

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors  
The Experiential School of Greensboro  
Tuesday, December 12th, 2023  
5:30pm  
Virtual/Zoom: Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690

Attendance: Leila Villaverde, Roy Carter, Carl Lashley, Joanna Lower, Travis Laughlin, David Jarmon.

Guests: Jessica Glenn, Kristen Kevorkian, iphone

Leila Villaverde checked in with Board Members as they processed the recent news of the unexpected passing of Greg Bush. Leila Villaverde noted that Greg Bush served as Treasurer on the Board since year 1 of operation and how deeply shocking it was to learn of his recent passing. We took a moment to acknowledge him and his family.

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:38.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and the November board meeting minutes. Roy Carter motioned to approve the agenda and minutes, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

There was not public comment.

### **Report from Executive Director**

David Jarmon shared that he was thrilled to share great things that were happening at TESG!

#### Curriculum and Instruction

Kindergarten: Students have been learning about Fairy Tales and how the stories have morals. They are learning how to create a story map that addresses the problem, the solution, the setting and being able to identify characters.

1-2 House: They have been working on elections for the class and tying it to how the government works as it relates to elections. In their class, they are electing a class president!

.3-4 House: We are so glad that Ms. Samuels has arrived and joined our staff! She has hit the ground running and is currently transitioning students back to their original homeroom. We welcome her to TESG! Students are practicing real world applications to problem solving and extending the learning of multiplication facts.

5-6 House: Students are beginning to learn about weather patterns. They are also learning about the various ways energy is transformed. In math, they are learning about ratios. In social studies, they are learning about the Indigenous Tribes of North America.

7-8 House: Students are having discussions surrounding character development and how to write objective summaries in ELA. In science, they are learning about the various cells that exist. In math, students are learning about mathematical expressions and how to solve equations.

Garden Arts: The students in garden arts are learning what compost is and how it helps in the growth of produce. They are having discussions around food campaigns and why they happen around the world. They did a recent lesson on "What Went Wrong: How Disasters Impact Food."

Art: Some classes are just getting started and are focusing on the elements of art. Experienced students are using what they have learned and are applying the elements of art to the creation of explosion booklets.

Movement: Students are learning about the various forms of dance in various countries and their cultures.

Theater: Students are learning about theater design and how to create sets for performances. Along with this, they are learning about costume design, lighting and how to create sets.

Music:

K-2 -.Learning about the Nutcracker (ballet). Various versions.

3-6 – A series of songs based on the planets.

7-8 -.Continuing with into to ukelele and radio station broadcasts.

#### DIBELS TRAINING

K-3 teachers have all been trained in DIBELS. K-3 students should be progress monitored on a regular basis along with regular assessments.

#### WTESG Radio

We have our very own radio station, WTESG Radio. The station runs 24 hours and will have a live morning show hosted by 7th and 8th graders M-F from 7:45-8:30 during student arrival. The live show will consist of weather reports, sports reports, question of the day, school news and other topics of interest. The link has been posted on our website.

#### OCS VISIT 12/5

The Office of Charter Schools (OCS) visited our school on 12/5. They visited classrooms in a non-evaluative manner and will provide feedback to me on what they observed. Feedback will not be teacher specific.

#### Curriculum Updates

Bennet College Partnership: David Jarmon recently met with Dr. Anna Harrison, the Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Bennett College to discuss the placement of administrative interns and work study students at our school as a partnership. Dr. Harrison is working on a MOU to submit for approval from the Board. Work study students could assist with working with small groups during the school day as well as volunteers. We are both excited about the possibilities this partnership can develop.

NC ENSI TRAINING: Grade level leaders participated in NC ENSI training on Wednesday Dec 6th from 9-12. They will serve as trainers for their colleagues. NC ENSI is a Math Assessment Tool that will be used school-wide in grades K-5.

Tutoring (Grades 3-8): Our tutorial program began yesterday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive tutoring 2 days a week on Mondays and Tuesdays. The program will run for about 18 weeks. Students will not be tutored on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday to allow teachers to attend Leadership Team meeting and Staff meeting.

