

**Exploris Middle School
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 21, 2012
4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Liz Baird
Kathleen Evans
Sean Gargan
Matt Friedrich
Karen Barlow
Kendall Hageman
Dave Currens
Barry Koster

EMS Staff Present:

Summer Clayton

PTO Representative

Present:

Tammi Garceran

Board Members Absent:

Traci Linton
Susan Johnston

Exploris Middle School's Mission is *"To create a challenging and supportive learning community that engages each student in understanding and building a connected, just, and sustainable world."*

RESULTS OF VOTES

- **Budget** - The projected budget for the next fiscal year was approved.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 by Liz Baird. The board decided to postpone consideration of the June minutes until the next meeting, since there are no hard copies available.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Restructuring of Board Committees** - Sean passed out a set of recommendations for new committees. The proposed structure included Governance, Finance, Marketing, Academic Excellence, and Development committees, and the handout detailed each committee's responsibilities. Official votes on the new committee structure will be made in September or October.
- **Marketing**
 - **EMS Video:** Sean shared a new four-minute video promoting Exploris, which will be used for the website and general marketing purposes.
 - **Facebook:** The board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having an official Facebook page, and how such a site could be managed. Liz asked that Summer create a Facebook page and decide how to manage it.

- **Trademark Update:** The trademark application for the "Exploris" name was denied because of similarities with another name. The board decided that continuing to explore the trademark at this time would not be worth the time.

PRESENTATIONS / NEW BUSINESS

- **NC Alliance Board Structures and Protocol** - Summer discussed her meeting with the NC Alliance and made suggestions that the Board consider what outside organizations, such as the NC Alliance or the DPI might be able to provide in terms of Board training and resources.
- **Fundraising (Pass the Hat) / Development Director** - Kathleen, Summer, Sean, Kristi (PTO) and others have made a goal of \$50,000 for the Pass the Hat campaign, which it has been determined is now a school-centered fundraiser instead of a PTO fundraiser. Kathleen suggested a new approach, where each Board member makes 20 phone calls in September to parents to ask about how the year is going and to ask for donations. These phone calls would have suggested talking points that can help the callers.
- **Equal Access / Bible Study discussion** - Summer discussed an Equal Access federal law that prohibits schools from leading clubs that prohibit membership on religious or other exclusive natures. She mentioned a Bible Study club that she has directed a faculty member to discontinue, citing Equal Access laws.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kathleen shared a document that Tom Williams created that compares 2012 and 2013 finances. She showed that there is a need to raise approximately \$66,000 to meet projected expenses this school year.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Hiring of consultant to lead Strategic Planning Process** - Summer discussed hiring John Friedrich to lead the strategic planning process, and acknowledged that the applicant is related to one of the Board members. He would meet with the Board, faculty, and parents, and would work approximately two days per week for up to three years. The Board discussed the need for a work proposal or contract with stated deliverables before making any long-term commitments, and whether there would be value to getting bids from other people. There were also questions about how much time would really be needed for strategic planning and whether the position may lead into a capital campaign position. The Board decided to wait to vote until there were stated deliverables available.
- **Teacher Pay Increase / Bonus** - The legislature increased Average Daily Membership by 1.2% per student with the goal of raising teacher pay. The Board voted to give bonuses of \$1000 per teacher, based on criteria to be determined.

- **Selection of Officers for 2012-2013 School Year** - Because of time constraints, the Board tabled discussion of officer selection.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board voted to go into executive session at 6:12.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 6:29pm.