

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, December 8th, 2020
5:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740

Passcode: 222690

Attendance: Leila Villaverde, Jay Hawkins, Roy Carter, Joanna Lower, Greg Bush, Travis Laughlin, Tracy Shaw

Guests: Beth Meyer, Jennifer Smith, Kris DeBell, Mark Smith, Angel Biegert, Suzanne Woodard, Ashlee Eplee, Terri Watson, Robin Mykytyn, Carrie Helton, Cara Kozma, , Kerri Clavette, Nik Cartwright, Jennifer Rogers, undisclosed iphone

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Travis Laughlin moved to approve the agenda, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of November Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the November minutes. Greg Bush motioned to approve the minutes from November, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

Tracy Shaw shared a report with the Board of Directors and shared highlights.

Remote learning continues to go well. Teachers and students are used to the routine. Tracy Shaw shared that it was a busy time and that enrollment in the lottery has been steady. Enrollment is 333. Currently there are 39 applications in Lotterease for a total of 84 slots. Tracy Shaw indicated that Arthur Durham was managing the lottery system.

The Task Force held a parent meeting Tea With Tracy and the Task Force to share our decision making process and to answer questions. It was well attended and most parents were grateful for the opportunity to hear what the school had to say and to ask questions.

Tracy Shaw indicated that the first trimester report cards went out, they were standardized and included scores and comments. She shared that the majority (80%) of parent/guardians participated in conferences and that feedback from the faculty was positive.

MAP reading and math assessments have been completed and teachers are analyzing data. Teachers will be analyzing data in order to find ways to support instructional/ curriculum development. Grades K-3 will take MAP Reading Fluency in January. There was professional development yesterday to look at tools that yield rich information and will be very useful for teachers to engage in fruitful conversations with parents. Once students are assessed a second time, they will be able to see growth. Further updates on professional development: Part 1 of Universal Design for Learning and inclusion professional development was last Monday, and Part 2 is scheduled for this Monday. Teachers spoke directly to inclusion in this remote world. It was a good 2-hours spent on Monday afternoon and we had teachers participate in MAP training as professional development in Cognitive Guided Instruction for Math is being scheduled as well as more professional development with We Are Anti Racist Education Group on February 15th.

Regarding academic reports, Tracy Shaw indicated that we do not have growth data yet but, she wanted to share observations, especially in response to reports being shared in Guilford County and across the state. Our attendance average is 95% and our students are engaged and turning in assignments. Tracy Shaw indicated that she touched every student's report card, that students are demonstrating 2s or above, and on the MAP assessments and for reading our students are average or higher, with bell curve in all of the classes. She also indicated we will do another MAP assessment in February, so regardless of what is required or not by the state, TESS will have data to demonstrate growth.

Tracy Shaw also shared that 50% of the faculty have been observed as of 12/4/2020. She will have observed all teachers once by December 18th and will observe again in Jan/Feb and March/April. Mentors will observe their mentees between February and March. Mentors and Mentees have met formally twice and will continue to do so once a month to share experiences, strategize, etc. Based on the BTSP audit a growth plan will be completed by Tracy Shaw in the next two weeks. She will share with the board in January. She also noted that she is working to set personal goals for myself, which she will share with the board in January.

Tracy Shaw indicated that she is working with Carlos Heredia to create a video about TESS to share and put on our website in January. She is also planning a virtual open house where teachers are available to answer questions. She noted that once a student is accepted in Lotterease, it will transfer them to another Portal where they will be able to turn in paperwork that is imported in Powerschool. This will make it easier to track paperwork.

Joanna Lower asked about enrollment by house and how that was informing slots in Lotterease. Tracy Shaw indicated that the data was linked in her report for each house and that for now, and that Arthur Durham opened slots in Lotterease based on patterns from previous years. Joanna Lower suggested we look at those openings based on current class sizes since we have had some attrition due to remote

learning. Joanna Lower also asked that Diverse Learners counts also be reported for each House next month. Tracy Shaw indicated she would include that data.

Standing Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee report - none
- **Finance Committee report** – Greg Bush reported that the finance committee met last Friday and the committee was able to reallocate funds, moving some from nutrition and transportation that left us in a good financial position.
- Grievance Committee report - none

Old Business - none

New Business

1. Covid Taskforce recommendation and vote.

Leila Villaverde shared that the Covid taskforce has been meeting regularly during the first trimester and through the summer and compiled a recommendation. Tracy Shaw indicated that they had been looking at the data from the CDC and Guilford Health Department. She noted that Dr. Nix-Stevenson was helpful in gathering a matrix based on what we have learned in the last few weeks. Guilford county is in the red zone with numbers up every day. Based on the reviewed data, the Covid taskforce recommends we stay in remote instruction through the second trimester. The Taskforce aims to ensure safety and instructional delivery and right now we are providing that. We are providing consistent instruction and engagement so that is our recommendation. To safely return to the school building, we need to see 3% positivity rate or less for a 21-day window. Leila Villaverde also indicated that was what GCS originally proposed, 3-5% early on. They changed midway in what they were offering. Leila Villaverde shared appreciation for the work of the Taskforce and reiterated that student learning is of primary importance but, it's also about our staff being attended to and being responsive. She noted it is incredible that we have 95% attendance, that students are engaged, and they are doing well, that folks are collaborating and we have hit a rhythm and that is unique. Leila Villaverde emphasized – that is unique – that's not what we have heard from around the state. Tracy Shaw indicated that the return plan was a good exercise to think about what we would have to do and that was shared with the board for feedback. The suggestions in the return plan look very different than who we are online, so that is something to consider when it is time to come back. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Covid Taskforce to remain remote for the second trimester. Greg Bush motioned, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Joanna Lower provided an update that The Giving Campaign is underway. An email was sent out today to remind the community that we are trying to meet our 10K goal by Friday with 100% participation from the Board of Directors, staff, and families. As of the board meeting, we had raised \$8,298. We can extend an extra push this weekend if we need to but, hope to meet our goal by Friday.

Travis Laughlin stated that he wanted to commend the staff, the team, and Tracy. With leadership changes, covid, staffing, restaffing, that he wanted to commend folks, that he is hearing young people are engaged and after hearing reports of NC, it is not just your leadership, it's herculean efforts.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned, Jay Hawkins seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde called the meeting to a close at 5:59 p.m.