

MINUTES

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2021

AMY RICHARDS & ANDY FAUGHT, CO-CHAIRS

Members in Attendance: Melissa Burton, Andy Faught, Jay Ferguson, Amy Richards, Charles Webb, Allison Wootson, Kim Mallory, Toni Fitzgerald

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Clay, Marsha Edwards, Stephanie Jarrett-Thorpe, Jim Leckrone, and Chris Reynolds

Call to Order: Co-Chair Amy Richards called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Transportation Update

Chris Reynolds provided an update on Wise Coach and their breach of contract and Grey Line's effort to find busses. The biggest challenge at this point in hiring bus drivers. Both Jim and Stephanie weighed in with sharing parent's concerns and emotions over the transportation crisis. Bass Berry is pursuing our legal recourse against Wise.

Finance Report

Chris shared the year-end financials for both East End and Explore with the Council. EEP's operating budget was small (\$45k), preliminary YE operating surplus is \$1M, and the LOC is at zero. FY20-21 was the strongest year in Explore's history with a strong cash position and the Line of Credit also at zero. Discussion ensued regarding legal action against Wise.

Principal's Reports

East End Prep

Jim Leckrone began with the current challenges the school is facing as they enter this new school year, including experiencing include:

- **Transportation:** Parents are frustrated by lack of buses.
- **Enrollment:** Lower than expected enrollment in our youngest grades across charter schools. EEP was able to bring students off the waitlist in upper grades to help meet enrollment target. He shared this enrollment report:

Grade	Count
K	85
1	87
2	87
3	108
4	103
5	99
6	88
7	87
8	92
Totals	836

- **Covid:** A few staff members and students have had to quarantine, and as last year, this will be of concern in the months to come.

EEP goals for the '21-'22 school year include:

- Families will score EEP above the national average on the Insight Survey.
- K-2: 85% of students will meet the vision of excellence for *Kids Listening to Kids*
- 3-5: 90% of students will show they're listening and doing the heavy lifting; In a daily lesson, 90% of students will be able to accurately articulate and demonstrate key points of the lesson
- 6-8: 90% of students will show they're listening and doing the heavy lifting; 90% of students produce high quality student work

Explore! Community School

Stephanie Jarrett-Thorpe shared the highlights of the new school year including:

- Launching Middle School!
- Family/Community Engagement
- Family and Student Orientations
- Student Enrollment: Budgeted=540 Actual=566

Similar to EEP, the current challenges at Explore are centered around the transportation issue and COVID-related absences among students and staff. Of special note, there is a growing concern on Explore's employee shortage. The Council discussed ways we can attract new teachers by offering flexibility in work hours, job sharing, and raising teacher's wages to meet the rising cost of living.

After hearing the principal's reports, conversation shifted to learning loss in the previous school year. In particular, concentration will be placed on math and science proficiencies. The Council also discussed the effect gentrification has had in the East Nashville area. More and more families are being forced to move out of this neighborhood to seek more affordable housing outside of the city.

Before wrapping up, preferences on whether to continue holding School Advisory Council meetings virtually versus in-person were sought. All were in favor of meeting via Zoom at this time.

With no further business, the meeting was called to a close by Amy Richards and adjourned at 9:05 am.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2021