



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–December 12, 2023

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

ESI Board Attendees: Jana Reed, Morty Ballen, and Shawn Jenkins.

Attended Virtually: Brian Coad, Lindsay Matovich, and Reshma Patel.

Other Attendees: Efrat Kussell, Greg Foster, Tracy Rebe, Jeremy Thomas, Ebony Staley, Anna Bear Dallis, Shakeema Griffin, Orissa Pereira-Hamler, and Avni Gupta-Kagan.

Meeting called to order at 6:03.

Public Comment

This time is to open the floor for public comment (pertains to Explore Schools Board rules of public meeting). The public was invited to share feedback on how the network is prioritizing spending CARES Act funding – ESSER II and ARP.

No public comment at 6:03.

Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on November 14, 2023

Shawn seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Committee Updates

The Board considered the membership of three candidates. Shakeema Griffin and Orissa Pereira-Hamler are being considered for the position of Parent Representative to the Board of Trustees and Avni Gupta-Kagan is being considered to be a Trustee. The Board voted on the membership of all three candidates.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve membership of Shakeema Griffin, Orissa Pereira-Hamler, and Avni Gupta-Kagan as Trustees of the Explore Charter Schools Board of Trustees.

Shawn seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Principal Showcase

Anna Bear Dallis, Principal at Excel Lower, shared an overview of highlights at Excel Lower this year, including recent academic accomplishments and community events. Principal Dallis reviewed the priorities for her leadership team and took questions from the Board around teacher engagement and satisfaction, recent academic success, and the staff onboarding experience.

CEO Update

Karen Annette Francois, CEO, shared an overview of the consolidation process and previewed the next steps. Karen Annette also introduced the Consolidation Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees after which, the Board voted to confirm the members.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve committee assignments for Consolidation Subcommittee

Shawn seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

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 6:44 pm and invited ESI board members, Efrat Kussell, Greg Foster, and Tracy Rebe were invited to join.

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned for the ECS board to come out of executive session at 7:25 pm.

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm