

MINUTES
Excel Academy Massachusetts Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 30, 2022 – 8:00 am

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Board Members Absent: Yahaira Acuna, Steve Mugford, Steve Zrike

Staff Attending: Owen Stearns, Arthur Kaynor, Diane Cohen, Chi Lakhani, Jocelyn Foulke, Andrew Solomon, Aaron Stelson

1. Call to Order

Howe called the meeting to order at 8:05 am and presided over the meeting. Diane Cohen kept the minutes.

2. Roll Call

Noted above

3. Approval of Minutes

Ottmer motioned to approve the minutes from the 4.7.22 meeting of the Board and Stolow seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

4. Approval of Officers

Vote on a change of officers for FY23. Brumme will take a year off the Board and Rodriguez will take on the Vice-Chair role.

- Vice-Chair: Cait Brumme will now be Bernabe Rodriguez

Lytle motioned to approve the new Vice-Chair for FY23 Board and Stolow seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

5. Charter Renewal Application

Lakhani shared an update on the process for submitting the charter renewal. There was a discussion on the process and it was noted that the application is due on August 1. She shared that there will be a site visit and then a formal review culminating in a recommendation and the end of the calendar year. There was discussion on what the feedback from the last review contained and how the Board can prepare for the site visit.

Lytle motioned to approve the charter renewal application and authorize the Board Chair to sign the final application and Brumme seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

6. Update on Student Opportunity Act Plan

Lakhani shared information about the Student Opportunity Act Plan which focuses on special education students and English language learners. It will also focus on continuing to diversify Excel's teaching workforce.

7. Update on the CMO agreement

Stolow shared an update on the CMO agreement and the implications of the agreement on the responsibilities of the MA schools board. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education delegated the responsibility to approve the final agreement to DESE. Howe shared his perspective on the agreement and emphasized the need to be equitable in the division of resources between the entities.

Stolow motioned to ratify the CMO agreement and Ottmer seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Opposed: None

8. Finance and Budget Update

Solomon shared an overview of the financial snapshot. He shared an FY22 and FY23 comparison and noted the most significant changes including compensation and transportation. There was a discussion on where the risks are around interest rate changes.

Howe motioned to the FY23 budget and Brumme seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Opposed: None

9. Calendar for next year

Stearns shared the calendar for next year.

Howe motioned to approve the calendar and Stolow seconded.

All those in favor: Matt Ottmer, David Stolow, Bernabe Rodriguez, Pam Klien, Nery Castro, Rob Lytle, Devon Petersmeyer Johnson, Cait Brumme, Ben Howe

Opposed: None

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjourn

Ottmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am, seconded by Klien and the meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from 6.7.22
3. Charter Renewal Application