

Minutes for Meeting for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, February 14th, 2023
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

Present: Leila Villaverde, Travis Laughlin, Greg Bush, Fred Adams, Carl Lashley, Joanna Lower, Roy Carter, Tinisha Shaw

Guests: Beth Meyer, Cortney White, Kelly Florence, Molley, Caroline Kernahan, Stephanie Kriner, Amanda Davee Lomax, Kelly Florence

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Roy Carter motioned to approve the agenda, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of December and January Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve from December (13th, 14th – Grievance Committee Meeting, 14th – Emergency Board Meeting) and from January (10th – Board Meeting). Travis Laughlin motioned to approve the minutes from December and January, Fred Adams seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

Tinisha Shaw reported that January and February have been busy, working on strengthening school systems. She noted that she was sharing a proposed revised calendar for the 23-24 school year on the TESHG website and in the newsletter on Friday. She indicated that Guilford County School System released their calendar and after looking at theirs, is suggesting some changes to TESHG's. Tinisha Shaw noted that this week there was a scheduled SIT team meeting that included parents on Wednesday. The First Tea with the ED is scheduled for this Thursday and that meeting would take place over Zoom, noting the impact of recent illnesses among students and staff. She also shared ways the space is being cleaned to also mitigate the illnesses. She shared the Tea will be focused on academics, where we are and what we are doing to move forward including some new initiatives for the remainder of the year.

Tinisha Shaw shared that the Sunshine committee met. That the group has crafted initial bylaws, meetings, committees, and funding with a focus on building connections and community and support staff and staff wellbeing. The next meeting is February 28.

Tinisha Shaw reported that on February 8 there was an incident where the school went into a lockdown during school dismissal. She noted there was misinformation being spread and she wanted to correct the record. She stated that on the 8th during dismissal we went into a lockdown because there was an individual in the community experiencing a mental health crisis. Because of the individual's proximity to the building during dismissal timeframe, the school went into lockdown. The police were notified to remove the individual before students were allowed to leave the building.

There were two separate communications that day. One was sent earlier in the afternoon by the 3/4 House. During recess the individual had an interaction with a teacher and Ms. Vaughn. Students were taken inside from recess. The police were called, and they took the person, however the person was not detained and came back during dismissal which prompted the lockdown. Tinisha Shaw clarified, there was no active shooter, no one said that on the walkies, the person did not engage with any students on any walking fieldtrips.

Tinisha Shaw further explained, this was an individual in the community experiencing a mental health crisis, and our focus was that their crisis did not impact students. Following the lockdown, communication was sent that evening. Tinisha Shaw noted that she is now reflecting back with staff and reviewing and updating crisis protocols accordingly.

Tinisha Shaw shared that Student Services was doing great work. She noted they are leading the Mindful Living course in the 5/6 House. They are offering group sessions on wellness with 7/8 students. They have organized with Gate City Coalition to work with 7/8 students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A partnership with NCCJ has been established to work with 7/8 students around their leadership and role in impacting school culture.

Tinisha Shaw shared that TESHG is shifting to a new lunch program – The Healthy School Food Cooperative - for the 23-24 school year. The Healthy School Food Cooperative is committed to providing healthy, sustainable meal choices to students, families, and communities to improve the nutritional impact in education. They provide access to healthy and nutritious meals, manages the set-up, implementation, distribution and administration functions for reimbursable meals in school food and child nutrition programs. They partner with experienced local food vendors who produce and deliver healthy food to the school and are cost effective.

Tinisha Shaw shared that the 7/8 House was transitioning to Elevate K-12 for math instruction. She explained it is live instruction from a certified teacher during their assigned class time. Students will interact with the instructor through an online portal. Each lesson is 45 – 50 minutes and they can ask questions and practice with the teacher online. Ms. Key will be present to support students as they are working on their math. Tinisha Shaw indicated that the tech folks were coming in this week and next to set up, provide training and support. Communication will be shared with 7/8 parents this week.

Tinisha Shaw shared an academic goal for this month is MTSS Training. The FAM-S survey will be completed to set short- and long-term goals for the school defining core instructional and

behavioral supports. We will begin defining our data assessment systems, data guidelines, and standard protocols to do interventions for student growth. On March 6-7 we will have a school-wide MTSS training and complete our facilitated FAM-S discussion. A MTSS team has been developed to lead the implementation of the work.

Tinisha Shaw opened for questions from the Board of Directors. There were no questions.

Standing Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee report – Leila Villaverde shared that the curriculum committee met this month. The committee was updated about curriculum integration for project/design-based learning, TESG philosophy, and standards and how teams were doing with those. Testing updates were shared. Extending curriculum and bringing resource members into the school were discussed. With the increase in the cost of transportation and shortage of bus drivers, transportation for field trips that require buses has become a creative problem to solve. The cost for field trips has also skyrocketed. We will continue to problem solve this significant challenge in order to maintain access to educational extensions. Supports needed for the remainder of the school year were also discussed as well as professional development needs. It was a great discussion around curriculum this year.

Joanna Lower asked if there were updates around student led conferences, MAP testing, and arts showcases. Leila Villaverde responded that student led conferences were scheduled for the end of the grading period and upcoming pd/workdays would help to prepare for those. MAP testing window starts the week after next and results from that should be back by the time conferences start. Leila Villaverde added that parents look forward to student led conferences, to hear from their perspective student on what they've been learning and to share the grows and glows.

Tinisha Shaw shared that March 6 is the MTSS training and she was working on scheduling PD around Culturally Responsive Teaching on March 7 & 8. Tinisha Shaw noted she would have to get back to us on arts showcases. She shared the arts team had been through a lot the last couple days due to being out and that she will follow up with them.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Announcements

Joanna Lower shared a final summary of the Giving Campaign (the most recent fundraiser) will be going out this week in Ms. Shaw's newsletter. We raised \$15,825 to benefit Teachers and Staff who demonstrate commitment to TESG's mission. We are also thrilled to share that over the last 5 years we have been consolidating the names of contributors for a Giving Wall and it will soon be installed in the lobby. The artwork was created by local downtown artists, The Staton Wood Company. Anyone can have their name added to the wall with a tax-deductible donation of \$250 or more.

Joanna Lower shared that the TESH T-Shirt Design Call has launched, open to all students to submit a design for the Spring Swag Sale and the 8th Grade Celebration. All designs will be showcased in the school Yearbook and two designs will be selected for printing. Information went out in newsletters last Friday with a link for digital image submissions. Students may also turn in hard copy submissions to Ms. Vaughn. Designs are due by next Friday, February 24.

New Business

Leila Villaverde shared that the next agenda item is to go into closed session. She thanked everyone for coming and provided the option to log off once we entered closed session or to go into a waiting room until we return to open session.

1. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of employees in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Roy Carter motioned to go into closed session, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 5:59 and returned to open session at 6:58 pm.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to vote on the personnel decision made during closed session. Roy Carter motioned to approve the personnel decision made during closed session, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm.