



Endeavor Board Meeting Agenda: February 15, 2022

7:00 PM in the Auditorium and via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85926333534?pwd=UIYwTzRFdDYrb0dJK28zZkoxQzgvUT09>

Present:

Board Member	Position	Committee	Term Start	Term Ending	Present
Open Seat Start:	Member	RDC	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	
Jaclyn Parks Start: 4/8/2019	Member	RDC (Chair)	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	Yes
Bill Kroll Start: 5/19/2016	Chair	Finance	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	Yes
Chris DeRienzo Start: 2/23/2021	Member	Governance	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	Yes
Tracy DeMarco Start: 6/15/2017	Secretary	Governance (Chair)	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	Yes
Ashley Hicks Start: 6/15/2017	Member	RDC	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	Yes
Kim Keith Start: 5/25/2017	Vice-Chair	Governance	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	Yes
David Roy Start: 2/23/21	Member	Finance	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	No
Open Seat Start:	Member	RDC	7/1/2021	6/30/2024	
Israa Kanfoud Start: 6/12/2018	Treasurer	Finance (Chair)	7/1/2021	6/30/2024	Yes
Dustin Embrey Start: 2/23/2021	Member	RDC	7/1/2021	6/30/2024	Yes

Call to Order:

Bill Kroll

- Bill Kroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Mission Statement: Endeavor Charter School's mission is to engage K-8 students by integrating a challenging, hands-on academic program with multi-faceted fine arts courses in a familial environment.
- Vision 2018: Endeavor Charter School's vision is a community of educators and families working together to graduate students who are motivated and curious, capable and confident, and prepared to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Approval of Agenda:

Tracy DeMarco

- Tracy DeMarco moved to approve the February 15, 2022 Agenda. Chris DeRienzo seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Tracy DeMarco

- Tracy DeMarco moved to approve the January 18, 2022 Minutes. Kim Keith seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Board Update:

Bill Kroll

- Bill Kroll reported that the Foundation Board is working to finalize a number of tasks related to the new building construction project, including replacing lights in theater lobby, adding display cabinets in connector hallway, and resolving leaks in the auditorium lobby.
- Bill also praised the addition of framed class pictures in the main lobby.

PAWS Update:

Amanda Ford

- Amanda Ford reported that PAWS has been working to prepare for the upcoming book fair that will take place the week of March 20th.
- PAWS is currently wrapping up sales for the 2021-2022 yearbook as well as 8th grade tribute pages. Orders will remain open through February 25th.
- The application period for PAWS teacher grants has recently closed. Amanda reported that sixteen (16) teachers applied for a grant. PAWS is in the process of reviewing applications, but hopes to be able to award each applicant with at least a portion of the grant money requested.
- Finally, Amanda reported that PAWS held a spirit night at Dairy Queen on February 10th. The event was a success, and Amanda thanked all who attended for supporting the School.

Committee Updates:

- Finance Committee

Israa Kanfoud

- Israa Kanfoud reported that the Finance Committee had no major updates to share with the Board. The budget remains on track for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Israa announced that the School needs to renew its contract with its auditor. Israa explained that the Finance Committee has been very happy with the work of the School's current auditor, Rebecca Vaughn, and recommends retaining her for another year.

- **Israa Kanfoud moved to approve Rebecca Vaughn as the School's auditor for the 2022 calendar year. Kim Keith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

- Governance Committee

Tracy DeMarco

- Updates to NCDHHS StrongSchools Toolkit and Face Covering Policy
 - Tracy DeMarco explained that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") updated its StrongSchools Toolkit on February 10, 2021, to go into effect on February 21, 2021. The new guidance **removes** the recommendation to quarantine asymptomatic individuals after exposure to Covid-19 regardless of vaccination status or masking. Tracy asked Chris DeRienzo to explain the Governance Committee's recommendation for amendments to the Face Covering Policy.
 - Chris DeRienzo began by explaining that he was speaking as both a physician and as a parent, but not on behalf of his employer, WakeMed. He

noted that, throughout the pandemic, the Board's two biggest priorities have been to (1) preserve the safety of the ECS community; and (2) keep as many healthy students in school as possible.

