

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, August 8th, 2023
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

Present: Leila Villaverde, Joanna Lower, Carl Lashley, Roy Carter, Travis Laughlin, Fred Adams.

Guests: Beth Meyer, Kris DeBell, Brooklyn Moragne, Caroline Kernahan, Eugenia Gwynn.

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the minutes (May 24 Subcommittee, May 31 Special Meeting, June 6 Special Meeting, June 13 Board Meeting, June 16 Special Meeting). Joanna Lower motioned to approve the minutes reviewed, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There is no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

David Jarmon greeted everyone and indicated he was thrilled to be here and excited to be at the first board meeting to give his report. He began by thanking the Board for believing in him and his service to TESH, families, and community. He shared a “mission moment” where he reflected on things we are all about “We, at TESH, believe youth are dynamic agents of change who develop a sense of self/others, recognize injustice, have courage in the face of bias, and act collectively to cultivate equitable communities.”

David Jarmon noted that the financial report was shared.

Open House

David Jarmon invited the Board of Directors to the TESH Open House on Monday, August 28, 4:00 – 6:00 pm. He noted that families have been invited to come meet him and the staff for the

2023-2024 school year. He also noted that some of TESG's on-going partners were attending to provide families with information.

Partnerships

The Center for Visual Arts and the Community Theater of Greensboro have agreed to work with us again with after school programming support. Currently, CVA has only 1 opening left for this year. This is for students in grades K-5 only. David Jarmon noted that he had communicated with the directors of these programs.

Family Services of Greensboro has agreed to continue their partnership with us. They will have an informational table set up at Open House to share how they can be of assistance to our families.

Our middle school students are in for a treat this year! David Jarmon shared that he has had conversations with the Chair of the Nano-Engineering Department at the joint North Carolina A&T and UNCG program who has vowed to offer field trips to our students to learn all about this field and the awesome equipment they work with daily!

Staffing Report

We have been interviewing potential staff all summer and are very close to being fully staffed. We are in search of a 1/2 teacher to complete our teaching staff roster. We currently have 20 new staff on board! We are excited about the future!

Professional Development Update

Staff will return on Wednesday, August 16th. In preparation for a successful school year, the staff will be trained in the Experiential Education cycle consisting of implementation, team building, collaboration and facilitation, Design-Based Learning, the Responsive Classroom, Social Justice and Kikori. Kikori will be new to all staff. Kikori is a community-driven platform that is revolutionizing education through experiential and social emotional learning for all. Kikori is a community-driven platform that is revolutionizing education through experiential and social emotional learning for all. Later in the Fall, we will have a PD for Universal Design for Learning and Inclusive Education. We are fortunate to have staff members who are serving as presenters for some of our PD.

EOG Review

David Jarmon reported that he had looked at the EOG results from the 2023-2024 school year. He indicated that TESG has some things to celebrate as well as some things to improve. Increased scale scores resulted in more students moving to a level of proficiency. Fifth and Eighth grade students decreased slightly in proficiency in the area of science. This year, students will spend 30 additional minutes in science than was allotted last year with expectations of

increased scale scores and proficiency. More support will be given in grades K-2 with Illustrative Math this year. We are very excited about Math 1 being taught by Mrs. Lingle this year in 8th grade. We will administer NC Check-Ins this year in grades 3-8 that better align with EOG testing. It will better prepare students for the EOG tests.

MTSS Support

David Jarmon shared that TESH has been chosen to receive MTSS support through NCDPI. This will consist of our MTSS committee collaborating with colleagues across the state that have some of the same goals. Our goal is to increase Math instruction and student proficiency. We will participate in several virtual seminars during the year and have opportunities to use what we learn right here in the classrooms. MTSS supports will provide feedback and on-going support during the year.

Building / Maintenance Update

David Jarmon noted that it was exciting for him to see the efforts put into the upkeep and maintenance of the building. Operation BB (Building Beautification) has been in effect since he entered the building. Walls have been painted, furniture moved/rearranged, the playground is being upgraded, classrooms uncluttered, staff workrooms cleaned, and much more. He added that much of the work has been done by volunteers! Kudos to Board members, their families and students for stepping in to assist!

Opportunities for Community Engagement

David Jarmon indicated that he would like to solicit increased participation for community partners by giving select businesses an opportunity to shadow various positions in our school. It's a great way to get a first-hand understanding of the work we do. As their schedule and/or time permits, we would collaborate with them and work out a schedule for them and an employee. Additional partnerships could possibly get us more financial support for things like student field trips. Company representatives could be invited into the school to share their knowledge of their respective fields and what type of education is required to get a position with their company.

David Jarmon opened for questions. Roy Carter responded that he could add two other partnerships. First, NC A&T Visual Arts Program and University Galleries. Roy Carter noted that Washington Montessori, which is two blocks from campus participate in programming and exhibitions. TESH is just 3 or so blocks away and invited TESH to participate. He shared that they have an extensive African art and African American collection from the social to the personal that can be put together and curated for classes with advance notice. The other partnership is the African American Atelier which is downtown. He noted that he is the Board President and

there is programming that they would like to open for students. The Atelier also has classroom spaces for workshops and things and if TESH had a need for space to reach out about availability and they would be happy to help.

Leila Villaverde thanked David Jarmon for his report.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Policy revisions.

Leila Villaverde explained there was one small policy revision – policy 407 (Salary Range for Exempt Positions). She clarified that the policy change would be to cap the number of days Teaching Assistants could substitute to not to exceed 10 days for the year. Leila Villaverde updated the Board that we have been growing the substitute list after a previous shortage state-wide. As we see this rebound there is support on hand for substitutes. She asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, she called for a motion to approve the policy change, Joanna Lower motioned to approve the policy change to limit the number of days an Assistant Teacher could substitute to 10 days in one school year. Carl Lashley seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Carl Lashley congratulated everyone, specifically David Jarmon and Joanna Lower, for their work in getting so close to being fully staffed by this time of year. He stated it was a real accomplishment and in reviewing candidate files, the new employees looked great. David Jarmon thanked Carl Lashley and thanked Beth Meyer and Kris DeBell for their support with interviews, sharing that they are invested in TESH and love what they do. Leila Villaverde shared that she appreciated everyone's work, noted that this concludes the first board meeting of the school year, and thanked everyone for coming.

Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm.