



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2023

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Angie Brice Thomas, Karen Annette Francois, Tiffany Curtis, Hank Mannix

Attended Virtually: Lindsay Danon, Shawn Jenkins, Sherrard Zamore

Absent: Kevin Bryant

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

Attended Virtually: Brian Coad, Lindsay Matovich

Other Attendees: Jeremy Thomas, Ebony Staley, Tracy Rebe, Carrie Mauer, Karen Hicks, Casey Kean, Yasmin Mohsin, Ashley Dickens, Sherquana Charles, Lisa Lurie, Efrat Kussell

Meeting called to order at 6:03

Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Angie Brice motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on May 23, 2023

Hank Mannix seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

The ESI Board of Trustees approved minutes from the meeting held on May 23, 2023

Board Member Update

The board meeting opened with votes on the approval of Lisa Lurie as member of the ECSB board and approval of Hank Mannix as the new treasurer.

Angie Brice motioned to approve Lisa Lurie as Member of Explore Charter Schools of Brooklyn Board of Trustees and Hank Mannix as Treasurer

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Tiffany Curtis announced her resignation from the ECSB Board following the close of the June 13, 2023 meeting acknowledging that with her upcoming move out of the city, it would be hard to attend meetings in person in the 2023-24 school year.

Explore Lower & Upper Principal Showcase

Casey Kean, Principal at Explore Lower, and Karen Hicks, Principal at Explore Upper, joined the meeting to share reflections on the year as a whole. Both principals also previewed their respective priorities for the 2023 – 24 school year. The Board discussed family engagement and asked the principals how they were approaching it in the 23 – 24 school year.

State of Talent

Yasmin Mohsin, Managing Director of Talent, provided the Board with an update on the state of talent across the network. Yasmin focused her update on the 2023-24 school year hiring season and priorities going into next year. The Board discussed the year over year improvements in the hiring process and asked questions around what the network attributed those improvements to. Yasmin also shared a preview of the deep dive being planned for the September meeting, noting that year over year improvement in candidate quality will be one of the topics.

CEO Update

Karen Annette Francois, CEO, gave an academic update focused on recent mClass, iReady, and math interim assessment data. With each cut, Karen Annette focused how the end of year data is informing next year planning. Karen Annette

also shared a brief update on the charter renewal process for Explore and Excel, including when the board should expect to participate in an interview in the fall.

Finance Update

Ashley Dickens, Managing Director of Finance, presented the ESI and ECSB FY24 budget proposals to the Boards. Ashley gave details about the major budget assumptions, revenue and expense drivers, and overall financial projections for the next school year. Carrie Mauer, Executive Director, discussed the five-year budget projections with the Boards during Executive Session. The Boards approved the FY24 budget proposal including FY25 – FY27 projections prior to the close of the meeting. The Board also voted to approve the FY24 management contract, the 403b match, and vendor contracts projected to exceed \$50,000 next year. See below for the details on the votes that occurred at the end of the meeting.

Public Comment

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

Sherquana Charles, Director of Finance, shared some additional thoughts on family engagement from the perspective of a parent herself, including bringing back open houses to invite families into the building.

No additional public comment at 7:07

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.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to go into executive session at 7:07 pm and invited ESI board members, Carrie Mauer, Efrat Kussell, and Tracy Rebe to join
Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion
The motion was unanimously approved

Angie Brice Thomas motioned for the ECSB board to come out of executive session at 8:00 pm.
Hank Mannix seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

Board Votes

Coming out of Executive Session, the Board moved to approve the FY24 budget, ESI Management Contract, and contracts over \$50k.

Angie Brice motioned to approve the following items:

- The ECSB FY 2024 Budget and 403b Match
- The ESI Management Contract
- FY24 Leap Contract
- FY24 Student recruitment general approval
- FY24 Tech & Other Operations Purchasing
- FY24 Curriculum Related Expenditures

Tiffany Curtis seconded the motion
The motion was unanimously approved

Reshma Patel motioned to approve the ESI FY 2024 Budget and 403b Match
Morty Ballen seconded the motion
The motion was unanimously approved

The meeting ended at 8:05 pm