



Endeavor Board Meeting Agenda: July 2, 2020

7:00 PM Zoom Conference

Log-in Info:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79149596367?pwd=aGVtRkRyOXpGVkVjMG1sNDd3MjdmUT09>

Present:

Board Member	Position	Term Start	Term Ending	Present
Amy Tharrington Start: July 1, 2016	Member	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2022	Yes
Jaclyn Parks Start: April 8, 2019	Member	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2022	Yes
Bill Kroll Start: May 19, 2016	Chair	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2022	Yes
Tracy DeMarco Start: June 15, 2017	Secretary	July 1, 2017	June 30, 2020	Yes
Ashley Hicks Start: June 15, 2017	Member	July 1, 2017	June 30, 2020	Yes
Kim Keith Start: May 25, 2017	Vice-Chair	July 1, 2017	June 30, 2020	Yes
Nick Cerullo Start: March 19, 2018	Member	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2021	Yes
Israa Kanfoud Start: July 12, 2018	Treasurer	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2021	Yes
Jon Fowler Start: July 12, 2018	Member	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2021	Yes

Call to Order:

Bill Kroll

- Bill Kroll called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 July 2, 2020 Agenda. Kim Keith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Re-Opening Discussion:

Christi Whiteside

• Re-Opening Date

- Christi Whiteside gave a presentation regarding reopening options. She began by explaining that the Governor had planned to make an announcement regarding school reopening on July 1, 2020. At the press conference, however, Governor Cooper instead announced that he was delaying his decision for another week or more.
- In light of this delayed decision, the Board must decide whether to go ahead with existing plans to open the school year on July 29, 2020, with the understanding that such a reopening would be 100% remote, or to delay the start of school until August 10 or 17, 2020. Christi outlined what she believed to be the pros and cons of each option. A July 29 reopening would allow the school to open with remote protocols with which the teachers and students are already familiar. In addition, if the governor allows schools to move to a 50% on campus plan, students and teachers would already know the platforms and procedures that would be used for the 50% of time that would be remote. Finally, it would avoid childcare issues for staff if they are able to work remotely. Challenges to opening on July 29 include that it may be difficult to build community and gain momentum academically. It likely will be difficult for new students to make friends and establish relationships. This plan also creates difficulty for students of working parents to receive the support they need.
- Kim Keith and Ashley Hicks expressed preference for maintaining the current school calendar and beginning the year remotely.
- After several Board members expressed concern for younger students being able to handle technology platforms independently, Christi raised the possibility that Kindergarten and First grade could potentially proceed on a different schedule.
- Bill Kroll, Amy Tharrington, and Tracy DeMarco expressed a preference for delaying the start of the year. They noted concerns that certain students would be left behind in a fully remote environment. Amy noted the difficulty in fostering engagement when there is no preexisting relationship between the teachers and students. The group also highlighted concerns for students of working parents who might have to attend day cares or camps without the ability to participate in remote work during the day.
- Kim Keith noted that Wake County has asked the YMCA to coordinate an effort among all childcare providers in the county to determine capacity to support remote students. According to Kim, every childcare provider in the county will be working together to make sure that parents have an option, and the group is working on fundraising to potentially offer scholarships for at need students. Tracy DeMarco asked whether this support for remote students would be available by July 29 or whether it was more likely to launch closer to the August 10 or 17 start dates for Wake County schools. Kim responded that she believed the Y would have that support available by July 29, but could not speak for other providers. Bill Kroll asked whether we have data on how many of our students have two working parents. Christi did not have that data, but noted that there are several ECS families where both parents are essential workers.
- Jon Fowler shared data from the UNC hospital system. John explained that the data showed the hospital census growing and ICU admits going up. According to Jon, UNC's epidemiological models suggest that North Carolina will likely peak in September.

- The Board asked Christi for her thoughts on the best option for the school. Christi expressed concerns about opening with a 50/50 split between remote and in person instruction because teachers may not be able to address all students at the same time to establish routines and expectations. In Christi's opinion, it would be better for students and teachers to have time to get used to remote procedures before bringing a portion of students back to the campus.
- Addressing concerns about opportunities for creating community, Jaclyn Parks suggested organizing parents to host small pods of groups to promote learning and social interaction among students. Bill suggested that the Board could ask PAWS to explore and take ownership of this idea.
- *Public Comment*
 - Deanna B. asked whether ECS would allow all parents a choice for their children to attend 100% remotely. The Board responded that guidelines from the state require all public schools to offer a 100% remote option. Kim Keith noted that WCPSS and DPS will offer Virtual Academies to all students who choose it in place of in person learning.
 - Gwendolyn Eaten asked whether the teachers and staff are prepared to open in July if ECS remains 100% remote. Christi responded that the teachers have been planning for all potential scenarios.
 - Deanna B. asked whether the Board and school will consider the safety of students and teachers as part of re-opening discussions. Kim Keith responded that the health and safety of students, including protocols that the school will follow in the event of re-opening, has been significantly discussed at past meetings and is always the first consideration for the Board and administration. It is a primary focus of the Board even though it has not been front and center in the discussion tonight. Christi further noted that the Board made the decision to close ECS *before* either Wake County or the State made the decision to do so. The Board and administration are not afraid to do more than the state requires if we feel it necessary. She further noted that the school has already taken significant steps to enhance safety at the school and comply with DDHS recommendations and requirements, including by ordering PPE, meeting with its cleaning company to discuss enhanced cleaning, and creating a protocol for safety and health.
- **Bill Kroll moved to maintain the current school calendar and begin the year remotely on July 29, 2020. Israa Kanfoud seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**
- **School Nurse**
 - To address heightened health concerns for the 2020-2021 school year, Christi proposed that the school hire a nurse and convert half of the Multi-Purpose Room into a health room. Christi noted that the Board did not budget for nurse this year, but it did plan to hire a nurse in the 2021-2022 school year.
 - The Board unanimously agreed that Christi should explore hiring a school nurse.
- **Childcare for Staff During 50% Plan**
 - Christi stated that the administration has been exploring options to have the Y on site to provide childcare for children of staff members when the school is operating on a 50/50 in person / remote plan.

Additional Items:

- The Foundation Board, in consultation with the administration, has picked interior colors for the new building and finalized plans for the gym.
- Christi announced that she was touched by the number of families who donated so much food to families in need of food assistance over the summer. She noted that the donation amounts were overwhelming, with even new families participating.

Adjournment:

Bill Kroll

- Bill Kroll moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Jon Fowler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.