

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors

The Experiential School of Greensboro

Tuesday, October 10th, 2023

5:30pm

Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

Present: Leila Villaverde, Carl Lashley, Greg Bush, Beth Meyer, David Jarmon, Roy Carter, Travis Laughlin, Joanna Lower, Fred Adams

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the September minutes (Sept 1, 12, and 15). Carl Lashley motioned to approve the September minutes, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

School Safety

David Jarmon noted that TESHG has conducted 2 fire drills to date. The second drill was conducted to analyze the changes made after the 1st drill. Changes were made to get the students out of the building quicker, continuing in a safe manner.

Technology

David Jarmon met with Sharp representatives about digital signage/AV, copiers, laptops, IT management etc.... The company wants to offer a more modern means of facilitating teaching through smart boards, radio communications, presentation boards, public announcement system, etc.... The meeting was set up by the operations manager as a result of the copier contract coming to an end. The company has invited us to the plant site for a demonstration of what they have to offer.

Curriculum

We have administered the 3rd grade Read to Achieve tests to all 3rd grade students.

K-4

Focusing on who we are (identity) and how who we are shapes our community. Also looking at identities and how they make us unique.

5-8

6th grade has been learning about the Crusades. In 7/8, teachers have been making connections with the use of cool math (online) and science.

The report card committee is currently reviewing previously used documents and are revising. The current focus is interim reports which will be distributed soon.

Observations are in full swing, and we are noticing a lot of neat things in the building. Garden Arts are doing some awesome things on campus and learning a lot about agriculture - students are excited, they are planting, growing beans and peas, learned beans enhances the soil for the plants. In music, students have started to learn how to play the ukulele. He learned he could play a song with one note!

Low-Performing School

The school leadership team is in the process of creating a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to present to the Board. Currently, we have a grade of D. The SIP will present strategies for improvement.

Partnerships

TESG has partnered with Scuppernong Books to host a Book Fair and fundraiser for our school. The book fair will be held on Thursday the 19th for K-4 students and Thursday the 26th for 5-8 students.

Another partnership presented today – Triad Play after school program – costs \$10 a day at the east side community center and they are taking applications. They are also open on days that the school is closed.

Policy Recommendation/Revisions

Dress Code policy revisions:

Currently this is all we have for a dress code and we need further guidance for our community, “TESG may create a dress code in collaboration with staff, students, and parents. However,

students shall have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity, within the constraints of the dress codes adopted by the school. School staff shall not enforce a school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students".

David Jarmon recommended the following:

-We researched various district policies and searched for one that would be gender neutral, then adapted it.

TESG respects students' rights to express themselves in the way they dress and students are expected to respect the school community by dressing for the school environment. Dress should be appropriate to weather and activity, not include any offensive language or imagery, no eyes/face/head covering (other than for health or religious reasons), and must be opaque. Students must wear clothing including both a top and bottom or one piece including both. When the body is standing straight, clothing must cover the chest, back, torso, stomach, and lower extremities from armpit to armpit (including straps) to mid-thigh. Shoes must be worn at all times. School staff shall not enforce a school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.

The following reference source was used as a guide:

<https://www.parents.com/news/school-sets-the-gender-neutral-dress-code-all-others-should-follow/>

Roy Carter asked do we have something students can wear, that does not penalize, where we can support with understanding in case there are mitigating factors and if a parent isn't available to address or remedy the situation? David Jarmon concurred and indicated there would be a transition period and he has experience in a school with uniforms and there were often students did not have uniforms for a variety of reasons. He noted talking to the student, phoning the parent, etc. He provided some examples from observations this year where dress was not appropriate for the school environment which is why he brought this to the Board for feedback. Joanna Lower noted that we do have clothes closets onsite and that students could find something to wear if a parent was not able to bring them a change of clothes. Roy Carter suggested that the policy be on the side of caution, saying less rather than getting too detailed. Leila Villaverde noted that the article was mindful of these issues cognizant of the importance of conversations with students that steer away from cultural or body shaming. Joanna Lower noted these guidelines may be helpful for staff too. Leila Villaverde proposed hearing a motion for the policy presented and having David Jarmon and Beth Meyer think through the dissemination of information to the community with discussions with staff and students. There was further discussion regarding staff and parent input. It was recommended that it be discussed during the

leadership team and brought back to the Board in November for a vote. Greg Bush suggested putting together a committee. Leila Villaverde responded that the Leadership Team was a committee with teachers and parent representation. It was noted that policies are not required to be vetted through the leadership team. However, there was particular interest in this policy going to leadership team for feedback prior to the Board vote.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no committee reports. However, Leila Villaverde shared that we will not hear about ADM until the beginning of the month or next. Once we have that information the finance committee will meet again.

Old Business

Updated Crisis Plan to approve.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the updated crisis plan with the changes outlined. Joanna Lower thanked David Jarmon for providing the revised document and the outline of changes. She motioned to approve the updated Crisis Plan and Travis Laughlin seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Policy revisions –

Leila Villaverde shared there was a duplication policy with “student conduct” and “behavior policy”. She noted they are already consolidated in the family handbook. She called for a motion to approve consolidating the two policies. Joanna Lower motioned to approve edits on policy duplication between student conduct and behavior policy to eliminate redundancy, Greg Bush seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Leila Villaverde call for a motion to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of prospective employees in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).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. Carl Lashley motioned to go into closed session, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. We entered closed session at 6:10 pm and returned to open session at 6:21 pm.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the personnel decisions made during closed session. Carl Lashley motioned to approve the personnel decisions, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Joanna Lower circled back to David Jarmon's report and asked for next month to include an enrollment summary report from PowerSchool. She noted that with the change in enrollment this year, it would be helpful to look at demographics. She also asked for an update on Student Services. Leila Villaverde noted that in the application for the federal food program she had reviewed demographics, and it was around 60% students of color. She also noted that we have bids from K&W and Gold Star Catering for the lunch program and that there was a meeting with the state this Friday.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn. Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.