

**MINUTES**  
**Excel Academy Rhode Island Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – 5:30 pm**  
**270 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907**

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

**Board Members Absent:**, Mayor Charles Lombardi, Liz Giordano

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

**Members of the Public Attending:** Brian Guzman

**1. Call to Order**

Smiley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and presided over the meeting. Kaynor kept the minutes of the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Board Business**

Chhay moved to approve the minutes from 2.21.23, and Heng seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Rivera moved to approve the enclosed update to the Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team (SIT) membership, and Chhay seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Chhay moved to approve the enclosed update to the Building Committee membership, and Rivera seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

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

Stearns provided an update on the state of the school, progress with implementation of improvements at the school, student and staff culture, leadership transition planning, Network Team support and coaching for the

school staff, preliminary academic results, and the school's notable preparedness for assessments and the lottery. Stearns also provided an update on plans for Excel Academy's Celebration of Excellence (COE) and 20-year anniversary event in the spring, as well as plans for a Board dinner in June.

### **5. Discussion of School Day Schedule & Calendar**

Kaynor provided an update on efforts by the school team to streamline the daily schedule and annual calendar in response to family and staff feedback. Several Board members would like to discuss proposed schedule improvements in more detail with staff, prior to finalizing the schedule for next year.

Chhay motioned to approve authorizing the Chair to finalize and submit a minor amendment request letter on the Board's behalf to RIDE by May 1 regarding the school's schedule and calendar, and Goldberg seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None

### **6. Banking & Investments Resolution**

Solomon updated the Board on actions taken to safeguard the organization's assets in the aftermath of the SVB crisis. The Board discussed the impact of the crisis on the sector and efforts to build a coalition with peers to work on this topic. The Finance Committee will work with the organization's Finance Team to implement appropriate procedures and controls, consistent with RIDE guidelines and sound management practices.

Chhay motioned to approve the enclosed banking & investments resolutions and Goldberg seconded.

All those in favor: Mayor Brett Smiley, Mayor Maria Rivera, Channavy Chhay, Chiv Heng, Gary Goldberg  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None

### **7. Facility Update & Project Debrief**

Solomon facilitated a discussion with the Board to reflect on lessons learned and to identify opportunities for improvement following the Plainfield facility project.

### **8. Adjourn**

Chhay motioned to adjourn. Goldberg seconded. The meeting closed at 6:30 pm.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 2.21.23
3. Update to Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team (SIT) membership
4. Update to Building Committee membership
5. Draft minor amendment request letter regarding the school schedule
6. Banking & investments resolution
7. Facility project debrief & lessons learned summary