

APPROVED



# Excelsior Village Academies

## Minutes

### Excelsior Village Academies' Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Saturday September 21, 2024 at 11:00 AM

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#### Location

The Excelsior Village Academies' Board of Directors will meet in person. Please see the location below:

5295 Highway 155 N; Stockbridge, GA 30281

You can also join virtually. Please see the meeting details below:

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8754612347?pwd=UXN0amZyMmE3YlVNamhHK3JWVGJKUT09>

**Meeting ID: 875 461 2347**

**Passcode: EVA24**

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#### Directors Present

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A. Holmes, D. Paige, N. Brinson, R. Hutchins, T. Burrell, W. Smith

**Directors Absent**

K. Rutherford

**Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

D. Paige

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**I. Opening Items**

**A. Call the Meeting to Order**

R. Hutchins called a meeting of the board of directors of Excelsior Village Academies to order on Saturday Sep 21, 2024 at 11:07 AM.

**B. Record Attendance**

**C. Approve Minutes**

N. Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes from Excelsior Village Academies' Board Meeting on 08-17-24.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**D. Approve Minutes**

N. Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes from Excelsior Village Academies' Board Meeting on 07-20-24.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**E. Approve Minutes**

N. Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Meeting on 09-20-23.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**F. Approve Minutes**

N. Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Meeting on 04-08-24.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.  
D. Paige arrived at 11:08 AM.

**II. Finance**

**A. Budget**

- 2024-2025 Finacial Update
  - There is a slight \$3k increase in operating income between the previous and present forecast.

- Savings in personnel spending b/c of teaching staff changes and increase in supplies spending since the last update.
- Because of the receipt of NSVF Fund and CPS Grant, EVA ended August with \$531K cash on hand.
- EVA is currently on track to meet SCSC Dashboard indicators about the budget. We will continue to track it as the year goes on
- Accomplishments:
  - Additional CSP drawdown approved
  - Enrollment is approaching target
  - No significant personnel changes

## B. Fundraising

- Fundraising Efforts:
  - We want to match fundraising to specific goals highlighted by EVA needs.
- Grit N Wit Vendor (Fundraising Vendor)
  - The EVA 5K has become an obstacle course
  - Grit N Wit is a vendor that puts together a 16-20 course event
  - **Cost:** \$5,500.
    - This will be money from the board, not the school.
  - They can assist in marketing, but we can also supplement with our own marketing to ensure we are meeting EVA's needs.
  - **Target:** April 2025
- EVA Swag Store (Fundraising Opportunity)
- EVA Letter Writing Campaign (Strategic Ask Opportunity)
  - Four letters have been written and will go out after the swag is ordered and delivered.
  - **Goal:** We want them to come to see the school and invest in our mission.

W. Smith made a motion to approve further contracting with Grit N Wit for the EVA Obstacle Course.

R. Hutchins seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

R. Hutchins made a motion to launch the public EVA Swag Store as a fundraiser for EVA.

A. Holmes seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

R. Hutchins made a motion to move forward with the EVA Letter Writing Campaign, starting with the first four (4) letters to go out this fall.

N. Brinson seconded the motion.

- Is there space for a template to send to the greater community outside these four foundations?
  - Yes, we need to streamline the list of the people we want to contact and create a template for the board to use to reach out to their networks.

- Board will create a spreadsheet to keep track of all the people we reach out

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **C. Next Steps**

## **III. Updates**

### **A. GADOE Monitoring**

- Monitoring tasks have been flagged for the board
  - The first deadline for initial tasks is Oct. 1
  - The first FTE update is the second week of October

### **B. Enrollment**

- Initially, enrollment was capped at 117; after the 14-day attendance purge, EVA was 20 scholars short of the 117 goal.
- As of 9/21 - EVA was at 87 scholars, down by 31. During initial monitoring to GADOE, EVA reported 107 scholars, which is still 21 scholars down from 117
- By the October FTE reporting deadline, there will be a cut-off for SY25, and we will start moving toward enrollment targets for SY26

### **C. Personnel Update**

- New TA & New SPED teacher starting Monday, Sept. 23
- Currently down two teachers
  - Kindergarten and 3rd-grade teacher vacancies
- Two subs starting and will shadow DOI, DOS, and School Leader as onboarding

### **D. Facilities**

- Closing out on facility tasks
- Phase 2 discussions on the horizon
- Campus security is top of mind for the school community

### **E. Grants**

- CSP
  - Doing much better with drawdowns
  - There has been an expansion of opportunities for the school to utilize the funds in various ways
    - Recently reimbursed for kitchen equipment, the October drawdown will cover furniture
- NSVF

- \$280K released for use

#### **F. First Weeks of School**

#### **G. Path to Proficiency: State of Union**

- 2 Reading Assessments, ERLA and iReady. Created a highly coordinated approach to diagnosing student proficiency
- 27% proficiency schoolwide, 8% proficient in 3rd grade
- The school goal will be a 10% increase for a 37% proficiency rate by EOY
- Math goals are still being calculated based off iReady screener
- Big focus for the next 6 weeks will be reading to help start this work
- There has been a charge for families to support the work at home in conjunction with the work that is happening at school right now

### **IV. Community Engagement**

#### **A. Upcoming Events**

Back to School Night - Sept. 26

- Set-Up @ 3:00p
- Event is 5:30p - 6:30p

### **V. Board Business**

#### **A. SCSC Monitoring Handbook**

Scope of Monitoring:

- Based on SY25 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)
- Uses the Comprehensive Performance Framework Section III

#### **B. Reminders**

- Look ahead on calendars to alert the Board Chair before meeting if absent or tardy
- We will look to reschedule the Dec. 21 meeting to the Dec. 14

R. Hutchins made a motion to move into an Executive Session regarding a potential board member.

D. Paige seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **C. Executive Session**

The board discussed the qualifications of a new board member.

R. Hutchins made a motion to close to the executive session and go back to the general meeting.

A. Holmes seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**D. Prospective Board Member**

N. Brinson made a motion to approve Ralph Culpepper as a new board member.

W. Smith seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**VI. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Hutchins