



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–January 24, 2024

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Angie Brice Thomas, Lindsay Danon, Karen Annette Francois, Avni Gupta-Kagan, Anna Johnson, Lisa Lurie, Orissa Pereira-Hamler.

Attended Virtually: Shakeema Griffin, Shawn Jenkins

Absent: Kevin Bryant and Hank Mannix.

ESI Board Attendees: Reshma Patel and Jana Reed.

Attended Virtually: Shawn Jenkins and Lindsay Matovich.

Absent: Morty Ballen and Brian Coad.

Other Attendees: Efrat Kussell, Greg Foster, Tracy Rebe, Jeremy Thomas, Ebony Staley, and Shenille Beckley.

Meeting called to order at 6:02.

Welcome & Board Votes

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on December 12, 2023

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ESI Board approved the minutes from the ESI Board Meeting held on November 14, 2023.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve increasing the set/fix number of trustees from 8 to 11

Lisa Lurie seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Subcommittee Updates

Following the announcement of the consolidation of Exceed Charter School in December and the formation of the Consolidation Board Subcommittee, Karen Annette Francois, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the consolidation process to the Board. The Board amended the objectives of the subcommittee to include keeping the Board abreast of the process. Greg Foster, Chief Operations and Financial Officer, updated the Board on the anticipated expenditures associated with the consolidation. The Board asked questions around the breakdown of the cost, including how the network was anticipating spending money around marketing and branding. Finally, Greg reviewed the network's plan for expanding class and grade size at Explore, Empower, and Excel as well as the plan for matching staff and students from Exceed with openings at the other schools.

CEO Update

Karen Annette Francois, shared highlights from the January in-service day on January 8, including photos from the student performances and videos celebrating the recently awarded Excellence in Teaching Designees. Karen Annette then reviewed recent assessment data for math and ELA, including data around subgroup performance and cohort growth year over year. The Board asked questions around 8th grade performance and specific subgroup performance in certain grades and the interventions being implemented to support student growth. Jeremy Thomas, Managing Director of Communications and Special Projects, updated the Board on trends coming out of the most recent round of high school applications and previewed the timeline for Empower Charter School's renewal.

ESSER III-ARP

Greg Foster, updated the board on how the network is using the funds related to ESSER III-ARP.

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 7:09.

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 7:09 pm and invited ESI board members and Greg Foster to join.

Avni Gupta-Kagan seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned for the ECSB Board to come out of executive session at 7:52 pm.

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm