



Explore Schools

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Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–October 8, 2024

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Angie Brice Thomas, Karen Annette Francois, Sha-Keema Griffin, Avni Gupta-Kagan, Shawn Jenkins, Anna Johnson, and Hank Mannix.

Virtual: Lisa Lurie and Orissa Pereira-Hamler.

Absent: Kevin Bryant and Lindsay Danon.

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

Virtual: Brian Coad and Lindsay Matovich.

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

Virtual: Tracy Rebe

Meeting called to order at 6:03.

Welcome & Mission moment

Karen Annette Francois, CEO, kicked off the meeting sharing a reflection from a recent professional development experience for principals where they conducted a walkthrough at one of the schools. Karen Annette highlighted for the board what principal saw in the 12:1 class at Excel Lower which is made up of students and teachers who joined the school from Exceed.

Network Updates

The update section opened with Angie, Reshma, and Shawn, as the board chairs and vice chair, reflecting on the recent board retreat. The first update will be from the board leadership with reflections from the board retreat at the end of September. Shawn shared trends from the feedback survey following the retreat. Reshma shared early thinking on how to integrate committee meetings into the regular meetings of the board. Finally, Angie introduced the new committees the board will be rolling out following the retreat, including Governance, Accountability, Strategic Planning, and Finance. Finance will remain as separate committees for each board while the other three committees will be joint and replace the current committee structure.

Tracy Rebe, Chief Schools & Operations Officer, reviewed the End of Year Measures for FY 25 including the changes the network is implementing and the measures being prioritized in support of our Shared Priority. The board discussed the prioritized measures, how the network was measuring student culture, and what measures should be prioritized at the board level, including talent retention. Karen Annette then reviewed the strategic priorities for FY 25, including how the network will improve the quality of instruction, refine its talent strategy, and develop the new strategic plan.

CEO Deep Dive

Karen Annette then reviewed the recent strategic planning process the network undertook to provide context for newer board members as well as invited board members present during the last strategic plan to share reflections from a board level. The recent strategic plan, Reimagine Explore, launched in 2019 and concluded in 2023. Karen Annette reviewed the outcomes of Reimagine and engaged the board in reflecting on the role the board played in guiding the network to those outcomes. The board discussed the role it played and the support it provided to the network's leadership team, especially during the pandemic years when the priorities of the plan shifted in response to shifting needs of the community.

Votes

Prior to the votes, Lisa Lurie, ECSB treasurer, shared an update from the finance committee meetings on changes to the resolution on the intercompany balance left from the Exceed closure. The updated resolution provided for the ESI board

to forgive 50% of the debt remaining from the Exceed closure and for Explore Schools to pay off the remaining balance to ESI as soon as possible. The Board conducted the following votes.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned for the ECSB board to approve the resolution on the intercompany balance
Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

ESI board approved the resolution on the intercompany balance.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB board of trustees meeting held on September 17, 2024.
Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

The ESI board approved the minutes from the ESI board of trustees meeting held on September 17, 2024.

Angie Brice Thomas motioned to approve Brooke Workman's contract.
Shawn Jenkins seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

No public comment at 6:48pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.