



Explore Charter Schools Board Meeting Minutes–November 12, 2024

Explore Charter Schools Board Attendees: Lindsay Danon, Karen Annette Francois, Sha-Keema Griffin, Shawn Jenkins, Anna Johnson, Lisa Lurie, Hank Mannix, and Orissa Pereira-Hamler.

Virtual: Angie Brice Thomas

Absent: Kevin Bryant and Avni Gupta-Kagan.

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

Virtual: Lindsay Matovich.

Absent: Brian Coad

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

Virtual: Tracy Rebe

Meeting called to order at 6:01.

Welcome & Mission moment

Karen Annette Francois, CEO, kicked off the meeting sharing reflections from the network's first in-service day held on Monday, November 11. Specifically, she shared the five newly selected Excellence in Teaching Designees that were announced during the opening session at in-service. The board asked questions about the tenure of previous ETD awardees.

Network Updates

The update section focused on financial updates starting with both the ECSB and ESI finance committees sharing high level takeaways from their respective committee meetings reviewing the first quarter financials and previous year audit for ECSB. Hank Mannix updated the board on the clean audit for ECSB and Lisa Lurie gave highlights on the first quarter financials for ECSB, including next steps for how best to invest liquid assets. Lindsay Matovich provided the update for the ESI board with similar next steps.

Sam Wilder, Managing Director of Finance, then provided a deeper level update on the first quarter financials for both boards. The board discussed the impact of enrollment trends on the financials as well as expanses from the consolidation of Exceed.

CEO Deep Dive

Karen Annette, along with Efrat Kussell, Chief Academic Officer, reviewed term 1 student data with the board. Before the review, Lindsay Danon shared high level takeaways from accountability committee's meeting to review the data earlier the month. For the data review, Karen Annette began with non-academic data including enrollment, suspensions, and student satisfaction. The board discussed enrollment trends as well as highlights from the student satisfaction data. For the academic data, Efrat and Karen Annette laid out the high level takeaways as well as the network's strategy for both literacy and math before diving into the term 1 data. The board asked questions around how the literacy strategy was playing out in practice. The section concluded with the requests for additional cuts on students with disabilities, multilingual learners, and comparisons with similar subgroups in similar districts.

Votes

The Board conducted the following votes.

Lindsay Danon motioned to approve the minutes from the ECSB board of trustees meeting held on October 8, 2024.

Lisa Lurie seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The ESI board approved the minutes from the ESI board of trustees meeting held on October 8, 2024.

No public comment at 6:55pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.