



Endeavor Emergency Board Meeting Agenda: March 11, 2021

7:00 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85926333534?pwd=UIYwTzRFdYrb0dJK28zZkoxQzgvUT09>

Present:

Board Member	Position	Committee	Term Start	Term Ending	Present
Amy Tharrington Start: 4/8/2019	Member	RDC	7/1/2019	6/30/2022	Yes
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	Yes
Nick Cerullo Start: 3/19/2018	Member	RDC	7/1/2018	6/30/2021	Yes
Israa Kanfoud Start: 6/12/2018	Treasurer	Finance (Chair)	7/1/2018	6/30/2021	Yes
Dustin Embrey Start: 2/23/2021	Member	RDC	7/1/2018	6/30/2021	Yes

Call to Order:

Bill Kroll

- Bill Kroll called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 11, 2021 Agenda. Israa Kanfoud seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Tracy DeMarco

- Tracy DeMarco moved to approve the February 2, 2021 Minutes. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Board Update:

Michael Reinhardt

- Michael Reinhardt reported that there has been significant progress made on the new building. The walls are up on the gym and theater, and BCCG is still aiming for an early July completion date.
- In addition to the building, Michael reported that there will be some improvements to the road near the School's entrance.
- The Foundation Board is currently working with BCCG to select and purchase all of the non-construction items needed to outfit the building. This includes everything from paper dispensers in the restrooms, playground equipment, gymnasium equipment, theater equipment, etc.

PAWS Update:

Allison Blatz

- Allison Blatz reported the PAWS is currently hosting its second virtual book fair, which will run through March 25th. PAWS encourages all families to order some books.
- Café days will return on Mondays and Fridays in 4th quarter. PAWS will be circulating more information on that in the weekly update.
- The next cultural arts performance will be an interactive show by Mike Wiley.
- PAWS is currently accepting applications from graduating high school students for the PAWS scholarship, which is awarded to an ECS alumni each year.

Introduction of New Board Members:

Bill Kroll

- Bill Kroll reported that the Board met on February 23rd to interview applicants for the Board. Out of a pool of excellent applicants, the Board selected three new members:
 - Chris DeRienzo.
 - Chris is the Chief Medical Officer at WakeMed. He relocated his family from Asheville to the Raleigh/Wake Forest area in the summer of 2020. His three children currently attend a small private school, but he is very excited that they will be attending ECS next year.
 - Chris will join the Governance Committee.
 - David Roy
 - David is the Chief Financial Officer for the North Carolina turnpike authority. He has a blended family of 5 children, including a 9th grader at Leesville Road High School, a rising 4th grader, 2 rising kindergarteners, and a newborn. He is excited to support the school through membership on the Board.
 - David will join the Finance Committee.
 - Dustin Embrey
 - Dustin recently relocated from Houston to Wake Forest, but has family who lives in the area. He works remotely for an enterprise software company

with a focus on electronic gaming. He is excited to join and serve the ECS community.

- Dustin will join the Resource Development Committee.

Committee Updates:

• Finance Committee

Israa Kanfoud

- Israa Kanfoud reported that the School is still on track to finish the year on budget.
- Israa reported that BCCG's invoice for construction costs in the month of February is \$486,595.84. This is in line with the expected budget.
 - Israa Kanfoud moved to approve payment of \$486,595.84 to BCCG. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Israa next reported that the Board must approve the contract with Les Merritt, the firm that will conduct the School's yearly audit. Israa reviewed the contract and circulated it to the larger Board to review. There were no questions on the terms.
 - Israa Kanfoud moved to approve the Les Merritt contract. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Finally, Israa reported that the Finance Committee is working to finalize the budget for the 2021-2022 school year and anticipates sharing a draft with the Board in the next week.

• Governance Committee

Tracy DeMarco

- Tracy DeMarco reported that the Governance Committee met before the Board meeting to discuss bringing additional students back to campus. Christi Whiteside explained that the last barrier to the return to in-person schooling is to have middle school students attend in-person on a non-rotating basis.
- Tracy explained that the North Carolina legislature recently passed, and Governor Cooper is expected to sign,¹ Senate Bill 220, a bipartisan school-reopening law which requires public schools to offer an in-person learning option, requires that elementary schools offer in person learning on Plan A (i.e., full time, with no rotations), and gives high schools and middle schools the option to operate on either Plan A or Plan B (i.e. mandatory 6 ft distancing). Although charter schools were excluded from Senate Bill 220, legislators have explained that this was intended to exempt charters from the requirement to adopt Plan A in elementary schools if they did not have the resources to do so. State Superintendent Catherine Truitt has publicly stated that efforts are underway to make it clear that charters may operate all grades on Plan A if they so choose.
- Tracy explained that the current NCDHHS StrongSchools Toolkit contains ambiguous language regarding whether middle schools may operate on Plan A.² And additionally, the Toolkit has questionable legal authority since it was never incorporated into any of Governor Cooper's executive orders. Nevertheless, the Board views the bipartisan effort to pass Senate Bill 220 into law with the Governor's support as an indication that our state leaders believe it is safe to have all students in classrooms with less than 6 ft of distancing.

