

MINUTES
Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting
Academic Oversight Committee & School Improvement Team Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 5:30 pm
622 Woonasquatucket Ave, North Providence, RI 02911

Committee Members in Attendance: Liz Giordano, Chiv Heng, Ferny Reyes, Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Kate Ring, Megan Perry, Priscilla Santiago, Andrew Medeiros

Committee Members Absent: Kate Cushing, Liz Matson, Katie Medina, Stephanie Patton, Frangely Rojas

Non-Committee Board Members Present: Mayor Brett Smiley, Gary Goldberg

Staff Attending: Andrew Solomon, Alejandra Gil

Members of the Public Attending: Brian Guzman

1. Call to Order

Giordano called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

Stearns and Reyes facilitated brief introductions with all of the Committee members, non-Committee Board members, and members of the public present.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Committee Business

Cariaga-Lo motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 11.2.23, and Giordano seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

All those in favor: Liz Giordano, Chiv Heng, Ferny Reyes, Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Kate Ring, Frangely Rojas, Megan Perry, Priscilla Santiago, Andrew Medeiros

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

4. Review and Discussion of Academic Data & Update on the State of the School

Ring and Reyes provided a presentation on the State of the School and the latest quarterly academic data, as detailed in the 1.25.24 Academic Update Slides and Academic Data Dashboard, which were provided to the Committee. The Academic Committee asked clarifying questions about the data, which the staff were able to answer. Updates included the following:

Review of 22-23 RIDE accountability ratings:

- Reyes refreshed the Committee on how RIDE's evaluation is calculated.
- Reyes reviewed XLRI's performance last year, which was similar to other charters in overall star ratings but under-performing in specific categories.
- Reyes reviewed performance differences by category with the Committee across RI charters.
- Reyes reviewed XLRI's ELA and Math performance on RICAS.
- The Committee also reviewed SQSS data, ELP Index, and RIDE's suggested categories for increased performance.

Reyes updated the Board on XLRI's priorities in order to earn a three-star performance in '23-'24:

- ELP: Increase the number of students meeting ACCESS goals (as this is either a 2 or a 4).
- Achievement and Growth: Increase performance on Math to earn a second point for performance and growth.

- SQSS: Maintain current chronic absenteeism performance and target students to exceed expectations.

Current Academic Year updates:

- **Average daily attendance** has increased from the previous year from 90.3% to 93.2%, just below where we are in our MA schools (94.1%).
- **Chronic absenteeism** has declined from 36.4% to 21.7%, slightly higher than where we are with our XLMA schools (19.7%).
- **Suspension rates** are lower than where there were at this point in the year last year, down to 4.6% from 7.9% at this time last year.
- Performance on **MAP testing** was not as strong as expected, a bit short of goals in each category at XLRI (see Slide 17).
- **Staff and student satisfaction, engagement, and trust is significantly higher** - 89% at XLRI in Jan. 2024 compared to 54% in March 2023 (and also higher than our network average overall in Jan. 2024 at 76%).

Upcoming Data Points:

- ELA Practice RICAS (January)
- Math Practice RICAS (February)
- Science Practice RICAS (March)
- RIDE Surveyworks (May)
- ACCESS Results (May)

Academic Priorities and Actions:

- Set up structures to support data driven instructional practices
- Lesson preparation and internalization focus
- Writing Bootcamp

Culture Priorities and Actions:

- Continue with academic “coaches”
- Attendance reach-out
- Maintain behavioral consistency and practices

Leadership Priorities:

- Developing Leadership Team
- Thinking strategically about developing leadership and teacher pipeline

5. Adjourn

Having completed the business of the Committee, Kaynor motioned to adjourn. Liza seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. 11.2.23 Meeting Minutes
3. Academic Data Update Slides