- With respect to the health and safety of the ECS community, Chris explained that there now exists multiple safe and effective vaccines available to all ECS student. Though he recognized that there is still no approved vaccine for children 4 and under, all teachers and students at ECS are vaccine eligible.
- Chris next explained that there are gradations in mask efficacy by type, with N95 masks offering the greatest protection, and cloth masks offering a lesser amount of protection. He also noted that N95 masks provide protection for the wearer against Covid-19.
- As Chris explained, all previous toolkits have required schools to quarantine unvaccinated, unmasked students exposed to Covid-19 for 5-10 days. To avoid the need to quarantine otherwise healthy students, the Board has maintained a mandatory indoor masking policy since the return to in-person learning in Fall 2020.
- In the latest version of the toolkit, there are two materially significant changes that impact quarantine requirements:
 - First, page 3 of Toolkit states that “individual contact tracing and exclusion from school of asymptomatic students is no longer recommended in schools.”
 - Page 15 of the toolkit speaks to the reasoning for that change: “While contact tracing has been an important tool for slowing the spread of COVID at earlier points in the pandemic and remains important in certain high-risk congregate settings, individual contact tracing is a less effective tool for responding to the pandemic at this phase in other settings due to several factors that include:
 - Emergence of variants with shorter incubation periods and more rapid transmission;
 - Most contagious periods prior to symptom onset and during the first few days of illness; large number of asymptomatic and less severe cases;
 - Many infections are never identified by public health agencies because persons with asymptomatic or mild cases may not get tested as well as the increasing use of over the counter at-home tests;
 - Low proportion of all infections being detected or reported to public health during the time when people are in their most infectious time period.”
- Chris noted that the Governance Committee has engaged in a lot of discussions about how to implement the new Toolkit guidelines, and have

shared a revised version with of the Face Covering Policy for Board consideration. The proposed new policy states as follows:

Face Covering Policy

Students, staff, and visitors to the ECS campus are not required to wear a face covering on ECS grounds, including while indoors, unless one of the following exceptions (the “Exceptions”) applies:

- Any person who has tests positive for COVID-19 but does not show symptoms, must wear a face covering for five (5) days after returning to school following a five (5) day isolation period;
- Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 and shows symptoms of COVID-19, must wear a face covering after returning to school following the applicable isolation period until ten (10) days after the first day of symptoms; and
- Any person who shows symptoms of COVID-19 but does not test for COVID-19 must wear a face covering for five (5) days after returning to school following a five (5) day isolation period.

Students who must temporarily mask pursuant to an Exception shall not be required to wear a face covering during lunch or outdoor activities (e.g., recess, snack, outdoor lesson, etc.). ECS will keep a record of students who must wear a face covering pursuant to an Exception that will be made available to teachers and updated on a regular basis, and such masking will be enforced on the honor system. Any student found violating the face covering requirements set forth in the Exceptions following a positive COVID-19 test and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms in the absence of a negative test will be sent home to isolate for the remainder of the full 10-day isolation period.

All other students, staff, and visitors may choose to wear a face-covering on ECS grounds at their discretion. ECS staff is not responsible for enforcing the mask wearing of students whose families have chosen to continue masking on an optional basis.

- Kim Keith acknowledged that there are people who feel strongly on both sides of this issue. The Board’s job is to weigh all of the competing positions, the Toolkit guidance, and the School’s best interest. She noted that several Board members participated in a webinar with NCDHHS regarding the updated Toolkit before it was released to the public, and the Board values every bit of input that was shared with us.
- Bill Kroll explained that throughout the pandemic, the Board has adjusted school policies nimbly to reflect evolving guidance. If circumstances change, the Board will have an emergency meeting to address whatever need arises.
- Ashley Hicks noted that the Board received an email from a concerned parent who worried that if the school were to go mask optional, her child’s vaccination status would be revealed to the community because of the need to quarantine unvaccinated, but not vaccinated students. Kim Keith

confirmed that the School does not want anyone's vaccination status to be known by the rest of the community. That concern is addressed in the toolkit and the proposed Face Covering Policy as neither group is now required to quarantine.