#### Student Services

Individual Counseling Sessions

- Continued support for individual student needs. Trends include topics related to behaviors, emotions/feelings, hurtful/harmful language and behaviors, and peer conflict resolution.

#### Small Groups (Created Based on Data/Reports from Trimester 1)

- 3/4 House: Weekly SEL Small Group (Behaviors, Emotions/Feelings, Anger Management, Conflict Resolution)
- 7/8 House : Weekly Wellness Wednesday Small Group (Expressive Arts)

#### Classroom Lessons

- K House: Bi-Weekly Lessons (Emotions/Feelings & Emotional Regulation)
- 1/2 House: Student Ambassadors Planning Project/Work with Students
- 3/4 House: Bi-Weekly Lessons (Last Lesson: Kindness & Compliments)
- 5/6 House: Bi-Weekly Lessons (Last Lesson: See Something, Say Something Training & Recurring Lessons Bi-Weekly)
- 7/8 House: Bi-Weekly Lessons (Last Lesson: See Something, Say Something Training & Recurring Lessons Bi-Weekly)

#### Student Services Family Support Initiatives

- Mrs. Vaughn has been instrumental in providing support for our McKinney Vento Family, students needing lunch, Backpack Beginnings, and Giving Tree initiatives. :)
- Student Services December Newsletter: Will be sent prior to Winter break and will include information about Say Something-Anonymous Reporting System, Online Tips for Students/Families, & Family Resources for Food, Clothing, and Other Items for the Holidays.
- Lunch donations needed.
- Backpack Beginnings: Continuing to Serve 6 Students/Families
- Thanksgiving Meal Support (White Oak Grove Baptist Church): Church Provided Pre-Cooked Thanksgiving Meals for 8 Families; Mrs. Oliver Delivered for 2 families.
- Giving Tree Donations: 5 Families Signed Up to Receive Items; 16 Families Signed Up to Donate but We Have Received Items from More Families. We have received many donations for food, clothing, and personal hygiene items! Mrs. Vaughn has also reached out to her church to provide clothing items for 14 students in need

#### School Improvement Plan

Was submitted on NCStar (Indistar) on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and waiting for feedback from DPI.

Leila Villaverde inquired about the NC Check In and how that fit in with the NC ENSI Math assessment tool. David Jarmon clarified that the NC Check In is once a trimester and the NC ENSI Math assessment tool can be implemented daily or weekly. It was noted that the Math assessment would not change the rhythm of pedagogy.

Leila Villaverde clarified the TESS radio website so it could be added to the TESS website. She noted that she would reach out to Ms. Craig to clarify the correct link.

Joanna Lower circled back to the NC ENSI Math assessment and the frequency of use. She inquired about over-testing when that time could be used for instruction. David Jarmon responded that it is more like an intervention to use for progress monitoring with individual students and that it would not disrupt instructional practices.

Joanna Lower asked if there were any enrollment changes from last month. David Jarmon indicated there were none. ADM is 265 (a shortfall of about 83).

## Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports.

### Old Business

#### 1. Policy revisions (tabled for December)

Leila Villaverde asked David Jarmon about the Dress Code policy that was tabled last month. David Jarmon shared that the proposed Dress Code policy was discussed in Leadership Team. There were a few questions, however there wasn't any opposition to it. He noted that teachers wanted to be sure it was enforced the same for all body sizes and genders. David Jarmon noted that the purpose of the policy is not to police but, to protect everyone. Leila Villaverde noted the intent is to provide a gender neutral and body neutral policy that would provide TESSG with some parameters. The dress code policy would be integrated into the Student Conduct policy. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the dress code. Joanna Lower motioned to approve the dress code, Carl Lashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

