



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes –October 17, 2023

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Angie Brice Thomas, Lindsay Danon, Karen Annette Francois, Shawn Jenkins, Lisa Lurie, Kevin Bryant, Hank Mannix

ESI Board Attendees: Reshma Patel

Attended Virtually: Jana Reed, Brian Coad

Absent: Morty Ballen, Lindsay Matovich

Other Attendees: Efrat Kussell, Greg Foster, Tracy Rebe, Jeremy Thomas, Ebony Staley, Anna Johnson, Topher Chavis, Molly Lenowitz

Meeting called to order at 6:03.

Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on September 19, 2023

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Committee Updates

ECSB Board of Trustees welcomed Anna D. Johnson and formally voted on her appointment to the ECSB Board.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the membership of Anna D. Johnson as a Trustee of the Explore Charter Schools Board of Trustees.

Hank Mannix seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Following the vote, Karen Annette Francois, Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on the family representative selection process.

State of Talent Across Schools

Greg Foster, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, provided a deep-dive reflection on talent across schools, including a look at the trends and shifts observed in the most recent recruitment cycle. Board members asked about the impact of new trends on the quality of applicants, in particular the shift to a shorter application timeline. Board members also discussed how the network was reducing bias in the recruitment process. Greg also shared details on recent teacher retention rates. how He will review retention rates and vacancies by school and shared details on strategies being applied this year.

CEO Update

Karen Annette Francois shared reflections from the SUNY Renewal Visits, including next steps in the renewal process. Karen Annette then updated the board on how Explore Schools performed on the New York State exams in 2023 as compared with the city, districts where the schools are located, and the co-located schools. Board members discussed the metrics of success the network sets around state exams, the performance of previous level 1 students, and how the state exam data will inform the 23-24 strategy. Karen Annette also reviewed beginning of year academic data used to benchmark growth throughout the year.

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 6:36.

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 7:03 pm and invited ESI board members, Efrat Kussell, Greg Foster, and Tracy Rebe to join.

Hank Mannix seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned for the ECSB board to come out of executive session at 8:29 pm.

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Leader Bonuses

At the end of Executive Session, the board voted on leader bonuses for the 22-23 school year.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve leader bonuses as reviewed in executive session.

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm