

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

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

Guests: Jessica Glenn, Beth Meyer, Laurie Grant, Peter Antognetti, Kristen Kevorkian, iPhone, Warren, Michael Wood, Lauren Mclaughlin, Rachel Morton, Eugenia Gwynn, Kristen Lowe, Chris, Yvonne Jackson.

Leila Villaverde called the meeting to order at 5:42 pm (late due to technical difficulties).

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve minutes (February 13 and March 7). Roy Carter motioned to approve the minutes, Jeannette Alarcon seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

David Jarmon reported that last Tuesday, March 12th that he accompanied by Board members presented our academic plan to the Office of Charter Schools and DPI. This presentation was required due to the school being in Low-Performing status. The presentation went well, and they were impressed by what was presented. They advised us that we are moving in the right direction.

This Thursday, March 12th, we are hosting Open House for prospective families. Open House will be held from 4:00 until 6:00. Admin staff will present a short presentation at 4:00 and 5:00 respectively and parents will be allowed to visit the various Houses. We are hoping for a good turnout!

We have designated Friday, May 11th as "Moving Up Day." This day will be a day full of events. We will have House visits by students moving up to the next grade. Mr. Jarmon is doing a DJ workshop for the class that raised money from the most states during our Giving Campaign. All students will take part in the Jammin' with Jarmon celebration from 12:30 until

2:30. We have secured Kona Ice to be on site treating all students to an Ice treat. The day will convene with the 7th and 8th grade dance in the school cafeteria.

The annual 360 Evaluation surveys have been shared with all families, parents, and students.

Curriculum and Instruction Highlights

Kindergarten – Students are excited to learn all about the Scientific Method. They will be doing exciting experiments that help them learn all about the scientific method.

1-2 House – Our students are beginning a unit on the marketplace. Kids are excited because they will have an opportunity to create a class store!

3-4 House – The students were honored to have a guest speaker come to share her knowledge of the Refugee crisis. The speaker was Dr. Diya Abdo, a founder, author, lecturer and TESH parent! Students are now researching the Refugee crisis as they are studying a unit on Civil/Human Rights.

5-6 House – Students in the 5/6 House have been having lessons and discussions on the history of slavery. The teachers have talked about the resilience of those who survived and how thankful we are for learning about significant parts of our culture and history. In a few weeks, the 5/6 House will be taking a field trip to the Greensboro History Museum.

7-8 House – Teachers have introduced the students to terms such as racism, diversity, identity, and discrimination. These terms were defined and discussed which has led to very interesting discussions of how we are affected by the actions of these terms daily. Students have been creating study guides that prepare them for assessments. Students are finding this very helpful and a great strategy to use for performing well academically.

Tutoring (Grades 3-8)

Our tutorial program began Monday, Dec. 11th. Select students receive tutoring 2 days a week on Mondays and Tuesdays. Students are not tutored on 1st Monday and 1st Tuesday to allow teachers to attend Leadership Team meeting and Staff meeting.

The Arts

Garden Arts – K-2 students have crafted seed balls. They are looking forward to unveiling the shared garden beds to see what's growing! 3-6 grade students have been engaged in creating mini gardens. It's exciting to look in the beds and see labels with students' names and what they are growing. 7th and 8th graders have started creating compost campaigns and are about to begin their final gardening project.

Visual Art – This month they are celebrating the art and accomplishments of Alma Thomas, an African-American artist, teacher, and major American painter of the 20th century. Students have done various painting techniques inspired by Thomas. Students in 7/8 have created small portfolios of their work!

Music – K-2 students are learning about solfege! 3-6 students finished a unit on "Music during the Civil Rights" where they learned "We Shall Overcome." 7-8 students have been creating interviews for the radio station and continuing to learn to play songs on the ukelele.

Theatre - Students in 5/6 have been working on the fundamentals of puppetry. They are writing and preparing to perform their own puppet shows! Students in 7/8 have been working on a unit

called living newspaper where they write and perform scenes based around current events in the U.S. while also raising awareness about the current events.

Movement / Dance – Students in K-2 are beginning to learn about choreography where they also create it. Students in 3-8 are doing the same; however, they are also researching videos to assist in the creation and learning of their choreography.

Student Services Updates

- Backpack Beginnings continues to provide meals for families each week. This is on-going each week for needy families.
- Mrs. Oliver has been visiting Houses and providing SEL lessons to students.
- Morning care continues to be a resource for families.

