APPROVED

Excel Academy Massachusetts

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Friday February 7, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Location
Microsoft Teams Need help?
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Meeting ID: 220 887 018 894
Passcode: xKqdrs

Meeting Notice Posted Publicly: 2/5/25

Please note: All items listed on the agenda are subject to a possible vote by the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Present
B. Rodriguez (remote), C. Brumme (remote), D. Petersmeyer Johnson (remote), D. Sachs (remote), D. Stolow (remote), M. Colaylat (remote), N. Castro (remote), R. Lytle (remote), T. Griffith Walker (remote)

Trustees Absent
P. Klein, S. Zrike

Guests Present

A. Kaynor (remote), Frangely Rojas (Excel RI Board) (remote), Jamie Greenthal (Excel RI Board) (remote), Laura Goldworm (remote), O. Stearns (remote), Seth Reynolds (Friends of Excel Board) (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Brumme called a meeting of the board of trustees of Excel Academy Massachusetts to order on Friday Feb 7, 2025 at 8:02 AM.
C. Brumme welcomed the members of Excel's RI and Friends Boards who are in attendance to participate in the CAPS Update discussion.

C. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

D. Approve prior Board Meeting minutes

R. Lytle made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 12-13-24.
C. Brumme seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Governance

A. N/A - No discussion or voting items.

A. Kaynor noted that we have a prospective new Board member candidate who may be nominated at the next meeting, pending availability.

III. Academic Oversight

A. Annual CAPS (College Access & Post-Secondary Success) Update

L. Goldworm presented updates on the school's College Access and Post-Secondary Success (CAPS) Program, as detailed in the CAPS Update slides that were provided to the Board in advance.

R. Lytle asked a clarifying question regarding military enrollment rates, which L. Goldworm answered.

D. Sachs asked a clarifying question about how we define affordability when working with students to set goal-aligned plans, which L. Goldworm clarified. It is ultimately a

calculation about the outcome of how much debt the student will likely end up with by the end of college. D. Sachs asked a follow-up question regarding family levels of comfort with affordability conversations, which L. Goldworm clarified. D. Sachs thanked L. Goldworm and the CAPS Team for going above and beyond to support families in navigating these complex decisions.

F. Rojas, a member of the Excel RI Board who also works for a college (Rhode Island College), thanked the team for their great work.

S. Reynolds asked to hear reflections on patterns since having our own high school relative to when we were supporting students through their other high school options when we only had middle school. L. Goldworm responded that we are seeing a % of students choosing 4 year vs 2 year options and also higher rates of post-secondary persistence and success.

S. Reynolds also asked, if cost were not a concern, how would we balance thinking about school selectivity and finding a “best fit” school. What is the best long-run approach for a student’s success in your experience? L. Goldworm noted that the team prioritizes ensuring students make decisions with clear information and understanding of their choices, both the benefits and downsides.

C. Brumme and O. Stearns thanked L. Goldworm and the CAPS team for their excellent work on behalf of Excel students and alumni.

IV. Other Business

A. Executive Session Discussion & Vote

C. Brumme made a motion to enter into executive session at 9:03am pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 30A, s. 21(4) exclusively to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. I also move to invite and permit the following staff to attend the executive session: Owen Stearns and Arthur Kaynor.
D. Stolow seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Sachs	Aye
P. Klein	Absent
C. Brumme	Aye
M. Colaylat	Aye
D. Stolow	Aye
T. Griffith Walker	Aye
B. Rodriguez	Aye
S. Zrike	Absent
N. Castro	Aye
D. Petersmeyer Johnson	Aye

Roll Call

R. Lytle Aye

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:25am, and C. Brumme provided the following report as the presiding councilperson:

- The Excel Academy Charter School Board convened into executive session pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 30A, s. 21(4) exclusively to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and invited the following staff to attend the executive session: Owen Stearns and Arthur Kaynor.
- During the executive session, the Excel Academy Charter School Board took the following actions:
  - Voted unanimously to approve the guidelines titled: “Resolutions regarding Excel Academy’s commitment to serve all students equally regardless of citizenship status.”
  - Voted unanimously to seal the minutes of this executive session and to keep these minutes sealed from meeting to meeting, unless and until unsealed by a vote of the board, because disclosure would jeopardize the school’s safety, pursuant to discussions conducted under Mass. Gen. Laws c. 30A, s. 21(4).
  - Voted unanimously to close executive session and reconvene in open session.

B. Reminder about upcoming events & engagement goals

A. Kaynor provided the Board with reminders about upcoming events and Board engagement goals, as detailed on the agenda.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

R. Lytle made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
C. Brumme seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Brumme
List of documents used at the meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting minutes
- CAPS Update slides

- Executive session resolutions (sealed & confidential)

The public is welcome to attend any meeting of the Board of Trustees or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact Arthur Kaynor at akaynor@excelacademy.org at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting. Any changes in the agenda will be posted on Excel Academy Charter School's website, Excel's principal place of business, and will be electronically filed with the Secretary of State at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. If you would like to attend a Board meeting and provide public comment, please sign up 48 hours in advance here: https://forms.gle/7315BJ7v1bHGGh2Q9.

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