

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, August 10th, 2021
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom

Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740

Passcode: 222690

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

Guests: Kerri Clavette, Kristen Kevorkian, Jennifer Rogers

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Jay Hawkins motioned to approve the agenda, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of July and August (early in the month) Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the July minutes and the August minutes from earlier in the month. Travis Laughlin motioned to approve July and August minutes to date, Yacine Kout seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – no public comment

Report from Executive Director

Tracy Shaw reported that the current enrollment is 342, however there are pending enrollments due to waiting on paperwork to be enrolled in PowerSchool. She shared current demographics and demographics from May in her report to board members. The current number of individuals with IEPs is 58 and a breakdown by grade-level was provided.

Tracy Shaw shared that Illustrative Math will be implemented for the 2021-2022 school year in order to have an overarching, consistent Math curriculum. The Math program includes ways teachers can integrate Cognitive Guided Instruction, differentiate for different learning needs/styles, help with vertical alignment and interventions.

Tracy Shaw noted that she and Travis Laughlin met with a group from the arts community in Greensboro to introduce herself and to begin conversations about how we can partner together both at TESH and in the community. She is following up with those connections.

Tracy Shaw confirmed that Peaceful Schools will be working with the teachers this year in regard to restorative practices

She noted at this time there are no academic reports to share. She shared that she heard that the state had the EOG scores but, they had not been shared yet.

Tracy also provided the following updates:

The school year will begin in person. The state is not giving options for hybrid or remote learning this year for schools which are brick and mortar.

- In preparation for the coming school year and to be sure we have as many safety measures in place as possible
 - Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed throughout the building
 - Drawstring bags have been purchased for each student to keep school supplies in to reduce sharing
 - A part time Nurse(LPN) to assist with COVID protocols, managing medications for students, making sure vaccination records are compliant.
 - Acceptance into a state sponsored testing program with Gingo as the vendor. They will provide what is needed to test students and teachers on a regular basis for COVID. This allows us to be proactive and not reactive.
 - Masks are required by all in the building
- Tea With Tracy was held Monday, August 9, 2021 in two different sessions: New families and Returning families. Answered questions about COVID protocols and just general questions. 15 new families attended the first session. A total of 52 families attended the second session. Biggest concern is how we will keep the students healthy and safe, as well as staffing constraints.
- We have opted into the COVID testing program being provided by the state. Our vendor will be Concentric by Ginkgo. I have met with them and discussed the options for our testing protocols. There are two ways we go about our testing. We can be proactive or reactive: Based on the information and the needs and concerns of our school community, we will proceed with pooling which is a proactive way to screen.
- The Return to School Plan has been updated to include the latest information from the Strong Schools ToolKit from July 21, 2021. She will update it with our testing protocols once that is finalized.
- All student records have been organized and put in a centralized location for ease of access. There will be a sign out log to keep track of who is accessing the records. The records are locked up with only myself, Mr. Durham and Ms. Hargrove with access. Everyone else will need to get a key from one of us to access.

Leila Villaverde asked for clarification regarding the quarantining of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Based on the latest studies, 12 – 14 days quarantine.

Yacine Kout asked for clarification regarding weekly testing and if this will happen every week? Tracy Shaw responded that yes, children and adults alike will be tested. He asked about consent. Tracy Shaw responded that families will have an opportunity to consent to the testing of their child and noted that there is a dashboard that will confidentially report out results. She also clarified that students will swab themselves. She noted that the testing company has videos and protocols to teach the students how to do this. A pool of classes will be tested together and results will be reported within 24 hours. If a pool comes back with a positive, the testing company will come back and retest each individual within that pool to narrow down who is positive. Yacine Kout asked if the staff would have to touch the swabs. Tracy Shaw clarified that the staff would not assist with the collection of swabs, the employees of the testing

company will facilitate the swabbing and the school nurse may assist too. Tracy noted this is a fully staffed program. The state chose two vendors to work with. Jay Hawkins asked where students will do this. Tracy Shaw indicated that they were still figuring that out.

Joanna Lower shared her thoughts that the success of the program requires participation so we will want to be sure to explain the program to families in a way that demonstrates that there is zero to no risk in having their child participate. Students and families want their children to be in school. This is one way to help keep everyone safe so that can happen. Tracy Shaw shared that the testing company had materials for families and that it would be important to communicate with families to promote participation.

