

**Board of Directors of Exploris Middle School
meeting 2013 Apr 16 , 4pm at the school**

attending: Liz Baird, Frank McKay, Tammi Garceran (PTO rep), Kendall Hageman, Susan Johnston, Sean Gargan, Karen Barlow, Barrett Koster, Summer Clayton (director EMS), Kathleen Evans, Anne Franklin, Bob Whitehead

approval of previous minutes: postponed next time due to technical difficulties.

Welcome to Bob, new Board member.

Visit to Evergreen. Karen Barlow reports. ... (with Karen R.)

The school is very popular, 408 students, 600 applicants for 20 slots (the rest already taken by siblings).

Five things stuck out for her:

1. K-8, she likes it, likes the layers, variety of faces.
2. They lucked into a great space, 10 acres, trails, gym, gardens, outdoor ovens. Younger kids need a defined classroom; older kids do better with what we have here.
3. staffing, they have people for everything. ... including development director. But they are not paid particularly well.
4. EL model, teachers do their own thing. Minimal collaboration. (But Evergreen does keep the sense of community even though the larger size and class spread).

EL = Expeditionary Learning. This is really a fac-dev model. (EL is a non profit org. that does this, you buy a package and the org brings in some training ...)

Also, everything is for sale there. They have constant fundraisers, fees for clubs and all sorts of stuff. A little charge for day care if you drop your kids off early. All of the projects create a high quality product. Evergreen is like 47% poor, and still, with EL, they are doing great. Other EL schools in cities and such ... are doing this project based learning and getting results.

5. Environmental focus

Financial report - Kathleen

The projected deficit has been reduced from \$39K to \$20K. This is primarily due to documented time that Summer spent on EC activities being covered under federal monies. In May, Summer and Kathleen will meet with Tom Williams from Acadia to work on the 2014 budget. Items that need to be factored into next year's budget are more tech support, EC support and alarm/intercom system. State teachers salary has increased 1.2%, so Board will need to consider this. The PTO has graciously offered to cover the cost of the Strategic Plan (\$6,000).

consent agenda

Anne motion, Barry 2nd. approved unanimously (the following items:)

- Approval of Monthly Financials
- Accept resignation of Mary Miller, Exceptional Children's Teacher
- Accept resignation of Zach Angle, PE/Wellness Teacher
- Approve hiring of Vaishali Patel as 8th grade teacher for 2013-2014

Announcements

Kendall has generated a **new packet for new board members**. THANKS!!!
discussion of policies and such:

Q: do we have an attorney who reviews our policy? Bob - just filter out the questions and send to an attorney. Tammi - would the local center for non-profits help? Can we get a discount lawyer?
Or can we use the Assoc (which we haven't joined yet)?

Strategic planning (Liz, Summer).

We just did SWOT analysis. We are doing well, getting close to deliverable.

The biggest thing is facilities. Hedgehog (our current leaser) needs space so should be willing to make a deal to get us out.

Empire Properties hosted the Board for lunch -- was good.

They believe in us being downtown.

Strategic plan might be ready for May Board meeting?

Educational Excellence. - Summer

We should have this committee get going. This is our top product, and we can't even say what it really is. Use EVAS scores as needed, doesn't have to be whole new creation. But we do need an improvement plan.

Barry - start meetings in July (after strategic plan delivery).

Graduation is June 5.

Next meeting May 21 ... will be Karen B's last. Bob and Kendall will miss it.

This will also be Tammi's last meeting as PTO pres (next year's pres is Sheryl Rogers, Christy Tomlinson the year after that).

Frank - on activities

This week 6th grade to Cape Lookout, 7th to DC. next week

8th grade to outward bound. 8th grade may 2 there will be service learning presentations ... at the museum. 11am
Frank's group will be presenting at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center.
May 2 also?. Juliana's bridge building group won at State, \$500.

adjourn 6:02