

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Charter Schools Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 3, 2021 – 6:30 pm**  
**Conference Call**

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

**Staff Attending:** Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Alexandra Steinhauer, Yinnette Sano

Matt Ottmer, called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm and presided over the meeting. Diane Cohen kept the minutes of the meeting.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Matt Ottmer motioned to approve minutes from 4.8.21. Devon Petersmeyer Johnson seconded. Minutes were approved.

**2. Vote to Approve the Calendar**

David motion Rob seconded.

**3. Update and Review of DEI Initiatives**

Yinnette and Alexandra reviewed the organization's progress and plans for DEI work. They reviewed data from the recent Promise54 data and staff demographics. They reviewed several strategies the organization is pursuing to continue to prioritize DEI across the organization.

**2. Finance and Fundraising Update**

Owen Stearns provided an update on the budget and several factors that are still outstanding from the state. Owen proposed having the group defer to the Finance Committee, in a meeting open to all, to review and vote on final approval of the budget. Ben shared support for deferring to the finance committee and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

Ben motioned to approve the resolution, Matt seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

**3. Updates from the CEO**

Owen 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 focus for the remainder of the year will be. Sarah shared the plan for the high school reopening and highlighted the schools June term. The Board discussed challenges for bringing high school students back. Lana shared plans for summer school and announced expanded options for summer programming and a partnership with TFA. Lana shared some of the major considerations for the fall in addressing the learning needs of students. 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.

**4. Graduate Data Outcomes**

Laura shared the most recent data on graduate outcomes. She discussed the unique challenges that students faced as a result of the pandemic. She shared new strategies, including the PAC, that the CAPS team created because of the pandemic, but will continue to implement given its success.

Ben motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm, seconded by Rob Lytle and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Minutes from 4.8.21

2. Calendar (in agenda)

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Ben Howe, Chair