

MINUTES
Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 4:30 pm
622 Woonasquatucket Ave, North Providence, RI 02911

Board Members in Attendance: Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Gary Goldberg, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano

Board Members Absent: Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Charles Lombardi

Staff Attending: Owen Stearns, Andrew Solomon, Chris Reed, Arthur Kaynor, Ferny Reyes, Kate Ring

Members of the Public Attending: None

1. Call to Order

Chhay called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Update on Real Estate Search & Discussion of RFP #43654

Solomon and Reed presented the Board with an overview of RFP #43654 and operational, financial, and other details about the property and its suitability for use as a public charter school building. Summary slides were provided to the Board in advance. Solomon and Reed outlined how the property could support Excel Academy Rhode Island's enrollment needs in the coming years, if Excel is successful in the bid process and secures a long-term lease of the building.

Solomon and Reed also presented the Board with two opportunities for partnership in responding to the RFP, one in direct partnership with another school - Achievement First Rhode Island - and another as a prospective future tenant of a developer - Scout LLC - who also intends to submit a response to the RFP.

Cariaga-Lo noted that she represented the Board in a preliminary discussion of these opportunities during a joint real estate working group meeting that she attended with members of the Friends of Excel Academy Board and shared her perspective on the potential partnerships.

The Board discussed these options and asked clarifying questions, which Solomon, Reed, and Cariaga-Lo answered.

Kaynor summarized resolutions before the Board for consideration and outlined what would be needed from the Board to support the RFP process.

4. Real Estate Project Votes

Cariaga-Lo moved to approve submission of Excel Academy Rhode Island's application, as presented, in response to RFP #43654, and Rivera seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

All those in favor: Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Gary Goldberg, Liz Giordano, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Heng moved to approve Resolutions 1 regarding XLRI's RFP response, as amended to name Achievement First specifically, and Cariaga-Lo seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

All those in favor: Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Gary Goldberg, Liz Giordano, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Heng moved to approve Resolutions 2 regarding a memorandum of understanding as presented, and Giordano seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

All those in favor: Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Gary Goldberg, Liz Giordano, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

5. Adjourn

Having completed the Board's business, Giordano motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Chhay seconded, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:28pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Resolutions 1: regarding XLRI RFP response
3. Draft Resolutions 2: regarding memorandum of understanding
4. Real Estate Update Slides
5. Carl Lauro Program Plan Diagram