Exploris Middle School
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 18, 2011
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**Board Members Present:**
Liz Baird
Matt Friedrick
Susan Johnston
Tim Martin
Tracy Linton
Karen Barlow
Kendall Hageman
Barry Koster

**EMS Staff Present:**
Kevin Piacenza
Frank McKay

**Board Members Absent:**
Emmanuel Oritsejafor
Sean Gargan
Tammi Garceran
Dave Currens

**PTO Representative Present:**

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."

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES**
The meeting was called to order at 4:09 by Liz Baird. Two new board members, Kendall Hageman and Barry Koster joined the board for their first meeting and introduced themselves.

**CONSIDERATIONS OF MINUTES FROM 9/27/11**
Susan made a motion to approve and Tracy seconded. The meeting minutes from September were approved as written.

**SCHOOL UPDATE**
- Frank McKay reported on the North American Association of Environmental Educators conference, which happened in Raleigh recently. EMS was involved in this conference as a site visit. EMS 8th grade students presented to 50 participants at the wetlands center. Two groups of educators (26 total) visited EMS for site visits, in which students talked about EMS approaches. As outcomes, students have been invited to present in Oakland next year for the next conference, connections with a teacher in Hawaii, and connections to the Evergreen Charter School in Asheville. Frank related his discussions about Evergreen’s financial approaches, including a 1:24 student:teacher ratio K-8, while still using project-based learning. Evergreen increased their student population recently to deal with budget cuts, and fared the economic downturn better as a result. The Director of Education at the National Association of Environmental Education suggested that Exploris look at offering project-based learning workshops for teachers. He suggested that
the academic committee of the board consider how they could move this idea forward. Some visitors to the school asked about what the school needs to move forward, and Frank mentioned several possibilities including iPads, SmartBoards, and talked about our need for a building. The board briefly talked about establishing a standing wishlist that could live on our website.

- The school’s audit team, which oversees teacher certification, financial issues, special needs reports for the school, conducted their regular audit on the school recently, which passed fine.
- Kevin announced that in June he will be retiring. He has not yet announced his decision to the faculty or the larger school community. The board will put together a search committee and an interview team. Kevin has put together a job description about what he does, which the school will use in the search. Kevin feels that with the strong administrative assistant that the school has now, the next director can continue to lead financial and instructional development for the school.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Liz handed out a list of committees and members.

**Marketing**
Sean sent an email for Liz to read, which said that the committee is:
- Working on content for designer
- Considering partnerships with Citifabric professional that might be able to print t-shirts inexpensively for the school or even contribute to theme projects for the school

**Facilities**
Tim shared an architectural blueprint of the school that he had made, which would allow the school to begin looking at ways to build new soundproofing into the building and begin looking at further options for use of space and green technologies. Tim shared a one-pager showing the existing usable space available to the school, as well as what the school would ideally need.

**Administration**
Kevin met with Tammi about the personnel handbook after the last meeting, and Dave is taking a look at the image release form. These two documents are nearing completion.

**Marketing**
The Fuqua School of Business partnership discussed in the previous meeting is going to move forward. There are two business students from Duke that will make administrative suggestions for the school through this program.

**ADJOURN**
The meeting adjourned at 5:07p.m. The next meeting will take place at the school on November 15.