

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors

The Experiential School of Greensboro

Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

5:30pm

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

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

Guests: Beth Meyer, Kris DeBell

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Approval of Agenda & Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and to approve the October minutes.

Greg Bush motioned to approve the agenda and October minutes, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

David Jarmon reported:

Curriculum and Instruction

Kindergarten: Students are currently working on lessons regarding Then and Now (Life).

1-2 House: Teachers are beginning a unit on student government, laws and roles that citizens play in the community. They are creating Venn diagrams to compare and contrast local law vs state law.

3-4 House: The teachers recently wrapped up a unit on identity and community. They are currently moving into a unit on properties of matter.

5-6 House: Students have had dialogue about current laws and why they are important.

Currently, they are learning about immigration issues and racial profiling and how they connect to previously taught objectives.

7-8 House: Students are reviewing EOG style questions and test-taking strategies as well as calculator connections. Students are learning about how things work, energy and machines. They recently finished a unit on atoms and chemical reactions.

Garden Arts: Students have been learning about food and nutrition. The current theme they are engaged in is "Know, Sow, Grow" which involves gardening basics.

Visual Art: We have been providing the substitute teacher with lessons on Elements of Art. The students are really enjoying the lessons and are engaged daily.

Theater: 5-6 - Students are writing/creating 2 person scenes.

7-8 - Students are writing/creating 2 person scenes and learning how to do performances involving puppetry.

Music: K-2 - Students are learning basic rhythms and instrument families.

3-6 - Students are learning the basics of the ukulele for the next 2 weeks.

7-8 - Students are currently learning about the history of music production.

David Jarmon shared that Teachers have really embraced responsive classroom strategies, Kikori, experiential learning and the recent PD on universal design learning in which teachers find a way to include elements of all these practices in their weekly lessons. Mrs. Oliver is a huge resource with Kikori.

We administered check-ins to students in grades 3-8 last week. Check-ins are assessments given to students in grades 3-8 at the end of each trimester that assess the taught objectives and give them insight to the End-of-Grade tests to be administered at the end of the school year. I received student reports today and have not had an opportunity to review.

Parent conferences will be held on the 20th and 21st of this month. Conferences will be held in person, via phone conference and virtually depending on the parent availability. Report cards will be sent home with students on Monday, December 4th.

Grade-Level Assessments

David Jarmon spoke to grade-level assessments. The curriculum team met to review our current and future assessment tools. The assessments will inform us of how students are performing academically and also inform teachers on how to plan instruction.

Student Services

We are proud to be partnering with Backpack Beginnings. Backpack Beginnings provides families with food, clothing, hygiene products, toys, books, household goods, etc. TESH Families can sign up to receive weekly food bags for home.

White Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church has reached out to provide a holiday meal for TESH families in need. The church has agreed to sponsor 10 TESH families, and will provide pre-cooked meals for families to pick-up and cook at their home on Saturday, November 18th.

For the Fall/Winter holiday season, TESHG will be hosting a virtual Giving Tree to support the needs of students and families at our school. Families can sign-up and donate or receive items based on need.

In an effort to inform the community about our school, TESHG staff and the students ambassadors will be participating in the Winter Holiday Parade in downtown Greensboro on December 2nd. We will also have information sessions for prospective families.

School Safety

We are happy to report that as of today, we've had no reports of injury or other events around safety. Teachers are doing a great job of reminding students of safety procedures and monitoring student activity.

We are currently in the process of applying for a Safety Grant with the leadership of our counselor, Mrs. Shavonne Oliver. We pray that the reviewers find favor for us!

Tutoring (Grades 3-8)

We have \$20,892.00 allotted in PRC-182 for extended day tutors. Currently, we have 7 teachers signed up to tutor. Initially, we only had a few teachers sign up to tutor. I felt that if we offered to pay more \$50/hour, we can attract teachers to tutor. It would be ideal to have licensed teachers to tutor; however, the interest level for staff participation wasn't high. Therefore, I opened it up to all the staff with the hopes of having enough staff to run the program. With 7 tutors, depending on the number of potential students, we could provide either 1 day or 2 days of tutoring. The ideal tutoring group would consist of 5-6 students. We could potentially have 2 groups of students who meet once per week (2 days of tutoring for staff) or simply 1 group of students who meet once per week. I would propose paying licensed teachers \$50/hour if they tutor one day per week and paying \$40/hour if they tutor for 2 days per week. Non-licensed staff would be paid \$35/hour if one day per week and \$25/hour if two days per week.

School Enrollment Report

The total number of students reported was 265 (59% students of color and 41% White)

Dress Code

It was noted that we will address the dress code policy revisions in December.

School Improvement Plan

The plan has been submitted to the Board for review and will be discussed later in the meeting under New Business.

David Jarmon opened for questions. Roy Carter asked if there was mapping on how the teachers were going to approach the tutoring sessions. David Jarmon responded that there would be review of previous concepts taught, check-ins to assess students on what they have learned, and reviewing objectives from class. Leila Villaverde added to utilize data to know what to review and cover. She noted in terms of identifying students for tutoring and given that we have limited resources, to intentionally invite the students that need the support the most is an important priority. David Jarmon responded that initially they were looking at level 1 and level 2, but also taking referrals from teachers based on their observations.

Roy Carter asked how students were invited to tutoring without it being punitive. David Jarmon shared that Teachers have one-one conferences with the parents and give an oral invite, letters will also be sent home. Roy Carter suggested responses be written so there are definitive numbers. David Jarmon concurred and noted that the invitations are written but, during conferences Teachers will communicate with parents if their student may benefit from the tutoring program.