Bennett College Experiential Residency (BCER) Program Proposal

Bennett College has proposed a Teacher Residency program that is aimed at preparing teachers and retaining teachers here at TESH. The program would focus on project-based learning and experiential education. The program would prepare the students for taking the state licensure exam and completing the necessary portfolio for full licensure at the end of their experience.

The Bennett College students would be taking courses, one day per week on the partnering school site (TESG) over the course of the school year. For 3 days of the week, students would work alongside a mentor teacher, functioning as a teacher's assistant during the fall. There would be a gradual release of responsibility that concludes with full teaching responsibilities at the end of the program. The 5th day of the week is at the discretion of the school administration. Mentor teachers would include the residency students in lesson planning, active instruction, shared duties and all functions of the assigned classroom. They would participate in all staff functions just as employees do (meetings, events, conferences, PD, etc...).

Bennett college students will be assigned a supervisory team consisting of the college supervisor, school ED, and mentor teacher. The team would meet with the residents once per month or as needed during the year.

Courses:

Fall - Foundations of Reading, Teaching Math in K-6 Classrooms, Intro to Exceptional Children
At the end of the fall semester, residents will take the state licensure exam and Praxis Math Content Knowledge Test.

Spring - Classroom and Behavior Management, Curriculum Planning, Resident Teaching Practicum (student teaching).

At the end of the spring semester, students will submit their portfolios for approval by the state licensure office at DPI. All courses are taught by Bennett College faculty.

For the first year of the program, Bennett has grant funds to provide the residents with stipends as well as a stipend for the Mentors (\$3000 in 2 installments fall/spring), as well as faculty for courses and PD for all staff over the course of the school year.

With Board approval, Bennett College would begin recruiting residents during the spring and summer of 2024, prepare the MOU and other pertinent paperwork and be prepared to begin the program during the 1st week of the 24-25 school year.

Enrollment

David Jarmon reported current enrollment as 254 students and opened for questions.

Leila Villaverde asked David Jarmon when we could expect the paperwork from Bennett. David Jarmon responded that we received the proposal and with board approval, then they would proceed with paperwork. Roy Carter asked David Jarmon if he has met their staff and faculty. David Jarmon responded that he has only engaged with the person who oversees the current interns and that he has a meeting on April 2 to do a walk through at their location for the 8th grade celebration. Carl Lashley asked when we would vote on the proposal. Leila Villaverde clarified that a vote is not needed, that we already have MOUs with institutions of higher education and a standing one with Bennett. It would just need to be revised accordingly. Jeannette Alarcon asked what the difference is between the current MOU we have with Bennett and this one. David Jarmon responded that with the new one, the students would operate as staff, as extra personnel on site preparing to be licensed teachers. Jeanette Alarcon clarified, so moving to a residency model. David Jarmon concurred and indicated that of 10 HBCUs Bennett was 1 of 6 chosen to do this. Also, the current interns are not all seeking licensure, they are not necessarily teacher ed majors. Leila Villaverde thanked David Jarmon for the information and indicated that they could field any outstanding questions and that it sounded like a great opportunity, and we are eager to continue a partnership with Bennett.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no standing committee reports.

Old Business

1. Approve 2024-2025 calendar.

Leila Villaverde shared that the calendar had been revised following board review and feedback and had been on the website for public comment. Joanna Lower asked if there was any feedback from the public since posting to the website. David Jarmon indicated there had been none other than just wanting it approved so that families could make plans. Joanna Lower motioned to approve the 2024-2025 calendar, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Leila Villaverde shared that the next order of business was a motion to go into closed session. She explained that closed session was only for board members and that guests could either log off or wait in the waiting room until we returned to open session.

1. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a prospective employee in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Fred Adams motioned to go into closed session, Jeannette Alarcon seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried

unanimously. We entered closed session at 6:03 pm and returned to open session at 6:52 pm.

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

Announcements

Roy Carter shared that he was extending an invitation to TESHG Arts program to visit the Senior Show at A&T Art Gallery. The show begins April 11 and runs through May 11. He noted that the on campus early childhood program has already visited and encouraged the arts team to come over. To make arrangements to visit with a class reach out to Lisa Phillips to schedule and Dr. Hooker has been leading the tours, introducing the student work and having conversations about the themes they may be seeing.

Motion to Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn, Jeannette Alarcon motioned to adjourn, Fred Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.