### New Business

#### 1. Policy revisions

##### a. Policy 918 Parents Rights

Leila Villaverde explained there are requirements for schools to address rather quickly related to policies and procedures for parent rights. The NC Charter School Association has held various information sessions and their attorneys have helped with the writing of policy and procedures in compliance with SB49. The policies clarify, for example, how parents can follow up if they have concerns about curriculum, student chosen pronouns and names, and timelines for schools to respond to concerns. Once the policies are approved, they need to be in place by January. They will be posted on TESSG's website and easily located with a sub-tab under "Families". DPI will be auditing schools for these procedures and policies. Leila Villaverde noted that some of the requirements are highlighting what schools already do such as protecting student information, alignment with FERPA, focused on protection of student information, limitations, and legal rights of parents. It provides a tool, that is condensed pulling legislation and laws together.

Joanna Lower thanked Leila Villaverde for pulling all the information together. Carl Lashley noted much of what is included we already had in place and asked how a parent would make an inquiry. Leila Villaverde concurred and indicated it's mostly about procedures and we are used to that. If there is a concern a parent may email Mr. Jarmon and if there is a grievance, we have a procedure for that. Upon approval, the website and family handbook will be updated accordingly.

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve Policy 918 Parents Rights, in response to SB49. Roy Carter motioned, Joanna Lower seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Carl Lashley asked if all procedures implied in the policy are to be in place by January. Leila Villaverde indicated for the most part except for one. She preferred to be on point and get everything posted by January. She noted they staggered the start date because of the abruptness and Mr. Truitt indicated it wasn't feasible and requested extension to January 15.

#### 2. Budget Surplus Appropriation

Leila Villaverde shared that our ADM is 265 which is 83 less than planned. She noted that the ADM is better than we originally thought. She shared during the investigation – in addition to dissatisfaction with past leadership and poor press instigated by a few families - there was also errors with

Lotterease management. Our accountant revealed significant errors that were made in Lotterease by a past employee that accounts for some of the enrollment discrepancy. With the reduction in force, we still have a deficit of 286K. The finance committee will meet and look at what can be shifted in the budget to further address the deficit. The accountant shared that it was possible to appropriate surplus to the operating budget. We still need to provide an explanation of why we needed to do that, what occurred with enrollment, and how we have addressed it. We will need to focus on recruitment and information sessions, sharing the good work of what we are doing at TESG. The surplus gives us a way to balance the budget. It allows us to not end in the red if we use it but, DPI will see documentation of our investigation, explanation, and how we addressed the situation. Carl Lashley asked where the surplus funds came from. Leila Villaverde responded that local funds from past years can be carried over. Carl Lashley asked if we had sufficient funds to cover the whole deficit and Leila Villaverde replied, yes. Carl Lashley noted this would allow us to get through this year and plan for next year to get back to 350 threshold. Leila Villaverde reminded Carl Lashley in a previous meeting we discussed the lottery numbers for next year to rebound to 325 to be sure we have the enrollment we need. She also noted we build in attrition and mechanisms to account for the way ADM is calculated. Joanna Lower concurred with the 325 and noted she would be in support of utilizing surplus but, wanted to be prudent about what could first be shifted in the budget. Leila Villaverde shared that we have been in 200 plus situation previously during the first year and during Covid but, we were held harmless on ADM and that helped us build our surplus. She noted that she thought we could reduce the deficit. Switching to the federal nutrition program will help, hoping to reduce transportation costs in the morning by possibly switching to a smaller bus, and with other PRC funds and grants from the state. Joanna Lower asked if we could vote on this next month after the finance committee has had an opportunity to further study the budget. Carl Lashley reiterated he would like to hold off until January or February to vote on this.

### **Announcements**

TESG Giving Campaign – Joanna Lower thanked the Board of Directors for their generous donations to The Giving Campaign, that the Campaign was wrapping up, and that we were close to reaching our goal of 12K by the end of the night. She noted that a final update would be shared out in Newsletters and the Principal's Peek. Roy Carter thanked Joanna Lower for her work on the Giving Campaign and thanked David Jarmon for his outlook, positivity, and for leading with optimism.

### **Adjourn**

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.