

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 2, 2023 – 5:30 pm**  
**622 Woonasquatucket Ave, North Providence, RI 02911**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mayor Brett Smiley, Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng

**Board Members Absent:** Mayor Maria Rivera, Gary Goldberg, Mayor Charles Lombardi

**Staff Attending:** Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Kate Ring, Stephanie Patton, Ferny Reyes, Andrew Solomon

**Members of the Public Attending:** None

**1. Call to Order**

Smiley called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

Giordano provided a brief update on Board recruitment efforts and noted that the new candidate was unable to attend this evening's meeting, and so we are going to table the new Board member introduction and vote until the next meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Board Business**

Chhay moved to approve the minutes from 9.14.23, and Cariaga-Lo seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**4. Update on Real Estate Search & Vote on Enrollment**

Stearns provided the Board with an update on the real estate search and progress with participation in the RFI process for a potential new site. Stearns also updated the Board on enrollment planning for SY24-25, in light of the current status of the real estate search. As detailed in the enclosed memo, the school would like to delay the launch of elementary grades, in order to ensure a strong middle school and high school program for current students, given the realities of available facilities.

Chhay moved to approve the decision to enroll grades 5-7 in SY24-25, rather than grades K,5-7, as detailed in the enclosed memo, and Heng seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Chiv Heng

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

The Board also noted that it will likely continue to revisit this topic every fall, prior to the launch of EnrollRI each November, to confirm the enrollment plan for the following school year, taking into consideration the status of the real estate search and other factors at the time.

## **5. Board Candidate Introduction & Vote**

The new Board member candidate was unable to attend today's meeting, so this agenda topic will be moved to the December Board meeting.

Kaynor provided a preview of agenda topics for the December Board meeting and discussed scheduling with the Board. Kaynor also updated the Board to let them know that Cariaga-Lo volunteered to assist and help to represent the Board's perspectives and preferences during future Friends of Excel Academy Board meeting discussions related to real estate topics.

## **6. Joint Board and Academic Oversight Committee Meeting**

Members of the Board also participated in an Academic Oversight Committee meeting at 6:00pm. Please see separate Academic Oversight Committee meeting minutes.

## **7. Adjourn**

Having completed the Board's business, Chhay motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Heng seconded, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:00pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 9.14.23 Board Meeting
3. Resume and Bio for prospective new Board member
4. Memo re: SY24-25 enrollment
5. Academic Oversight Committee meeting materials (detailed separately on the Academic Oversight Committee meeting minutes)