

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Directors  
The Experiential School of Greensboro  
Tuesday, April 11th, 2023  
5:30pm  
Virtual/Zoom: Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

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

Guests: Beth Meyer, Rachel Morton, Eli Ford

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

#### **Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes**

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and to approve the March 14 board meeting and March 14 special board meeting minutes. Roy Carter motioned to approve the agenda and minutes from March 14, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Report from Executive Director**

Tinisha Shaw shared that for the month of March a lot of time was spent to prepare for end of year including test training. She noted there is already a testing plan, setting up small and large groups, and the building space is being looked at for all groups. She noted enrollment is 300 and that Ms. Horton shared a table from Lotterease from April 3. Numbers are listed with slots, confirmations, applications, and records received. Tinisha Shaw shared that she made some changes to the Mask Policy since the draft was turned back and it is linked in her report. She noted that Annie Rapaka's (Business Manager) expense report was also linked. Tinisha Shaw shared she had focused time on the Professional Development plan for next year. She also noted that some of the exterior doors need maintenance. She also noted concerns about the quality of cleaning from the evening janitorial service, specifically noting floors that haven't been mopped or vacuumed. She noted the barn doors in 3/4 House need to be secured so they can be locked.

Tinisha Shaw shared that she had modified the professional development plan for next year and sent a draft to the board. She noted that there were some changes due to expenses. She spoke about two areas of focus for next year – responsive classroom and experiential learning. She shared that Responsive Classroom school-wide PD is extremely expensive, that there is almost no difference between district costs and small schools. She suggested a train-the-trainer model with one trainer in each House or 2 in elementary and 2 in middle school. She looked into summer options including online options and a training event June 27-30 in Charlotte, NC. There would be opportunities for a core team, a group of teachers and leadership to attend and come back and facilitate learning during the two weeks before the start of the school year with ongoing workshops to reinforce. Tinisha Shaw shared two options from the Experiential Learning Institute, however she noted it does not fulfill everything and the pricing was out of reach. The training itself is very expensive and requires travel expenses for facilitators too. The second option is for a train-the-trainer model with a select group of key leaders. It is open enrollment and leads to a certificate in experiential learning. It is an 8-week program. Could do 2 weeks in June/July so

prepared to lead sessions with colleagues on the learning cycle, flexibility, helping them plan lessons – from art, elementary, to middle school, and ongoing coaching. One of the things they do offer is a way to track progression with a pre-assessment and tracking for growth. The price includes coaching and that is provided throughout the year. She noted it would be beneficial for a strong core group that can speak to this since experiential learning is the basis of the school.

Tinisha Shaw shared that MTSS training is another area, and she is planning to have a two-day leadership team retreat in summer to continue that process with MTSS – defining our core – and how to implement and re-think interventions that we are doing. She is planning for early in August to use time to develop core process so that is shared with staff when they report back from summer.

Tinisha Shaw noted EOG preparations. She shared afterschool math tutoring was being offered April 24 – May 24, Monday through Thursday 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Teachers will receive stipends for tutoring. Teachers may also have tutoring sessions for other areas in class. There is a need for math tutors in 7/8 House.

Tinisha Shaw shared next month there will be focus on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration and moving up day. She noted she sent out information about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration and looking at last week of school or week before testing for moving up day. Staff are also receiving training and prep for EOG testing.

Tinisha Shaw opened up for questions. Leila Villaverde asked clarifying questions about the Experiential Learning training regarding coaching, growth tracking, and number of educators that can participate. Leila Villaverde noted it was rather expensive and will consider in the budget for next year. She shared that the finance committee will be meeting this month to look at that more carefully and any other suggestions for finance committee from Tinisha Shaw. Leila Villaverde asked about any cost for the MTSS training. Tinisha Shaw confirmed that was provided by the state and added that they did a good job.

