

MINUTES
Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting
Friday, August 27, 2021 – 9:00 am
One Financial Plaza - 18th Floor Providence, RI 02903

Board Members in Attendance: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano

Board Members Absent: Mayor Charles Lombardi, Carlene Fonseca

Staff Attending: Owen Stearns, Andrew Solomon, Arthur Kaynor, Diane Cohen, Michaelle Larracuente, Liz Matson

1. Call to Order

Mayor Elorza, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 am and presided over the meeting. Diane Cohen kept the minutes of the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Noted above

3. Approval of Minutes

Chhay motioned to approve the minutes from the 6.11.21 meeting of the Board and Mayor Rivera seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

4. Team Building

Michaelle led the group through a team-building exercise.

5. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discussion: The Board reviewed the bylaws.

Mayor Rivera motioned to approve the bylaws and Chhay seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

b. Discussion: The Board confirmed the membership and agreed to update the Articles of Incorporation to reflect the same membership.

Mayor Rivera motioned to approve the list of Board members and officers, Giordano seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

c. Discussion: The Board agreed to the dates on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for the next year.

Mayor Rivera motioned to approve the calendar for the year presented on the agenda and Chhay seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

d. Discussion: The Board discussed moving forward with requesting a minor amendment from RIDE to the enrollment pattern. The Board discussed the potential change and implications COVID-19 could have on planning. The Board indicated its support for the planned enrollment pattern and discussed potential adjustments to the wording of the request. The Board will vote on this in September.

e. Discussion: The Board discussed lottery policy options, including requesting approval from RIDE to specify defined enrollment percentages. The Board will vote on this in September.

6. Progress on EARI School Launch

Larracuente shared that she has hired a Director of Operations and that the team's next steps include creating a plan for family engagement, curriculum planning, and staff recruitment. Stearns shared an update on facility planning.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjourn

Mayor Rivera moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 am, seconded by Heng and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 6.11
3. Bylaws
4. Draft letter to RIDE on enrollment pattern
5. Draft letter to RIDE on defined enrollment percentages