

**Exploris Middle School**  
Meeting of the **Board** of Directors  
**January 17, 2012** 4:00 p.m.  
Exploris Middle School, Raleigh, NC

***Board Members Present:***

Liz Baird, chair  
Karen Barlow  
Kathleen Evans  
Tammi Garceran  
Sean Gargan  
Kendall Hageman  
Susan Johnston  
Barry Koster, recording  
Tracy Linton  
Dave Currens

***EMS Staff Present:***

Kevin Piacenza  
Leah Perry

***PTO rep. present:***

Nicole Feeny

***Board Members Absent:***

Matt Friedrich  
Tim Martin (tried to phone  
in)  
Fiona O'Sullivan  
Laura Newman  
Jenne Mondry

visiting parents: Betsy Bennett, Aranzazu Lascurain, and about 5 others.

The meeting started just after 4pm and we **approved the minutes from 2011 Dec 13.**

The parents were here to discuss coming changes in **Wake County's feeder patterns** that treat charter school students like strangers when trying to get into their neighborhood high schools. A few (2 or 3) parents have pulled their kids out of Exploris to get them into desired feeder patterns. We at Exploris are trying to work within the whole public school system, but we have some practical and philosophical problems with seniority systems that cut us out. The Exploris Board decided (formally) to write a letter noting our concerns and have Liz deliver it to Tata in person if possible. The PTO can do whatever it wants independently. We considered trying to join forces with a number of other parties, but there does not seem to be time to coordinate that.

Sonja and Andrea presented a change to the **calendar** that would add a week to spring and fall breaks (a "modified normal" calendar, don't say "year-'round"! ). This would cause school to start a week sooner and end a week later. The motivation is to allow teachers time to do assessments from previous quarter and prep for coming quarter. The Board decided to go ahead and make the changes as a draft calendar (for 2012-2013 year) to be sent out to parents for comments. Some people already may have summer plans that conflict (Leah?) ... we'll just have to deal.

The **search** committee reports moving forward, with ads for Kevin's replacement going out Feb 1. If you know of a good place to post such ads, let Sean know.

Other committee reports are now done ahead of time, so there is action on some fronts that will not be in these minutes. We ran out of time to discuss items that probably do need some of our attention, such as the idea of replacing the leaving language teacher with Rosetta Stone Software.

**Next Board meeting 2012 Feb 21, 4PM. Adjourn (around 5:30)**