Standing Committee Reports - none

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

Old Business

1. Covid Safety Policy – 423a

Leila Villaverde shared that based on last month's discussion regarding needing more education to inform the Covid Safety Policy, a revised policy was under consideration.

She read the policy:

423a Covid Safety Protocol Statement

The Experiential School of Greensboro values community and all the ways in which it has grown to accommodate innovative learning through the pandemic. As we return to in-person learning we equally value everyone's health and safety and are mindful the majority of the students we serve are not yet eligible for protection from a vaccine. Together we can keep everyone as safe as possible, assured we are taking responsibility for the well-being of the whole school, doing our part so we can maintain in-person learning opportunities. A UV-C air filtration/purification system is installed throughout the school. Hand sanitizer is also available throughout the school. Our commitment is to adhere to public health and safety standards as we engage in-person learning, therefore we expect the following of the entire TESG community:

- *Inside use of face coverings at all times (except during snack or lunch, masks are to be properly fitted, no gaiters or bandanas)*
- *Maintaining 3ft-6ft distance when at all possible*
- *Hand washing and sanitizing frequently throughout the day*
- *Cleaning of surfaces and fogging at end of each day*
- *Vaccination of all eligible individuals*
- *Frequent testing*
- *Contract tracing*

TESG will follow the NC Health Department Toolkit for the most up to date guidance in the event of an identified positive Covid test and for any necessary changes to protocols as cases rise or fall. We will continue to adapt and use a continuous improvement model in order to stay abreast of needed changes for utmost safety.

Leila Villaverde explained that the updated policy reflects messaging that we want to take care of the collective well-being rather than a message of “either/or”. Therefore, the policy was adapted to prioritize on the collective well-being and health and safety for in-person learning. She recognized the state is not giving options for remote or hybrid learning unless there is a cluster and therefore we want to engage the community to take care of each other. She asked if there were any questions or comments about the revised policy. There were none.

2. Promotion and Retention policy – 805

Leila Villaverde explained that last month we had discussed replacing language of “emotional aptitude” with “work habits” in the promotion and retention policy because we do not have a measure of “emotional aptitude” within an established social-emotional curriculum to guide that assessment. Work habits are a part of the TESG report card that students are rated on, and it was suggested to utilize that in place of “emotional aptitude”. The policy has been revised accordingly and now ready for a vote. Leila Villaverde asked for questions or comments. There were none.

3. Accountability – 806

Leila Villaverde reminded the board we had discussed the accountability policy last month and more time to revise was requested. Because specific state required tests change, the language around state sanctioned tests was broadened. Leila Villaverde read the revised policy:

806 Accountability Policy

TESG utilizes multiple quantitative and qualitative measures to evaluate teaching and learning. Data is utilized at the level of individual students, grades/Houses, and the school. Assessment tools include both formal (standardized norm- or criterion-referenced) and informal tools developed by teachers and/or the school. Assessment is both formative and summative, utilizing data to identify learning needs, progress monitoring, and summarize learning outcomes or proficiency. Grounded in the school’s pedagogical pillars of experiential education, design-based learning, and social justice education, students are actively involved in the reflection and evaluation of their own learning that may include but is not limited to student-led conferences, portfolios, student exhibitions, and other student-generated artifacts. State sanctioned tests are implemented per legislation at the beginning and/or end of grades as applicable. Student data is shared with parents/guardians during conferences and/or included in report cards at the end of each trimester.

Leila Villaverde asked if there were questions or comments. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the Covid Safety Protocol Policy, Promotion and Retention Policy, and the Accountability Policy. Travis Laughlin motioned to approve the 3 policies. Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Leila Villaverde explained that next we would hear a motion to go into closed session and that guests could either leave or go in a waiting room while we are in closed session.

1. Leila Villaverde called for a 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 and to consider qualifications of prospective employees per GS. Jay Hawkins motioned to go into closed session, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 5:58 p.m. and exited closed session at 6:17 p.m. No votes necessary.

Announcements –

Joanna Lower asked Leila Villaverde to share the update regarding the property next to the school. Leila Villaverde shared that Kotis had purchased the adjacent building that was for sale. She noted that they are currently relocating the cats and others that have been using the space, then they will assess the state of the building and potential uses for TESH.

Leila Villaverde confirmed there was no other announcements and then asked for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Jay Hawkins seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.