Joanna Lower noted that she had communicated with Ms. Oliver about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Celebration, and Ms. Oliver shared the 7/8 dance was not a part of the end of year plans. Joanna Lower inquired about this. Tinisha Shaw shared the capacity for teachers to cover the dance and there were other concerns from the student service team. Joanna Lower noted that in the past there were parent volunteers that helped and that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders presented a compelling proposal for the dance last year taking into consideration Covid-19 precautions. Tinisha Shaw indicated she could talk about the concerns for the dance at another time. Joanna Lower asked if the decision to not have the dance had been communicated to students and families? Tinisha Shaw indicated that Ms. Oliver shared it with the student ambassadors. Joanna Lower followed up and asked about the other 7/8 students. Tinisha Shaw was not sure but then shared the thought Ms. Oliver had shared with all 7/8 students. Joanna Lower also asked if information about moving up day would be going out to families. Tinisha Shaw noted that she asked staff about how this was experienced and after the break she would be following up with Ms. Smith and Ms. Gundersdorff for planning.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

There were no standing committee reports.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

1. Mask Policy –

Tinisha Shaw shared the revised mask policy and noted she wanted feedback. She shared information that was in consideration with hospitals and ongoing changes/variations with Covid-19 and moving to voluntary masking. The policy noted three things that could cause TESH to move back to being masked including community levels, infection rates, self-reporting and health department numbers. Carl Lashley asked what she wanted feedback on? The third bullet was referenced in terms of how we would monitor or determine the situation because it would require the sharing of medical information. Joanna Lower noted there are various situations where someone may be immunocompromised, but it is unclear when it would be necessary for the community to come together for the need versus self-protection with a mask. There was discussion on case-by-case situations. Leila Villaverde noted this is space where partnerships are important for families, to problem solve and be more individualized than generalized. We can think about phrasing to be more individualized. Greg Bush shared that the public health emergency has ended, and we have to keep that in mind. When there is individual situations, it gets into HIPAA, and he suggested we stay clear of that. Joanna Lower asked if we can vote on a mask policy understanding minor revisions will take place. Carl Lashley made a motion that the policy on masking be approved with the understanding that language about medical documentation and case-by-case decision making be added. Aside from that he also suggested outlining procedures quickly after the policy is approved. There was no second. Greg Bush said we need more work on the policy, we want to make sure the language is right and run through the attorney. The discussion was tabled until we have revisions.

## 2. Crisis Plan.

The revised crisis plan was shared. Tinisha Shaw noted the crisis plan was made clearer including locations if students/staff evacuation. It stayed the same with guidelines and procedures. Who would step in and be in charge as designee (school counselor or social worker) was clarified because of their availability in the building. Leila Villaverde mentioned that she noticed communicating via phone or walkie and the need to clearly identify that it is through the band app rather than talking out loud through either of these for safety. Tinisha Shaw noted that as a good point. Leila Villaverde further explained that staff communication should happen through a particular outlet only. Tinisha Shaw clarified that when they did the drill that was said but still made sure everyone had walkies. Leila Villaverde replied that depending on scenario when staff should or should not use walkies so they don't use wrong tech to communicate. Joanna Lower asked about the first document received and what was integrated. Tinisha Shaw responded that nothing from that document was included, that the current document had the information needed. Joanna Lower explained that she was unable to vote on this because it was not clear what was added and what was removed from the plan. Tinisha Shaw explained that she didn't use any of the checklists from the first document she shared, that she just updated the plan. Leila Villaverde shared we would table this as well and come back to it.

Carl Lashley asked to go back to the mask policy discussion and asked if this meant that TESH is still fully masking? Tinisha Shaw shared everyone is anxious about the mask policy. Leila Villaverde clarified at present, TESH is a 100% masking environment. Joanna Lower mentioned she had observed this was not to fidelity. Carl Lashley responded that they are children. He also shared that he was very concerned about masking policy not approved because the Covid-19 emergency was declared over in the last couple of days. He also stated he was concerned we don't have an emergency crisis plan, that puts us in a tenuous position in terms of liability. He suggested we have an emergency meeting to approve the mask policy and the crisis plan. Tinisha Shaw confirmed we do have an existing and approved crisis plan in place and it was utilized when we did our drill, and there were updated revisions in language made to the plan and that was what was up for approval. Joanna Lower added we have a crisis plan and it is hard to vote on a revised crisis plan when you don't know what has been changed.

