



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2022

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Hank Mannix, Shawn Jenkins, Angie Brice Thomas, Karen Annette Francois

Attended Virtually: Sherrard Zamore

Absent: Kevin Bryant, Tiffany Curtis, Lindsay Danon

ESI Board Attendees: Jana Reed, Reshma Patel, Morty Ballen

Attended Virtually: Brian Coad, Lindsay Matovich

Other Attendees: Jeremy Thomas, Ebony Staley, Tracy Rebe, Karina Silva, Jonathan Carrington

Meeting called to order at 6:04

Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Hank Mannix motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on October 25, 2022

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

ESI Board approved the minutes from the ESI Board Meeting held on September 28, 2022

Board Votes

Hank Mannix motioned to approve Efrat Kussell's contract providing network support with math instruction and the Leap contracts providing math curricular support.

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

ESI Board approved the On-Ramps search firm contract following a brief discussion the selection process

Board Subcommittee Updates

Both Boards will approve the committee assignments for the 22-23 school year. Time is also being held for updates from the subcommittees, including time for an update on the 2022 audit.

Hank Mannix motioned to approve the 2022-2023 ECSB Committee Assignments

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

ESI Board approved the 2022-2023 ESI Committee Assignments noting the change of Reshma Patel as chair and Jana Reed as member

Hank Mannix, ECSB Board Chair, then shared an update on the ECSB Audit noting no issues were cited and the report was good overall.

Principal Showcase

Jonathan Carrington, Principal at Empower Lower, shared what he's learned about building a cohesive vision for Empower Lower School, strengthening adult culture year over year through strategic leadership, and investing in the Empower Lower community. Following his presentation, members of the Board asked Principal Carrington how he includes opportunities to implement teacher feedback as well as what he, Principal Carrington, would like to see in order to continue as principal. In the discussion that followed Principal Carrington's presentation, Carrington reflected on the challenges Empower Lower has overcome since the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020 and what it is like to establish a school's unique identity while continuing to reflect what's true for the network.

CEO Update

Jeremy Thomas, Senior Director of Special Projects, provided the Board with an overview of what to expect regarding the charter renewal process in 2023 for Explore Charter School and Excel Explore Charter School. As part of the presentation, Jeremy shared background on the role of SUNY as an authorizer, what the charter renewal process entails, as well as the role of the Board specifically as part of that process. Board members present for the last cycle of renewals shared their reflections as well, giving insight into how the Board can expect to be evaluated by SUNY. Following the charter renewal discussion, Karen Annette Francois, Chief Executive Officer, shared an update on state exam data from 21-22, now that more comparative cuts have been available. Karen Annette also shared results from recent interim assessments in both math and ELA. Board members reflected on the data and asked questions about how the network was responding in general as well as with regard to outliers. To close out the CEO update, Karen Annette invited Karina Silva, teacher at Empower Lower and one of this year's Excellence in Teaching Designees, to share insight into her work and her students' recent academic results. She shared student work samples with the Board as part of her presentation. Following Ms. Silva's presentation, members of the Board discuss what the network could do to keep effective teachers as well as attract new strong teachers and leaders.

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 7:40

Meeting adjourned at 7:40