

MINUTES
Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting
Academic Oversight Committee & School Improvement Team Meeting
Thursday, November 2, 2023 – 6:00 pm
622 Woonasquatucket Ave, North Providence, RI, 02911

Committee Members in Attendance: Liz Giordano, Chiv Heng, Ferny Reyes, Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Kate Ring, Frangely Rojas

Committee Members Absent: Megan Perry, Kate Cushing, Liz Matson, Katie Medina

Non-Committee Board Members Present: Mayor Brett Smiley, Channavy Chhay, Gary Goldberg

Staff Attending: Stephanie Patton, Andrew Solomon

Members of the Public Attending: None

1. Call to Order

Giordano called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Orientation to Academic Oversight Committee & School Improvement Team

Kaynor welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the XLRI Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team of School Year 23-24. Kaynor refreshed the group on the structure of the Academic Oversight Committee and the LEA Strategic Plan and School Improvement Team requirements and process.

4. Committee Business

Giordano motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 3.16.23, and Heng seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

All those in favor: Liz Giordano, Chiv Heng, Ferny Reyes, Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, Kate Ring, Frangely Rojas

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

5. Update on LEA Strategic Plan

Reyes updated the Committee on RIDE's feedback on the LEA Strategic Plan that was submitted in June 2023 to RIDE. Reyes reminded the group of the goals contained within the LEA Strategic Plan. Edits have been incorporated in time for the final version to be posted publicly. The Academic Committee/SIT will continue to monitor and reflect on its goals and metrics each quarter and will update the LEA Strategic Plan by the end of this school year.

6. Review and Discussion of Prelim. Academic Data and State of the School Update

Ring, Patton, and Reyes provided a presentation on the school's academic data and progress since last year. The enclosed academic update slides and data dashboard were provided to the Committee/SIT for review. The Committee/SIT reviewed prior year academic performance indicators and then reviewed current academic data trends so far this school year and noted many areas of significant progress, including the following highlights:

- The School Team and Network Team worked hard together from last spring through to this fall to improve the school, and we are seeing the results of this work.
- NSO/Summit galvanized the staff to have a strong start to the year.

- 8-week goals allowed for rapid teacher development and a safe and predictable school environment.
- School culture and academics are in a strong place.
- Staff and student attrition are low.
- Attendance has improved from 90.3% last year to 94.5% this year.
- Chronic absenteeism has improved from 36.4% last year to 16.2% this year.
- Suspensions have decreased from 29.1% last year to 4.1% this year.

The Committee/SIT also discussed goals and initiatives through the rest of this school year and a plan to continue to monitor key metrics each quarter, which will also inform updates to the LEA Strategic Plan in the spring.

Rojas conveyed that her child (a current XLRI 6th grader) has felt excited about being a part of the “MAP Pack” at school and is feeling engaged in her academic growth.

7. Adjourn

Having completed the business of the Committee, Kaynor motioned to adjourn. Heng seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Academic Oversight Committee & SIT Overview
3. Academic Update Slides and preliminary academic data