



**Endeavor Board Meeting Minutes: September 1, 2020**

**7:00 PM in the Multipurpose Room and via Zoom:**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73541219442?pwd=YzdJcXpyaTQwVE45ODA3RTM2czRmdz09>

**Present:**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Start</b>	<b>Term Ending</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Amy Tharrington</b> Start: July 1, 2016	Member	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2022	Yes
<b>Jaelyn Parks</b> Start: April 8, 2019	Member	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2022	Yes
<b>Bill Kroll</b> Start: May 19, 2016	Chair	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2022	Yes
<b>Tracy DeMarco</b> Start: June 15, 2017	Secretary	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023	Yes
<b>Ashley Hicks</b> Start: June 15, 2017	Member	July 1, 2010	June 30, 2023	Yes (via Zoom)
<b>Kim Keith</b> Start: May 25, 2017	Vice-Chair	July 1, 2010	June 30, 2023	Yes (via Zoom)
<b>Nick Cerullo</b> Start: March 19, 2018	Member	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2021	Yes (via Zoom)
<b>Israa Kanfoud</b> Start: July 12, 2018	Treasurer	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2021	Yes (via Zoom)
Start: July 12, 2018	Member	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2021	

**Call to Order:**

**Bill Kroll**

- Bill Kroll called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 September 1, 2020 Agenda. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Tracy DeMarco**

- Tracy DeMarco moved to approve the August 18, 2020 Minutes. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Foundation Board Update:**

**Michael Reinhardt**

- Bill Kroll reported that the Foundation Board had no updates since the last meeting, but invited the ECS community to visit the website [endeavorexpanansion.com](http://endeavorexpanansion.com) to see latest plans for the school expansion project.

### **PAWS Update:**

**Allison Blatz**

- Allison Blatz reported that PAWS is sponsoring a virtual book fair from September 18, 2020 to October 2, 2020. PAWS will be sending information to families with instructions on how to access the sale.
- PAWS is launching a Fun Friday series to foster school spirit among the community. The series will feature different themes each week, and participation is voluntary. Fun Fridays will kick off this Friday with a yoga meditation program for families to do after classes. The event will be live-streamed to the community.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **• Finance Committee**

**Israa Kanfoud**

- Israa Kanfoud reported that spending is on track with the 2020-2021 budget.
- Israa reported that the Finance Committee has been working with First Tryon to finalize funding for the expansion project. Related to that, Israa introduce three items for Board approval.
  - Israa Kanfoud moved to engage KPM Financial as the School's SWAP advisor for a fee of \$8,000. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - Israa Kanfoud moved to approve the transfer of \$83,003.56 to the Foundation Board to reimburse BC Construction Group for its August invoice for services rendered related to the expansion. This invoice was in line with the budgeted and expected expenses for the current stage of development. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - Israa Kanfoud moved to engage Mary Nash Rusher of McGuireWoods LLP as bond counsel for the School. Bill Kroll seconded. Tracy DeMarco abstained, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **• Governance Committee**

**Tracy DeMarco**

- Tracy DeMarco reported that the Governance Committee has been providing support to Christi as needed, but did not have anything new to report.

#### **• Resource Development Committee**

**Nick Cerullo**

- Nick Cerullo reported that the Resource Development Committee met thanks to the initiative of Lauren Manfreda. The groups is conducting research on virtual events to raise money for the Annual Fund and expansion project. Nick invited attendees to share any thoughts on the type of events that could be successful for the School.

## **Director's Update:**

**Christi Whiteside**

- Christi Whiteside reported that the 20-day headcount is complete. ECS will receive funding for 536 students. We are short 4 8<sup>th</sup> graders and have lost 2 kindergarteners whose parents decided to wait until next year when it might be a more normal year and try again.
- There are 338 families at ECS this year.
- An ECS student is hospitalized with a cancer diagnosis. A Gofundme page has been set up. ECS is collecting grocery gift cards for Target, Whole Foods, and Trader Joes.
- Dr. Lewis is coming Thursday to speak with staff about health and safety.
- ECS has finalized our recommended set up to manage the tech for hybrid students and remote students. Teachers will each have two laptops, an extra monitor and either an Elmo document projector or an Ipad on a tripod. There will potentially be challenges, connectivity issues, and lag times.
- ECS has ordered 3 types of webcams to try in classes, and the School continues to provide wireless headsets to staff.
- The administration has finalized the A week, B week students and will be notifying families this week. There is basically no flexibility due to our commitment to keep siblings together.
- All 9 grades have completed Iready assessments, and staff is beginning to run reports to share with parents. Iready will become a part of weekly assignments.
- Grades 3-8, all subjects, are distributing usernames and passwords for accessing Schoolnet and Powerschool. Schoolnet will allow them to take tests and quizzes in a secure online environment.
- Staff is participating in daily temperature checks on-site and daily screening questions through a Google form.
- The office staff is establishing extra cleaning protocols to supplement our custodial crew.
- As we prepare for students to return, ECS is also stretching the staff to be able cover classes for teachers with medical concerns who are off-site and all the new duties due to Covid such as the increased morning health checks, extra coverage for afternoon carpool, etc.

## **Re-Opening Discussion:**

**Board**

- Bill Kroll began the discussion by noting that, at the August 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Board voted to begin rolling K-2 back to school. He explained that the Board's goal was to bring back the youngest students first as they may have a more difficult time with remote learning than older students.
- Jaclyn Parks noted that the current meeting was scheduled with the intent of being a check in to see how the School was doing with the new 9-12 remote schedule.
- Nick Cerullo agreed, and noted that the Board had just learned of the remote vs. hybrid survey results at the last meeting. He asked Christi to verify the break down of each selection. Christi Whiteside reported that, for kindergarten, approximately 45% of students elected to stay 100% remote, while 55% of students opted for the hybrid schedule. She reported that the numbers were split similarly in First Grade, as well.
- Bill Kroll acknowledged that there are still a lot of uncertainties as we move forward bringing kids back to campus, but that the Board will continue to evaluate what it believes to be the best course for the School as we receive feedback from staff, students, and parents regarding the move to a hybrid environment. Bill also noted that the School has engaged

Dr. Lewis to consult on best practices for the entire year, and we will be taking advantage of her expertise.

- Christi Whiteside noted that Kindergarten is such a unique age developmentally, and that the ECS kindergarten staff is amazing, and gifted, and talented. Because there are two adults per class (three teachers and three full time TA's), Christi stated that she believes Kindergarten is the best grade level to begin the hybrid model. She noted that First Grade is supported by three TA's on a 50% schedule, while Second Grade does not have any TA's. Given this breakdown, it makes sense to bring students back to school in this order. Further, Christi underscored the importance of ensuring the continued high level of our virtual program even as some students return to class. Unfortunately, she noted, balancing in person and remote students is not something that teachers can practice, so the School will be constantly evaluating in real time how best to serve both groups of students.
- Bill Kroll then opened the floor for public comment. Christi Whiteside reported that there were no hands raised to speak on the Zoom call.

**Closed Session:**

- Bill Kroll moved to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143.318.11(a)(1), (6) & (8) at 7:35 p.m. Jaclyn Parks seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Bill Kroll moved to go into open session at 8:37 p.m. Tracy DeMarco seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

**Bill Kroll**

- Bill Kroll moved to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Nick Cerullo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.