



# Explore Schools

Community schools. Outstanding results.

## **Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–February 13, 2024\***

Explore Charter Schools Board Virtual Attendees: Angie Brice Thomas, Kevin Bryant, Lindsay Danon, Karen Annette Francois, Avni Gupta-Kagan, Shawn Jenkins, Anna Johnson, Lisa Lurie, Hank Mannix, and Orissa Pereira-Hamler.

Absent: Shakeema Griffin

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

Absent: Brian Coad and Lindsay Matovich.

Other Attendees: Topher Chavis Greg Foster, Efrat Kussell, Yasmin Mohsin, Tracy Rebe, Ebony Staley, Jeremy Thomas, Tiffany Williams, and Veronica Woolley.

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 January 24, 2024

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ahead of the updates, Karen Annette Francois, Chief Executive Officer, shared a video in remembrance of Kyleigh Fils, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Explore Upper Charter School whose recent and sudden passing profoundly impacted the community.

### **Consolidation Update**

Tiffany Williams, Interim Managing Director of Human Resources and Finance, gave an update on the employee matching process the network is undergoing to support Exceed staff interested in transferring within the network following the announcement of closure of Exceed Charter School. Veronica Woolley, Managing Director of Operations, followed with an update on the transfer process for families who are interested in staying with the network. Families shared their school preference and were placed based on availability. Following both updates, the Board asked questions around any trends in the data, especially around families who did not express interest in remaining with the network. Additionally, the Board discussed what steps the network was taking to support families in general through the consolidation.

### **Talent Update**

Greg Foster, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, updated the Board on the state of talent across the network. The update included a review of trends from the January staff satisfaction survey and an update on staff attrition. The Board discussed the survey data and requested to see additional cuts by position to see the breakdown for leadership as well as instructional versus non-instructional staff. The Board also asked about mid-year exists and wanted to review more data on how it compares to previous years.

### **ESSER III-ARP**

Greg updated the board on how the network is using the funds related to ESSER III-ARP. The Board did not have any questions regarding the ESSER III-ARP funds.

### **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 6:40.

### Executive Session

**ECSB 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 6:41 pm and invited ESI board members 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 7:04 pm.  
Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.  
The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

*\*Meeting held virtually due to inclement weather.*