation, including non-academic measures. Christina Froeb then outlined what assessments in the 21-22 school year will look like and how the network will monitor progress. The board discussed the plan, including how it aligned to the plans Karen identified. The board raised questions about how best to compare progress to previous years, as well as measuring broader progress within the year. Finally, the update concluded with a brief discussion on the DOE's recent announcement to only offer in-person instruction next year and the potential impact on our network's planning, and an update on the network's summer scholarship initiative.

ECSB Q3 Financials

Ashley Dickens, Managing Director of Finance, reviewed Q3 financials for each of the schools and ESI. She also summarized ESI's FY20 audit highlights. The network received a clean audit from the auditors with no management comments.

ECSB SY21-22 Formal Budget Preview

Ashley Dickens then provided a formal budget preview for SY21-22 for the schools. During the preview, Ashley Dickens and Carrie Mauer led the board in a discussion on how the network was considering spending the federal funding it will

receive over the next three years. The board discussed specifically spending money to support unfinished teaching and learning and ways that we can use the funding to bolster staff retention and recruitment. In reviewing the proposed budget for each school, the board discussed challenges with kindergarten enrollment across the sector as well as potentially spending more to support student recruitment and unfinished teaching and learning. The preview ended with projections for outyears through 2025. Ashley then presented the ESI SY 21-22 formal budget proposal. Ashley concluded by outlining what will be covered in the June meeting, including the approval of contracts over \$50k. The board discussed that with those approvals, they would like to hear from the network in terms of how the potential organizations align with our anti-white supremacy work.

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 7:34 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm