



Endeavor Board Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2023
7:00 PM via Zoom

Present:

Board Member	Position	Committee	Term Start	Term Ending	Present
Connie Atkinson Start: 3/15/2022	Member	Governance	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	No
Jaclyn Parks Start: 4/8/2019	Member	CDC (Chair)	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	Yes
Bill Kroll Start: 5/19/2016	Member	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
Vacant Start:	Member	CDC	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	N/A
Michael Gottlieb Start: 7/01/2022	Member	CDC	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	Yes
David Roy Start: 2/23/2021	Member	Finance	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	Yes
Alyssa Ruth Start: 3/15/2022	Member	CDC	7/1/2021	6/30/2024	Yes
Israa Kanfoud Start: 6/12/2018	Treasurer	Finance (Chair)	7/1/2021	6/30/2024	Yes
Dustin Embrey Start: 2/23/2021	Chair	--	7/1/2021	6/30/2024	Yes

Call to Order:

Dustin Embrey

- Dustin Embrey 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 March 6, 2023 Agenda. Dustin Embrey seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Admissions Policy

Tracy DeMarco

Tracy DeMarco explained that the new Board members selected on Wednesday have children who are signed up for the elementary lottery in non-kindergarten grades. After talking with Lara Rice, we understand that each elementary grade currently has an unusually long sibling waitlist (3-6ish kids per grade) that is a continuing result of our expansion.

The current ECS Admissions Policy prioritizes lottery applicants as follows:

1. Children of staff
2. Children of active Board members who have served more than 6 months
3. Siblings of current students
4. Children of active Board members who have served less than 6 months

Under the current policy, Lara thinks it highly unlikely that we would be able to get a new Board member's child into the 1st (currently 4 siblings in the lottery) or 2nd (currently 3 siblings in the lottery). There are no known available seats in either of those grades. Movement for non-kindergarten grades tends to happen towards the end of the year when families finalize plans for the next school year and/or promotion/retention decisions are made. That said, Lara said it would be unusual for the needed 4-5 spots to become available to admit new Board members kids. (Note, we didn't have this issue last year because Michael's kids were already at the school, Connie's kids had graduated, and Alyssa had a rising kindergartner).

NCGS 115C-218.45 sets forth the criteria a charter school may prioritize in admissions, including children of staff and Board members, so long as that group does not make up more than 15% of the total school population. The law is available here: https://www.ncleg.gov/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/bysection/chapter_115c/gs_115c-218.45.html

Looking at other charters in the area, both Franklin Academy and Envision admit children of staff and active Board members automatically (i.e. first priority and irrespective of other limitations like class size). Magellan, on the other hand, doesn't give any priority to Board members. In the past, I can recall at least one time that Christi asked us to waive class size limits to admit the child of a new teacher who was hired for the next school year, and the Board approved that.

Dustin, Bill, Israa and Tracy are recommending that the Board modify our Admissions Policy to allow automatic admission for children of active staff and Board members. We are making this recommendation for several reasons:

1. Offering children spots at the school is important to our ability to attract new members.
2. Having kids at the school (or who have been at the school) helps new Board members get up to speed faster on our community needs.
3. This language would allow our new members' kids to be admitted immediately even though there are no known open seats in 1st and 2nd. While this would create 2-3 classes with 21 for now, it would likely even back to 20 before the start of the next school year as families make decisions for next year and the school makes promotion / retention decisions in each grade.

There is obviously some unfairness to families who have been waiting more than a year to get their entire family at the school. Bill would like the Board to talk about whether and how we can address that in a separate discussion.

The Board discussed the proposed change and agreed it was an appropriate one.

Tracy DeMarco moved to approve the revised Admissions Policy. Dustin Embrey seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Board Size and Board Applicants

- The Board discussed that it would like to extend an additional offer to Heather Flynt. Heather's expertise as a CPA and Director of Finance and Operations fills a critical need, and the Board believes she would be an asset to the Finance Committee.
- Chris DeRienzo proposed amending the bylaws to allow up to 12 Board members. Tracy DeMarco expressed concern about expanding the Board's numbers, noting the recent expansion from 9-11 that the Board approved in 2021 to coincide with the expansion. Chris pointed out that the Board would not need to maintain 12 seats as additional members fall out, but the flexibility to go up to 12 will ensure that we do not lose out on excellent candidates like Heather.
- **Tracy DeMarco moved to amend the ECS Board bylaws to allow up to 12 Board Members. Dustin Embrey seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dustin Embrey moved to approve Heather Flynt as a new Board Member. Chris DeRienzo seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment:

Dustin Embrey adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Dustin Embrey