

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, November 10th, 2020
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740

Passcode: 222690

Present: Leila Villaverde, Roy Carter, Yacine Kout, Fred Adams, Travis Laughlin, Jay Hawkins, Joanna Lower, Tracy Shaw

Teachers: Beth Meyer, Jennifer Smith, Mark Smith, Robyn Mykytyn, Terri Watson

Guests: Kerrie Clavette, Sayonara Barajas, Jennifer Rogers, 2 phone numbers

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Yacine Kout motioned, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of October Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the October Board Meeting Minutes. Fred Adams motioned, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – there was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

Tracy Shaw reported that remote learning continues go well and that overall teachers and students have become used to the routine.

- Tracy Shaw reported that a second survey was completed by families. The first question asked how comfortable families would be send their student to face-to-face school in January. 50.5% indicated that they were not comfortable at all (out of 107 responses). The second question asked how comfortable families would be with a hybrid model, (e.g. 2-days face-to-face, and 3 days remote). Results were split in thirds. The third question asked if TESS returned in some capacity, would you opt for remote only? 41% said they did not know, 36 % indicated they would send their child face to face. Individuals indicated they wanted to know how we would keep their kids safe and healthy.
- Enrollment: Tracy Shaw reported that as of November 9, enrollment was 335. Reasons for withdrawal were mostly due to challenges of remote learning, opting to home school, and a few looking to private school because those are face to face.

- The lottery is now open for 2021-2022 enrollment. It has been open for a week, will be added to the newsletter, boosted on Facebook, and a virtual open house is being created in collaboration with Carlos Heredia.
- MAP growth assessments and will finish up this week. These will be repeated during second and third trimester, so will have some strong data moving forward to help drive what we are doing in the classroom.
- 3/4 House moved furniture into their new space and 1/2 house will be to their new space.

Standing Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee report - none
- Finance Committee report - none
- Grievance Committee report - none

Leila Villaverde reported that she received word from DPI about ADM, the average attendance for the first 20 days of school. This year was 342 (max was 356 and we were at 355). However, the accounting firm identified shortfall because the previous administration had submitted an incorrect ADM number of 374 (instead of 356). We do not have details on how or why this occurred, but there was a financial gap produced by the difference between 374 to 342 given the state and local funds that had been projected for budgeting. We worked quickly with the budget to recalibrate. Because we have had some savings with transportation and nutrition budget, and some salary savings since we are not fully staffed. We were able to reduce the shortfall to 20K which will likely be taken care of from salary savings. We are getting that squared away. Also some COVID-19 funds will offset expenses, so the finance committee will meet in the next week or so to look at those numbers and get more clarity as we move through the year but, we are fine. Also, the additional rent for the new space will not go into effect until January. Of course, as a reminder, we have not had a state budget for two years now.

Old Business - none

New Business

1. Covid Taskforce discussion.

Tracy Shaw shared that members of the Covid Task Force were present. She noted that they have been meeting and discussing options as school begins on January 5 after the winter break. As the numbers have increased and have the break, returning on January 5 does not seem appropriate rather, the Task Force is suggesting we push back in person instruction until January 19, should the school re-open. The Task Force has also been working on procedures and protocols should the school re-open for face-to-face instruction and paying attention to other neighboring schools and models. Joanna Lower asked why the 19th? Tracy Shaw clarified this was aligned with practices of college/university campuses. Students would attend classes remotely from Jan 5 – January 19, to prevent spread due to contacts made over the holidays. Tracy Shaw mentioned they also have concerns about disrupting the learning process, and if we go back in person, it won't look like what

we are used to because of the way students are separated, contained, yet it's difficult to also think about another trimester remote, putting back at the school in March. Leila Villaverde noted that the end of the first trimester concludes on the November 20th and the next board meeting is on December 8th. She stated that she understands why not the 5th and consideration for the 19th, in the event we do decide to have in person instruction. She recommended that the Task Force bring a plan to the Board at the December meeting or we could schedule a special meeting before then, if needed. To clarify, schools starts on January 5th remotely. The question on the table, should we come back for in person instruction during second trimester, it would not happen before January 18th to allow for a buffer due to potential transmissions during the break. The task force may have one or a couple recommendations. Tracy Shaw clarified that we will begin remote on January 5 and continue to look at metrics for right configuration to be safe in the building. We have plenty of PPE and hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies. It is more about the day-to-day in confined spaces. Leila Villaverde stated the vision of the school, making use of community, downtown, walking field trips, that certainly is part of who we are, we have also have been able to retain and develop a sense of community in remote learning, where other schools have much longer days without interactions. We have teachers interacting with students and engaged in the curriculum that is meaningful, working with peers outside of school, and want to commend Tracy Shaw and the teachers for really doing that, in the TESH vision. Even when it is not ideal, people are having guest speakers, and guest artists, and folks are being creative. If metrics show we need to stay, we can do more creative work and model what could be done. Yacine Kout asked if the Board could get the plan a few days ahead of the board meeting so that we have time to review it prior to fully discussing it at the meeting. For the vote, Joanna Lower clarified that January 5 is the start of school and if we decide to go face to face if would not occur until January 18 at the earliest should we decide to return to the school building for instruction. Leila Villaverde also noted the county was at a 9.7% positivity rate and as a smaller community we can put teachers, staff, students, families, people first. Leila Villaverde call for a motion to vote to continue remote learning through first days of school beginning Jan 5, and if decided to transition to in-person instruction, that would not begin until January 19. Roy Carter motioned, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Giving Tuesday Campaign.

Joanna Lower shared that Dec 1, 2020 was Giving Tuesday and that last year we aligned this with the matching campaign (which was the second matching campaign – our first occurred in the summer because we were going into the first year). Joanna Lower recommend we again align a match with giving Tuesday this year. Last year we ran from – Nov 19 – Dec 10 (giving Tuesday was actually on Dec 3 last year) and raised \$22,953 total. Our emphasis was that no gift is too small; we'd like 100% participation from the board, families, and staff. And as widespread as we can reach. Joanna Lower shared that this year's Giving Tuesday materials include messages like, together we give and unleash generosity. She proposed materials are launched next week by Friday Nov 24 and run through Dec 11. She indicated that she could update materials with the help of Roy Carter, if he is able and willing. Joanna Lower also proposed we have a short video to support our efforts that can be shared widely on Facebook. Facebook is again matching gifts made on Dec 1, the actual day of Giving Tuesday, Dec 1. so a big push is often made on that day. Joanna Lower mentioned that we are

seeking individuals willing be match donations and should someone know of someone or were interested to reach out to her or Leila Villaverde. Leila Villaverde shared that we were working on ways to recognize individuals on a donor wall. This has been in the works and we are also working with IT to create space on the website as well. Joanna Lower asked for questions or discussion. There was a consensus of support, to move forward, and do so in a conscientious way giving our current times.

Leila Villaverde explained to guests that we would next be asking for motion to go into closed session and that guests could be moved to a room if they would like to stay for the whole meeting.

3. Leila Villaverde called for motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Travis Laughlin motioned, Jay Hawkins seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 6:15 p.m. and exited closed session at 6:49 p.m.

Announcements – none

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.