¹ Governor Cooper signed Senate Bill 220 into law during the Board meeting, although members were unaware at the time.

² The StrongSchools Toolkit was updated on March 24, 2021 to make clear that public schools of all grades, including charters, may choose to operate on Plan A.

- For all of these reasons, the Governance Committee, with Christi's input, recommends moving grades 6-8 to Plan A for 4th quarter and that the remote option will only be available to students who have a medical condition (or an in-household family member with a medical condition) placing them at higher risk for complications due to Covid.
- Bill Kroll asked how the staff is likely to view this approach. Christi Whiteside reported that the staff has mixed feelings about more students returning to campus; some are eager to have a more normal classroom, while others are nervous. Academically, the consensus is that student do better on campus..
- Bill Kroll asked for a report on the first week of full-day classes. Christi Whiteside responded that teaching a full day and maintaining a remote program is tiring. That said, students are excited about even small steps back to normal. For example, one grade is allowing students (rather than teachers) to change classrooms, and it is such an exciting novelty for the kids to move about the school again.
- David Roy and Amy Tharrington asked for clarification on who would be eligible for the remote program. Tracy DeMarco explained that a recent update to the NCDHHS StrongSchools Toolkit makes clear that remote instruction should be offered only to students if they or a family member identify as high risk from Covid. Amy asked how the community would likely receive that change. Christi Whiteside responded that many families have already emailed asking to switch back to in-person school from the remote program, but acknowledged that there will be some who do not want to come back. Nevertheless, she underscored the importance of in-person learning, noting that kids have missed developmental milestones that they can't experience at home. She also expressed concern that it will be difficult for some students to transition back to school next—particularly those at critical grade transitions. For example, a fourth grader in March 2020, would return a year-and-a-half later as a sixth grader. Chris DeRienzo further noted that the list of "high risk" conditions listed in the NCDHHS Toolkit is exhaustive, meaning that a family who was particularly uncomfortable returning to campus would more than likely be able to qualify as "high risk."
- **Tracy DeMarco moved to adopt Plan A for all grades in 4th quarter and to extend the option of remote learning only to students with families who identify as "high risk" for complications due to Covid. Bill Kroll seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

- **Resource Development Committee**

Jaclyn Parks

- Jaclyn Parks reported that the Committee has been discussing opportunities for corporate sponsors and ways to get families involved in the expansion.
- Bill Kroll urged that the School should take advantage of fundraising opportunities when there is so much excitement about the new building. He noted that the School will need additional funds to purchase extras for the expansion.
- Jaclyn agreed and said the Committee is working with Lauren Manfreda on a number of options, but they are not quite ready to share.
- David Roy suggested publishing participation percentage as a way to get more families to donate. Christi noted that ECS has struggled to make a strong fundraising push this year recognizing that many families may be in difficult financial straights due to the pandemic.

Director's Update:

Christi Whiteside

- Our lottery was held yesterday. We had a record breaking 2109 applications. The process went smoothly. Rather than offering in-person tours to accepted families as we usually do, we are offering a virtual tour and Q&A session for grades K-5 on Monday at 7:00 and for middle school on Tuesday at 7:00.
- We will be ending the year with a modified Field Day which PAWS will be helping us with.
- Lauren is planning a series of video messages to go to new families and one to all families prior to Meet the teacher to keep folks engaged over the summer.
- We are also working on a modified Meet the Teacher plan for July - maintaining the essential feel of MtT, recognizing how excited everyone will be to see the new construction, and being respectful of Covid concerns which may remain.
- Lunch and recess are going well so far. Students have been very compliant, but will be eager for us to ease up on restrictions.
- Our music and art classes began meeting with some grade levels in person last week. There is a plan to move forward until all grades in all fine arts classes are meeting in person during 4th qtr. This allows the FA teachers to be with their students and teach the way they want to and allows the classroom teachers planning time.
- We continue the furniture shuffle as more students return to campus as well as acquiring furniture for next year.
- We are almost finished with hiring for next year and have finalized room assignments for the expansion.
- We had a student trip over one of our drainage covers and break her arm last week. I am meeting with the Lend A PAW folks next week and hope to think through some options with them.

Public Comment:

No comments.

Adjournment:

- Bill Kroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Bill Kroll