Joanna Lower thanked David Jarmon for the enrollment report and asked he include the EC count in the data shared. Roy Carter suggested we look at the report and consider audiences we may want to reach out to with recruitment to increase even more diversity, as currently we are at a little over 60% students of color.

Joanna Lower referenced how the standardized assessments would be utilized and asked how teachers were being supported on how students can organize their work or utilize portfolios for qualitative assessment. David Jarmon noted a system that the Diverse Learners team utilizes to progress monitor which may be useful. He noted the way teachers facilitated the organization of student work varied across Houses but, that could be added to PLC meetings. Joanna Lower noted it may be helpful to have this conversation so that Houses are prepared for student led conference in the spring. Leila Villaverde added that it also builds capacity in the students.

Carl Lashley shared that he was very impressed with the activities shared and asked who receives this information. He suggested that some of the information be framed within the ED newsletter and shared with the school community and supporters of the school. David Jarmon responded that he would love more people to receive the information shared at the Board meetings and he could share with the Community Collaborative once off the ground and social media. Carl Lashley responded that it would be important to frame for the audience but, the curriculum report, student services, and school safety are all really important for the community to know what we are doing around those areas.

Carl Lashley also noted based on current student enrollment over 20% of the student population have an IEP and it would be helpful to know what percentage of students arrive to TESG with an IEP and what percentage are found eligible after enrolment at TESG.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports however, Leila Villaverde reported that the district schools received their budget information but, charter schools have not. Once we receive our budget information from the state, the finance committee will come together to further analyze the budget. As a reminder, the ADM solidifies funding from the state and attendance contributes to local funding.

Old Business

1. Policy revisions (tabled for December)

Dress code

Leila Villaverde shared that the Dress Code policy is tabled until the December meeting. She also noted that there are a host of policies that TESG will have to put into place from the legislature based on the Parents Bill of Rights. Those must go into effect in January per legislations so those will need to be approved in December.

New Business

1. School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan was shared and discussed. Joanna Lower recognized how tutoring after school can be helpful but also spoke to adding to an already long day for staff and for students. She noted optimizing the time within the school day too. David Jarmon responded that teachers realized that we are a low performing school and want to put forth effort to try to change that. Roy Carter added that we consider doing something different too. For example, if you have licensed teachers capable adding material/support/lessons – even if a parent wanted to work with their student and practice on weekends – could there be compensation for Teachers to prepare materials accessible to parents or independent learners that wanted to improve and wouldn't just have to be low performing students; perhaps be available online to ask questions at certain times. He suggested being open to different opportunities; there are some other options. David Jarmon agreed that there could be a multi-pronged approach. Leila Villavdere noted that in the middle school there are some programs already available that could do that same thing, for students to go on and practice, learn more of what they are doing in class. It might be a reminder to parents that students have access to these resources and dig a little deeper. She noted she wasn't sure what the younger students had access to but, 5-8 grade have access to CK-12. We could investigate things

we used during remote learning and share those with families as well. Carl Lashley shared that there are many resources like that on the internet, and to look for quality and ideology. He also noted that they are often of no cost. The concern is how do Teachers then monitor what is going on with a student and those resources. How do we get teachers compensated to pull a unit of instruction a student could do independently – enrichment or remediation – resources are available – where do you get the money; another idea is to go to a local college/university. Roy Carter responded that he had a slightly different perspective and was addressing parents that would like to help their students, but terms, methods, and language have changed so providing access and support for parents who wish/can to take that on. Carl Lashley indicated that he understood the concern but there is already stuff available online for parents/guardians. Leila Villaverde summarized by indicating there is need for both remediation and enrichment practice. We can look at what is available and what we may want to create. She recommended that we move on the tutoring program soon so students can build capacity rather than feeling crammed. Joanna Lower asked about students who may need tutoring but are unable to attend. It was confirmed that they will receive support as part of MTSS and differentiation during the school day. Carl Lashley indicated that with the instructional day settled, once that rhythm is established, then you can think about ways to provide individual and small group instruction. Teachers will figure out how and with the use of MTSS, SIP, and referral process and curriculum team, it's a great way to get all the needs met so that kids do not fall through the cracks. Carl Lashley spoke to how marvelous TESSG was doing at coming to this point of view. David Jarmon applauded Beth Meyer and Shavonne Oliver. He also noted that staff are eager to get involved and keep it going in our school. Carl Lashley noted that often districts forget what the last S stands for in MTSS, which is support for students and teachers. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the School Improvement Plan. Carl Lashley motioned to approve the School Improvement Plan, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. David Jarmon thanked the Board for their ideas. He noted it is important to hear the support from the Board.

Announcements

1. TESSG Giving Campaign

Joanna Lower shared that the TESSG Giving Campaign launched today. We are utilizing a new platform – Booster – this year to support increased participation and to diversify donations received. She also noted that we started with a donation from Scuppernon Books for \$263 from their partnership with the TESSG bookfair. Carl Lashley asked if we had a corporate arm for the campaign. Joanna Lower indicated that we currently did not have a corporate sponsor but, with the booster platform, were able to get corporate

matches from participating companies. Leila Villaverde indicated that she would reach out to Carl Lashley about possibilities he may be able to connect us with.

2. David Jarmon shared his YouTube channel where he can provide morning messages that teachers air during morning meetings.

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 6:42 pm.