REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXPLORIS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 4:30 PM

Exploris is a learning community that engages students in a rigorous, relevant, relationship-based education. This is done through experimental, project-based learning that empowers students to build a connected, just and sustainable world.

Minutes

Voting Members: James Gerdts (Chairperson) – present
Kendall Hageman (Vice Chairperson) – present
Mike Fields (Treasurer) – present
Tom Miller (Secretary) – present
Cal Cunningham – not present
Anne Franklin – present
Bob Kingery – present
Alfred Mays – present
Keely Nichols-Byars – present
Brooke Somers (PTO President) – present

Non-Voting Members: Summer Clayton (Executive Director) – present
Ann-Marie Taranto (Faculty Representative) – present
Candice Robinson (Amanuensis) – present

I. Call to Order & Welcome
Minutes: James Gerdts called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda
Minutes: Brooke Somers made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Anne Franklin 2nd the motion. All in favor and no opposed. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes from June’s Meeting (pushed from July’s agenda)
Minutes: Bob Kingery made a motion to approve the June’s meeting minutes. Anne Franklin 2nd the motion. All in favor and no opposed with Tom Miller abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
Minutes: Mike Fields mad a motion to approve the August 5, 2015 meeting minutes. Bob Kingery 2nd the motion. All in favor and no opposed with Tom Miller abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

V. Presentation by Robbie Ferris of SFL+A
Minutes: Robbie Ferris handed out a pamphlet to the Board for review. Robbie’s firm focuses on energy and privatization of the design build. SFL+A specializes in educational facilities that are energy efficient. Sandy Grove Middle School(approx.. 85,000 square feet with maximum of 800 students) in Hoke County is a 30 year lease project with the option for Hoke County to purchase the school after 5 years. With a lease option, Robbie’s firm maintains the large mechanical components during the lease. School is responsible for the daily maintenance of the facility. The financial components of Sandy Grove Middle School have a 0% interest loan, $0.00 electric bill, and $4.2 million tax credit (used low wealth funds from state). There are next steps for Exploris if they decide to move forward with SFL+A. Each project is set up as a separate LLC. Discussion of mix usage development and would be further discussed at a later date.
VI. Report from the Executive Director
Minutes: Summer updated Board that the school has an enrollment of 424 students. Summer introduced new hires of two (2) K-1 Teachers, 4-5 Teacher (CASM award winner), four (4) Teacher Assistants. Staff had a group professional development on engagement, norms, and further development on instructional planning with the Buck Institute from Atlanta. Summer also updated that our visitors from Japan are here this week. Staff and parents have stepped up to welcome them and take to lunch and dinner. Also, Instructional Coach was hired for 50% time and will begin in September 1, 2015. Summer addressed a question from Tom Miller in regards to finances.

VII. Report from the Faculty Representative
Minutes: Ann-Marie noted that it has been a positive beginning of school. The elementary school are in combined classrooms, K/1, 2/3, and 4/5.

VIII. Report from the PTO President
Minutes: Brooke updated a November picnic with a scavenger hunt to get to. October 14, 2015 is the Adult Social. November 21, 2015 will be the Craft Fair at the Middle School with priority to students to fundraise for Outward Bound, then parents, then outside vendors with 10% discount. Brooke noted that the PTO has a $10K reserve for equipment budget and Summer will get with Brooke to discuss school needs.

IX. Committee Reports
   A. School Development (Bob Kingery)
      Minutes: Bob noted that school is waiting for a final contract. Once contract is signed, there needs to be a decision on build to own or go with lease-own option. Bob would like to have a vote next Board meeting on the decision of the vendor. Alfred request a summary of pros/cons of each option prior to vote next month.

   B. Governance (Kendall Hageman)
      Minutes: Kendall is meeting with James and Summer to understand the role of the committee. Kendall asked for Tom to join the committee due to his background.

   C. Educational Excellence (Anne Franklin)
      Minutes: Anne noted that the committee did not meet over the summer. They will be meeting next Thursday to discuss a job description for the Executive Director. Frank McKay and Anne Franklin have been talking about expanding the diversity of our faculty and student population. There are interested in looking into a weighted lottery and approaching the state again about the policy in regards to the lottery. Alfred offered input on the diversity and marketing tools.

   D. Communications, Advocacy, and Marketing (Alfred Mays)
      Minutes: Alfred gave an update on a communication plan to include the website. There has been a hindrance in regards to finance the initiative. The committee has done a shift in change to work in conjunction with Philanthropy and Technical staff to become more integrated with the other committees. They will provide review, feedback, and consistent message from the school and in the marketing materials. Alfred wanted to know what extent that Capital Development is involved in creating messaging and Summer clarified that the contract provides guidance but does not create materials.

   E. Finance (Mike Fields)
      Minutes: Mike explained that approve Budget one time a year and actual each month with a balance sheet to include the reserves. Mike proposed this change and James Gerdts asked Tom Miller to check the bi-laws. Mike also recommended a description of each line item in order for Board to understand what is charged against. Mike also asked the 2013-2014 Audit be shared with the Board and encourage them to review the Audit. Anne
made a motion for Treasure to give a monthly report based on the financials. Keely 2nd the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

1. Approval of June’s Financials (pushed from July’s agenda)
Minutes: Mike reviewed the June financials. There was a surplus of $143K.

2. Approval of July’s Financials
Minutes: Mike reviewed the July financials. The state has still not approved a budget, but the school will receive 34% of the ADM from 14-15 school year until a budget is approved at the state level.

X. Unfinished Business
Minutes:

A. Annual Schedule of Board Meetings
Minutes: Currently, Board meetings are 4th Tuesday of the month from 4:30pm – 6pm. Discussion of later meeting time. James Gerdts will survey Board for meeting date and time. At this time, the next Board meeting will be September 22, 2015 from 4:30pm-6pm.

B. Status of School’s Legal Name Change
Minutes: Summer has completed the paperwork. Cal Cunningham reviewed the paperwork. Candice will take to the Department of the Secretary of State and file the paperwork.

XI. New Business
Minutes:

A. Review of Non Disclosure Agreement
Minutes: Not needed for Board members and discuss in closed session.

B. Approval of New Hires
Minutes: Summer explained the anti-nepotism policy in regards to hiring immediate family as defined by the General Statue. Summer disclosed that her partner, Rachael Clayton, was hired as a Teaching Partner for the 2015-2016 school year. Summer has disclosed the information to the DPI. Cal made a motion to accept the hire of Rachael Clayton. Bob Kingery 2nd the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

XII. Public Comment
Minutes: None

XIII. Upcoming Agenda
Minutes: None

XIV. Adjourn
Minutes: James Gerdts made a Motion to Adjourn at 6:17pm. Bob Kingery 2nd the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Notes: