



# Explore Schools

Community schools. Outstanding results.

## **Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–May 21, 2024**

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

Virtual: Kevin Bryant, Shawn Jenkins, Hank Mannix, and Orissa Pereira-Hamler.

Absent:

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

Virtual: Shawn Jenkins and Lindsay Matovich.

Absent: Brian Coad.

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

Virtual: Sasha Powell, Tracy Rebe, Carlos Zayas.

Meeting called to order at 6:06.

### **Welcome & Board Votes**

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB Board Meeting held on April 16, 2024.

Lisa Lurie seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ESI Board approved the minutes from the ESI Board Meeting held on March 26, 2024.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the Chase Bank Resolution.

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ESI Board approved the Chase Bank Resolution.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the Carey & Co Contract.

Lisa Lurie seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve Lisa Lurie as Treasurer.

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### **CEO Update**

Karen Annette Francois, CEO, began with reflections on the math state exam administered on May 7 and 8 and invited Efrat Kussell, Chief Academic Officer, to share anecdotes on how students felt coming out of the test and what teachers observed. Karen Annette then reviewed recent Mission Moments with the Board including Mother's Day events attended by multiple Board members. Members took the moment to thank the schools for welcoming them and commented on how wonderful it was to experience the Explore community outside of Board visits during school days. Karen Annette continued with an update on the consolidation and enrollment for the 24-25 school year. The Board discussed kindergarten enrollment numbers and what may be impacting the decrease from previous years. The Board asked additional questions around the network's strategy for increasing kindergarten enrollment for this year and future years. Following the conversation on enrollment, the Board pivoted to the Exceed consolidation, first recapping the consolidation subcommittee's work in selecting a moving company. The Board then voted on the contract with Onsite Moving and Storage.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the Onsite Moving and Storage Contract.

Lisa Lurie seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board then discussed the plan for supporting Exceed students and staff with the transition. As part of the discussion, the Board came up with ideas for how the receiving schools (Explore, Empower, Excel) could welcome and honor the incoming students and staff from Exceed. To close out the conversation around the consolidation, the Board voted on the Exceed Charter Resolution with the addendum that a line be added reflecting the mission at the top of the resolution.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the Exceed Charter Resolution with the addition of an initial mission driven line.

Lisa Lurie seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Finance Items**

Karen Annette and Carlos Zayas, Finance Consultant, reviewed the Q3 financials for both the schools and ESI. The Board discussed some of the specifics of the cash flow reporting with ESI covering expenses for the schools that will eventually be billed back. The Board then previewed the FY '25 budgets for both the schools and ESI. In reviewing the budgets, the Board discussed how the enrollment projections were determined as well as some of the specific line items impacting the projected expenses. Feedback from the Board will be incorporated into the budgets which will be formally voted on in the June meeting then reviewed will review Q3 financials with both Boards and will then share a formal preview of the FY'25 budget.

Before closing 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 7:14 pm and invited ESI board members to join.

Anna Johnson seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned for the ECSB Board to come out of executive session at 7:43 pm.

Lindsay Danon seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm