

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 27, 2023 – 5:30 pm**  
**270 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg, Liz Giordano

**Board Members Absent:** Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Charles Lombardi

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

**Members of the Public Attending:** Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Board Business**

Rivera moved to approve the minutes from 4.11.23, and Goldberg seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**4. Board Candidate Introduction & Vote**

Giordano and Chhay of the Nominating Committee introduced a Board member candidate, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo. The Board asked questions and learned about Dr. Cariaga-Lo's background in the community, experience, and interest in joining the Board.

Giordano motioned to approve adding Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo to the Board and to authorize submission of Articles of Amendment to reflect the same, and Rivera seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**5. Team Builder**

Stearns led the Board in a team-building exercise.

**6. Update on State of the School**

Stearns provided an update on the state of the school, including student and staff culture, hiring, and continued Network Team support and coaching for the school staff. The Board discussed the Head of School search and hiring process and provided input on evaluation criteria and the interview process.

Chayy motioned to select Chiv Heng, with Liz Giordano or Gary Goldberg as a back-up if needed, as the Board's representative in the Head of School interview process, and Rivera seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

### **7. Discussion of School Schedule & Calendar**

Kaynor provided an update on efforts by the school team to streamline the school's schedule and calendar, in response to family and staff feedback, and to respond to updated guidance from RIDE regarding minimum instructional hours. The final version of the minor amendment request letter will be submitted by May 1.

### **8. June Meeting Topic Discussion**

Kaynor provided an update on upcoming critical topics and votes expected for the June meeting and confirmed Board member attendance and quorum. The Board discussed continuing next school year with a similar meeting calendar structure, with meetings continuing on Thursday evenings typically.

### **9. Celebration of Excellence & Board Dinner Reminder**

Stearns provided an update on plans for Excel Academy's Celebration of Excellence (COE) and 20-year anniversary event on June 1, as well as plans for a Board dinner.

### **10. Adjourn**

Chhay motioned to adjourn. Heng seconded. The meeting closed at 6:59 pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 4.27.23
3. Bio of Board member candidate

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Rhode Island Board**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 27, 2023 – 7:00 pm**  
**270 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg

**Board Members Absent:** N/A

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

**Members of the Public Attending:** N/A

**1. Call to Order**

Heng called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

N/A

**3. Board Business**

N/A

**4. Preliminary FY24 Budget & Financial Model**

Solomon shared a preliminary FY24 Budget and financial model with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee discussed the FY24 budget and FY23 budget trending. Solomon answered clarifying questions from the Finance Committee. At the June Board meeting, the Finance Committee will recommend approval of the FY24 budget to the Board.

**5. Adjourn**

Heng motioned to adjourn. Goldberg seconded. The meeting closed at 7:25pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Preliminary FY24 budget and financial model