



**Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–April 16, 2024**

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

Virtual: Kevin Bryant.

Absent: Lindsay Danon, Shawn Jenkins, and Hank Mannix.

ESI Board Attendees: Reshma Patel.

Virtual: Brian Coad.

Absent: Morty Ballen, Shawn Jenkins, Lindsay Matovich and Jana Reed.

Other Attendees: Efrat Kussell, Tracy Rebe, Ebony Staley, and Jeremy Thomas.

Virtual: Tiffany Williams and Carlos Zayas.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 with the CEO update going first to give some members more time to arrive before voting on the minutes.

**CEO Update**

Karen Annette Francois, CEO, began with reflections on the ELA state exam administration and connected the work of preparing students for the exam with the mission of Explore Schools. Efrat Kussell, Chief Academic Officer, and Tracy Rebe, Chief Schools Officer, also shared observations from the state exam administration. Karen Annette then updated the board on the current status of enrollment against the budget projections following the kindergarten lottery. The Board asked questions about the difference between this enrollment season and previous years, including different marketing strategies the network undertook this year.

**Welcome & Board Votes**

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on March 26, 2024

Avni Gupta-Kagan seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**FY' 25 Budget Priorities Preview**

Karen Annette previewed the 2025 fiscal year budget priorities. The Board discussed the priorities and asked questions around how they were determined as well as the role members would play in supporting the network with meeting the priorities, especially around strategic planning.

Before closing out the meeting, the Board discussed upcoming events across the network and how members could be more involved.

No public comment at 6:35.

**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 6:35 pm and invited ESI board members 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 6:50 pm.

Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.  
The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm