

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, January 12th, 2021
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740

Passcode: 222690

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

Guests Present: Kerri Clavette,

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to accept the agenda. Yacine Kout motioned to accept the agenda, Jay Hawkins seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment – no public comment

Report from Executive Director

Tracy Shaw noted that her report had been shared in the folder to the Board of Directors and that she was going to make a few highlights.

- Total Enrollment as of January 11 is 330, down from 333 in December. Those lost continue to be with families struggling with the remote schedule and choosing to home school students. Tracy Shaw also mentioned if GCS goes back in—person, we may lose a few more students at that time.
- Applications for the fall are doing well. Currently we have 48 applications for Kindergarten for 36 slots, there are waitlists for K-2 and then numbers dwindle. Tracy Shaw provided clarification on application numbers and seats available as follow up from last month's meeting. Seats available are based on trends from previous lotteries. Seats are added when and if a student withdraws. There is flexibility in this until the following school year and the application process is officially closed. Tracy Shaw also noted that once open for 3 years, we will get most of our applicants in the lower grades. Where we see the biggest shift will be from 5th to 6th, when we may see more applicants because traditional settings aren't working.

- There are two dates set up for Professional Development for Cognitive Guided Instruction for math, beginning in February, we decided to start with small group of teachers and branch out from there. Based on feedback from teachers, we have also invited WE Are-Antiracist Education to come back in February. Tracy Shaw shared that there were a lot of “ah ha” moments during the Universal Design for Learning and Inclusion professional development and that they planned to revisit this in the Spring to keep this going.
- Ms. Oliver (5/6 teacher) with the counselor (Ms. Moore) are doing digital citizenship with 5/6 grades and will also be covering this with 7/8 graders too. The middle school students are online a lot and things are coming up that makes it necessary to share information to make smart choices when online.
- Tracy Shaw indicated that all faculty have been observed and that all but one has had a follow up conversation and the last one is in process. She also shared that we are now fully staffed.
- Teachers have or will be receiving new laptops. The quality of the picture and sound of the new laptops is appreciated.
- Tracy Shaw indicated she had received the report from the Beginning Teacher Support Program audit and has developed a growth plan.

Leila asked about demographics regarding movement. Tracy Shaw indicated that demographics haven't changed much, percentages were about the same.

Joanna Lower clarified if there 59 students were in the Diverse Learners program and 5 were in process. She asked that these be paired down by House.

Travis Laughlin asked with students going back to GCS, is it an issue of child care? Tracy Shaw indicated her perception is that it is difficult for some families to manage their own schedule and student schedule. She also noted that Mrs. Brown, the School Social Worker has been very helpful, so when a student doesn't show up she is able to follow up and support families. Tracy Shaw indicated that TESG has been able to support families with some unexpected struggles with loss of employment or other way to help with school. Leila Villaverde wondered if we could pool some helpful hints/strategies that may be helpful for families. It's also part of digital citizenship, the responsibility students have during remote learning, and for younger kids, teachers can remind them of that too. Tracy Shaw indicated that based on feedback from house families, particularly 1/2 House have looked at their schedule to best support parents/students. This is second the second week and they say it's better.

Standing Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee report
- Finance Committee report
- Grievance Committee report

Leila Villaverde shared that there were no reports but she provided an update on the budget. She shared that the deficit had been taken care of, and as Greg reported last month, from savings out of salary, bus, and food.

Old Business – none

New Business

1. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to consider personnel in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Travis Laughlin motioned to go into closed session, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried. Leila Villaverde excused the guest to the waiting room and we entered closed session at 5:49 p.m. and exited closed session at 6:57 p.m.

Announcements - none

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Fred Adams motioned, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.