- Chris DeRienzo confirmed that for school exposures, the toolkit no longer makes any distinction between vaccinated/unvaccinated, masked and unmasked in its quarantine requirements.
- Kim Keith underscored that teachers would not be expected to enforce the masking decisions of individual families. Students required to mask following a Covid-19 illness will be sent home to quarantine in the event of a failure to comply.
- Chris DeRienzo noted that the School expects students to treat fellow students empathetically.
- **Chris DeRienzo moved to approve the Face Covering Policy; Dustin Embrey seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.**

- Technology Policy

- Tracy DeMarco explained that Curriculum Coordinator Alison Hester drafted a Technology Policy for the Board's consideration that sets standards for use of the School's technology devices.
- **Tracy DeMarco moved to approve the Technology Policy. Kim Keith seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.**

- Title IX Policy

- Tracy DeMarco explained that the School recently became aware that it is required by law to adopt and maintain a Title IX policy. The Governance Committee recommended that the School engage attorney Lisa Gordon Stella to assist in drafting the policy.
- **Tracy DeMarco moved to approve Lisa Gordon Stella as the School's Title IX attorney.**

- Status of new Board Member Selection

- Tracy DeMarco reported that the Board's selection of new Board candidates has been delayed by the Board's consideration of recent updates to the StrongSchools Toolkit. The Board anticipates progressing the selection process over the coming weeks.

- Resource Development Committee

Jaclyn Parks

- Jaclyn Parks reported that the Resource Development Committee is gearing up for Stride for the Pride. The School is working with Boosterthon again to help run the process.
- Jaclyn next reported that the School has received an outpouring of generous donations toward the Annual Fund. The School's Annual Fund goal for the 2021-2022 school year is \$250k and donations are currently just under \$200k. Jaclyn thanked all ECS families and contributors for their support.
- Jaclyn noted that the 2022-2023 will be the School's 15th anniversary, and the Resource Development Committee is working with Lauren Manfreda to plan celebrations.

Director's Update:

Christi Whiteside

- Last Friday, ECS celebrated the Day of Ordinary People where each teacher focused on an ordinary person who positively impacted the world in some way. Students participated in a lot of unique activities throughout the day.
- Next week, ECS will launch its Legacy Lion contest where 8th graders can submit an original lion for permanent display in the ECS halls.
- ECS is preparing for March Mammal Madness and the launch of Junior National Honor Society, information about both of these will be coming soon!
- Winter sports season ended with the Varsity Boys Basketball team winning the conference tournament and the Varsity Girls Basketball team coming in a close second with a one point heart-breaker of an ending.
- Spring sports are underway!
- Staff committees have begun planning for the 2022-23 school year.
- ECS is currently interviewing to add a Special Education teacher to our staff and to fill our 8th grade SS position for next year.
- Yesterday morning's carpool was impacted by a truck that stalled and impacted the light cycle.

Public Comment:

- Jacob Potter – Jacob thanked the Board for its thoughtful decisions throughout the pandemic. He stated that his 1st grader has never been in school without a mask. She learned how to read through masks and had difficulty understanding the th sound and others, but was scared to speak up. He thanked the Board for its decision to remove the mandatory indoor masking requirement.
- Justin Rogers – Justin thanked the Board for its mask decision. As coach of the ECS baseball team, he asked whether the Board has ever considered building a baseball field or if the School would reconsider its no cut policy. Justin noted that with the growth of the School, it can be difficult to accommodate all interested students with the resources available. He noted that, in his view, middle school is a good time to learn to make a team and earn it.
- Amy Tharrington – Amy noted the burden she believes society has placed on elementary students who believe they are the reason people are getting sick. She asked that the School return to a policy where we trust families to keep sick kids home and allow healthy students to remain in school.
- Jason Hindman – Jason noted that his family would prefer the school to continue its former masking policy. He stated that his children feel safe at school with masks on. As a parent, Jason does not feel safe sending his children to school without community masking and he will be unenrolling his children from the School..
- Meredith Webster – Meredith thanked Board for all the work it has done over the last two years to open the new building and guide the School through the pandemic. She stated that her family is also in favor of continued community masking, but will support the Board's decision.

Closed Session:

- Bill Kroll moved to go into closed session at 8 p.m. Tracy DeMarco seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.
- Bill Kroll moved to go into open session at 8:15 p.m. Dustin Embrey seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Bill Kroll adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Bill Kroll