

MINUTES
Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 – 5:00 pm
270 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

Board Members in Attendance: Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg, Mayor Brett Smiley

Board Members Absent: Mayor Maria Rivera, Mayor Charles Lombardi, Carlene Fonseca

Staff Attending: Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor

Members of the Public Attending: Brian Guzman

1. Call to Order

Chhay called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Board Business

Chhay motioned to approve the following membership updates and to authorize submission of Articles of Amendment to reflect the same, and Giordano seconded the motion:

- Mayor Brett Smiley to replace Mayor Jorgen Elorza as Chair of the Board
- Carlene Fonseca to step down from the Board

All those in favor: Chiv Heng, Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Gary Goldberg

Opposed: None

Abstain: Mayor Smiley

Giordano motioned to approve the minutes from the 12.5.22 meeting of the Board and Goldberg seconded.

All those in favor: Chiv Heng, Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Gary Goldberg

Opposed: None

Abstain: Mayor Smiley

4. Update on State of the School

Stearns provided an update on the state of the school, progress with implementation of improvements at the school, outcomes of recent parent conferences and family communications, student and staff culture, and leadership transition planning. The Board discussed goals and objectives for continuing to support the school.

6. Update on Compensation

Stearns provided an update on staff compensation and strategies to recruit and retain talent in an increasingly competitive market.

7. Facility Update & Vote

Stearns and Kaynor provided updates on facility planning, enrollment projections, the SBA application process, and proposed resolutions regarding a promissory note. Chhay motioned to approve the proposed promissory note resolutions, with one edit to specify Dec. 31, 2023 as an updated maturity date. Chiv seconded the motion.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Channavy Chhay, Liz Giordano, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

8. Academic Oversight Committee & Strategic Plan Update

Kaynor provided an update on EAA requirements, an LEA Strategic Plan & School Improvement Team (SIT) proposal, and the Academic Oversight Committee. Giordano volunteered to serve as Chair and Heng volunteered to serve as a member of the Committee and SIT.

9. Fundraising & Celebration of Excellence (COE) Update

Stearns provided an update on fundraising goals and progress and plans for Excel Academy's Celebration of Excellence (COE) event in the spring.

10. Nominating Committee Update & Discussion

Giordano provided an update on Board member recruitment efforts and discussed two prospective candidates.

11. Adjourn

Chhay motioned to adjourn. Giordano seconded. The meeting closed at 6:30 pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 12.5.22
3. Letter to families from 2.9.23
4. Resolutions regarding promissory note
5. LEA Strategic Plan & School Improvement Team (SIT) Proposal
6. Academic Oversight Committee overview