

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Massachusetts Board Meeting**  
**Friday, March 24, 2023 – 8:30 am**

**Board Members in Attendance:** David Stolow, Rob Lytle, Matt Ottmer, Pam Klein, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Nery Castro, Bernabe Rodriguez

**Board Members Absent:** Ben Howe, Steve Mugford, Steve Zrike, Yahaira Acuna

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

**1. Call to Order**

Ottmer called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Stolow motioned to approve the minutes from the 2.3.23 meeting of the Board and Ottmer seconded.

All those in favor: David Stolow, Rob Lytle, Matt Ottmer, Pam Klein, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Nery Castro, Bernabe Rodriguez

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**3. Teambuilding**

Stearns led the group in a team building discussion.

**4. Banking Update & Financial Services Resolutions**

Solomon updated the Board on actions taken to safeguard the organization's assets in the aftermath of the SVB crisis. The Board discussed the impact of the crisis on the sector and efforts to build a coalition with peers to work on this topic. The Finance Committee will work with the organization's Finance Team to implement appropriate procedures and controls, consistent with DESE guidelines and sound management practices. The Board also discussed the status of real estate loans.

Stolow motioned to approve the enclosed financial services resolutions and Lytle seconded.

All those in favor: David Stolow, Rob Lytle, Matt Ottmer, Pam Klein, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Nery Castro, Bernabe Rodriguez

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**5. Update on the Schools**

Stearns provided updates on the state of school, staff recruitment and retention, student enrollment and the recent student lottery, and potential future development opportunities for the school to explore. The Board discussed the successful renewal of the school's charter for the next five years and steps being taken in response to constructive feedback that came out of the renewal process.

**6. Annual Meeting & CMO Update**

Kaynor discussed a draft agenda for the Board's upcoming annual meeting and updated the Board on other relevant timelines and work streams, including the CMO agreement process and the work of various Board Committees leading up to the annual meeting. The Board discussed plans and objectives for the annual meeting and agreed to lengthen the time of the meeting.

### **7. Update on Board Recruitment**

Klein updated the Board on efforts to recruit new members and recruitment priorities for the Board and requested collaboration in identifying prospective candidates for future Board positions. The Board discussed plans for near-term transitions as well as longer-term objectives to strengthen its pipeline of future candidates and to ensure that the Board is considering points of intersection with Excel's student population among other priorities for prospective new members. The Board also discussed a potential annual Board survey in the future.

### **8. Fundraising & Celebration of Excellence**

Stearns provided an update on fundraising efforts and plans for the Celebration of Excellence event in the spring.

### **9. Public Comment**

None

### **10. Adjourn**

Ottmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 am, seconded by Stolow, and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 2.3.23
3. Financial services resolutions
4. Draft agenda topics for annual meeting