

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2021 – 9:00 am**  
**One Financial Plaza - 18th Floor Providence, RI 02903**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mayor Jorge Elorza, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano, Carlene Fonseca

**Board Members Absent:** Mayor Charles Lombardi, Mayor Maria Rivera

**Staff Attending:** Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Diane Cohen, Michaelle Larracuente, Liz Matson

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Elorza, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am and presided over the meeting. Diane Cohen kept the minutes of the meeting.

**2. Roll Call**

Noted above

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chhay motioned to approve the minutes from the 8.27.21 meeting of the Board and Heng seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano, Carlene Fonseca

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**4. Team Building**

Michaelle led the group through a team-building exercise.

**5. Discussion and Action Items**

- a. Discussion: The Board reviewed a proposed minor amendment request to RIDE regarding the enrollment pattern.

Heng motioned to approve a letter to RIDE requesting a minor amendment to its charter involving the potential enrollment patterns so long as it preserves our ability to grow and Fonseca seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano, Carlene Fonseca

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

- b. Discussion: The Board discussed a proposed minor amendment request to RIDE to establish defined enrollment percentages from sending districts.

Giordano motioned to approve a letter to RIDE requesting a minor amendment to EARI's charter to establish defined enrollment percentages as noted in the lottery policy enrollment description, Chhay seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano, Carlene Fonseca

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

- c. Discussion: The Board discussed the draft enrollment policy. A question arose about when residency is verified. Mayor Elorza request a future update on how the seats open to staff will be determined should demand from staff exceed the number of seats available. The board asked to update the mode of communication for enrollment offers to include at least two modes of contact.
- d. Discussion: The Board discussed a proposed minor amendment request to RIDE to formalize the by-laws as part of EARI's charter.

Fonseca motioned to approve a letter to RIDE requesting a minor amendment to formalize the by-laws as part of EARI's charter, Chhay seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Jorge Elorza, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Liz Giordano, Carlene Fonseca

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

### **6. Progress on EARI School Launch**

Stearns shared an update on the facilities search. Larracuenté shared her team is making progress on the school's academic model.

### **7. Public Comment**

None

### **8. Adjourn**

Fonseca moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 am, seconded by Heng and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 8.28
3. Bylaws
4. Draft letter to RIDE on enrollment pattern
5. Draft letter to RIDE on defined enrollment percentages
6. Draft enrollment policy