

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXPLORIS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
4:00 PM

It is the mission of Exploris Middle School to create a challenging and supportive learning community that engages each student in understanding and building a connected, just, and sustainable world.

Board Members Present:

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

EMS Staff Present:

Summer Clayton
Frank McKay

Board Members Absent:

PTO Representative Present:

Visitors/Presenters
Kristen Hoyle (Thomas, Judy, and Tucker, P.A.)

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Liz Baird called the meeting together at 4:03.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

The meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES from December 11, 2012

The meeting minutes from December were approved unanimously with one change (adding Karen Barlow to the absent board members list).

RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER

Matt Friedrich announced that due to family and work commitments he will be stepping down from the Board.

PRESENTATIONS

Financial Audit presentation by Kristen Hoyle of Thomas, Judy, and Tucker, P.A.

Kristen Hoyle shared the audit report that her firm conducted on Exploris, and highlighted various sections of the report, which was sent to the Local Government Commission (State Treasurer's office), and has been approved there. It will then be forwarded to DPI and the Office of Charter Schools, where they will retain the document. DPI will only take action if there is a

finding that they consider significant. Based on board member questions, Kristen clarified that there is no legal problem to operating with a deficit, as long as we have financial reserves and a plan for how to minimize the deficit.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financials Update

Kathleen summarized the current financial statement that was emailed to board members. Pass the Hat had a higher return than last year, possibly because of the multi-pronged approach that was taken. Approximately 75-80% of parents contributed, and 100% of the board. There is still an expected deficit of around \$40,000 for this year.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Monthly Financials - the board approved the financial statements shared.

Approval of Hire of Vaishali Patel as Part-time Teacher Assistant - the board approved this hire.

Action:

Sean shared a summary of strategic plan proposals that included summarized submissions from six people/organizations. Proposals included a projection of work and a projected budget. They ranged from \$6000 to around \$15,000. The board discussed advantages and disadvantages of the various applicants. Barry, Susan, Liz, and Summer, as well as a teacher and possibly a parent TBD, will work with the final applicant.

Barry made a motion that the Board hire Executive Service Corps. The motion was seconded and approved. Liz will get in touch with ESC and other applicants to let them know about the decision.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS

Committee Updates

Governance - Kendall shared the progress of the Governance Committee and upcoming tasks, and shared meeting minutes from the January committee meeting.

Fundraising - Karen shared that there have been several requests for financial support from families, but fewer than in previous years.

Academic Excellence - Sean asked about whether the board would like to begin meeting, and work might include input on the school improvement plan and measurable outcomes against which the school would be measured. The board discussed whether the strategic planning process might advise

part of this work.

Selection of New Board Member

Liz will send out an email to previous applicants to re-open the selection process.

Human Resources - Hiring and Firing Protocols

Based on a presentation by Tom Miller last month, Summer asked about the board's authority to hire and fire employees (both Summer and other staff) vs. Summer's authority to do so. Discussion centered on whether Summer has the authority to make hiring and firing decisions absent formal board approval. The board committed to Summer that as long as the school has the financial means to hire employees and legal rationale for making employment decisions, we will support her employment decisions.

NEXT MEETING:

February 19, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 6:11pm.

Minutes Taken By: Matt Friedrich