

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Massachusetts Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – 8:00 am**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Matt Ottmer, Ben Howe, Cait Brumme, Rob Lytle, Bernabe Rodriguez, Nery Castro, Pam Klien, David Stollow, Steve Mugford

**Board Members Absent:** Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Yahaira Acuna, Steve Zrike

**Staff Attending:** Owen Stearns, Andrew Solomon, Arthur Kaynor, Diane Cohen

**1. Call to Order**

Ben Howe, called the meeting to order at 8:03 am and presided over the meeting. Diane Cohen kept the minutes of the meeting.

**2. Roll Call**

Noted above

**3. Approval of Terms and Officers**

Lytle motioned to approve the new terms and officers for FY22 of the Board and Klein seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, Ben Howe, Cait Brumme, Rob Lytle, Bernabe Rodriguez, Nery Castro, Pam Klien, David Stollow, Steve Mugford

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ottmer motioned to approve the minutes from the 6.3.2021 meeting of the Board and Klein seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, Ben Howe, Cait Brumme, Rob Lytle, Bernabe Rodriguez, Nery Castro, Pam Klien, David Stollow, Steve Mugford

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**4. Discussion: FY22 Budget**

Solomon walked the Board through a presentation sharing an update on the financial health of the organization and the FY22 budget summary. He shared that the organization is in a strong position and the planned use of Covid relief funds. Solomon reviewed the strategic investments that the organization is prioritizing for FY22. He also reviewed the organization's debt balance and services. The Board discussed how the organization identified these priorities and the tradeoffs.

Stollow motioned to approve the budget and Brumme seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, Ben Howe, Cait Brumme, Rob Lytle, Bernabe Rodriguez, Nery Castro, Pam Klien, David Stollow, Steve Mugford

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**6. Finance Update**

Solomon shared several additional finance-related updates including compensation considerations and growing the diversity of the finance committee.

## **7. CEO Updates**

Stearns shared an update on the start of school and how the staff is dealing with Covid-19. Stearns previewed how the governance structure of the board may evolve as the organization grows to RI. He invited the board to join a working group to meet on a monthly basis to determine how to lead the organization through the transition. Stearns asked to board to add an additional meeting to the calendar for October. Stearns shared an update on the progress on the opening of the school in RI and the fundraising implications.

## **8. Review of CEO Goals**

Stearns reviewed a draft of his goals. The board reviewed and gave feedback on the document.

## **9. Public Comment**

None

## **10. Adjourn**

Stearns moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am, seconded by Howe and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 6.3.2021
3. Budget summary presentation
4. Draft of CEO's goals