Roy Carter added isn't it better not to go into the granularity on these things as it pertains to the mask policy. You cannot accommodate everything and handle it, and appropriate. You can make the general statement aligned with GCS and compliance with space; however, we also need to accommodate our community. Carl Lashley noted other school board policies are often one sentence long; these accommodations are elsewhere in their policy and are active. He urged the board to move quickly because this has been sitting for a couple of months. Joanna Lower asked Greg Bush to again share we he had stated earlier. He replied that the public health emergency was removed as of May 1. He also suggested we be simple with this policy, and it doesn't need a lot of detail. Joanna Lower asked Carl Lashley if an individualized medical situation for masking would fall into section 504. Carl Lashley responded if the definition of 504 to learn or work was met and in the cases of immuno-compromised and vulnerability to respiratory viruses, ability to work or learn is affected, that's a stiff claim. We suggested we can handle that language. Leila Villaverde proposed we go back to entertaining a motion to vote on the mask policy and that we revisit that last bullet with further consultation by our next meeting. Carl Lashley indicated he shared a statement that might work as we have been deliberating. It was suggested we move to approve the masking policy as written with understanding immunocompromised and vulnerable to respiratory viruses be revised. Joanna Lower and Greg Bush suggested we just delete point 3. There was agreement. Joanna Lower motioned to approve the mask policy for optional masking with the deletion of the last bullet. Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Effective immediately masking is optional in the TESG building.

The policy was approved as follows (with bullet point 3 deleted as indicated with the strikethrough):

#### **School Mask Policy**

Due to the steady decrease of COVID-19 hospitalizations and the low community levels of infection, effective April 11, 2023, masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors while inside the school building. When the area where the school is located is not identified as high community transmission, employees, students, and visitors are not required to wear a mask indoors:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that schools require universal masking in public areas [when community levels are high](#). This includes a return to mandatory masking if at least a 20% of staff and students have been impacted by COVID-19 or any respiratory illnesses.
  - Notification stating the reason, period of time, and considering factors necessary for the return of no masking will be sent to parents via all school channels of communication within 3 days prior to the mandatory masking implementation.
- Students, staff, and visitors who have demonstrable prolonged symptoms of respiratory illnesses or self-reported to have been exposed to COVID-19 must wear a mask. Individuals exposed to COVID-19 do not need to be quarantined if they remain asymptomatic; however, they must wear a mask for ten days following the exposure and test at least five full days after exposure. Those with respiratory illnesses will wear a mask until they are no longer demonstrating any prolonged symptoms or have been cleared by a health provider.
- ~~● Masks will be required in shared spaces with staff and students who are immunocompromised or have documented vulnerability to respiratory viruses.~~

[\\* CDC Report \(October 5, 2022\): Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support In-Person Learning](#)

We returned to the Crisis Plan discussion. Joanna Lower said she cannot vote, and she is willing to abstain because she does not want to hold up the process if others are prepared to vote. Roy Carter shared that usually when you get a document for approval, seeing the changes is a great practice as these are suggested changes needing approval. Leila Villaverde added that it is important to know the distinguishing elements between the two documents, as a point of clarification. She added it can be

tabled to next meeting. It was clarified that we do have a crisis plan in place while the revisions are being highlighted. Tinisha Shaw noted that the revision was made on a copy, and she can make the revisions clear. Roy Carter noted highlighting, color coding comments. Tinisha Shaw was agreeable.

### **Announcements**

Roy Carter shared that A&T students are about to have their senior showcase. The graduating art student show opens April 20. He invited all to come and see what they are doing. He added that the program is number 5 in the nation, and it is rumored they are moving up to 4. Students and faculty are proud, and he encouraged anyone to come out. Roy Carter also welcomed TESH students and said teachers could reach out to schedule and accommodate classes. Leila Villaverde added that it is within walking distance; that the Go Far club has made that trip many times.

Travis Laughlin shared that there is an amazing show at the Harvey B Center for African American Arts and Culture which opens this week. He shared that he moved most of the work and it is an important and incredible show. He welcomed TESH to come and shared he could help facilitate. It's an amazing show.

### **Adjourn**

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.