

MINUTES
Excel Academy Charter Schools Board Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 8:30 am
Conference Call

Board Members Attending by Phone: Ben Howe (Chair), David Stolow (Treasurer), Robert Lytle, Pamela Klein, Matt Ottmer, Stephen Mugford, Caitlin Brumme, Bernabe Rodriguez, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Yahaira Acuna, Nery Castro

Staff Attending: Owen Stearns, Andrew Solomon, Aaron Stelson, Lana Ewing

Members of the Public: Peter Fisher

Ben Howe, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:38 am and presided over the meeting. Diane Cohen kept the minutes of the meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Ben Howe motioned to approve minutes from 1.26.20. Steve Mugford seconded. Minutes were approved.

2. Finance and Fundraising Update

Andrew Solomon provided an update on the FY21 budget given financial uncertainty resulting from the pandemic. He shared the current state of the budget and where Excel is in the planning process. He shared the implications for school reopening and the strategic priorities for FY22. Andrew shared the need to review the compensation structures in order to maintain competitive hiring and retention. The Board discussed potential scenarios and strategic planning questions.

3. Reopening Plans

Aaron shared a review of the schools reopening plans. He reviewed the timeline, model, and projects that need to be completed as the schools work to bring all students back to campus. The Board discussed safety protocols, testing, and vaccination updates. They discussed what the school day will look like and what the content for the remainder of the year will look like. Sarah shared what the plan for the high school reopening will look like. The Board discussed challenges for bringing high school students back. Lana shared plans for summer school and announced expanded options for summer programming because of a partnership with TFA. Lana shared some of the major considerations for the fall.

4. Board Survey

Owen Stearns discussed the survey that the Board took on its governance practices. He shared how the organization will use the feedback to strengthen the Board's governance practices.

5. Rhode Island

Owen Stearns shared progress on the opening of Excel Academy in Rhode Island. He discussed the RI landscape. The team is ready to launch the application for the school leader role.

6. Chief Schools Officer

Owen shared an update on the hiring process for the Chief Schools Officer role. He shared that the organization hopes to have someone on board by the end of April.

Ben motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 am, seconded by Rob Lytle and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Minutes from 1.26.21
2. Board Update Slides

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Howe, Chair