APPROVED

Excel Academy Massachusetts

Minutes

Board of Trustees - Academic Oversight Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Monday December 8, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Location
Microsoft Teams Need help?
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Meeting ID: 221 115 234 793 7
Passcode: RC6UP6ti

Meeting Notice Posted Publicly on 12/4/25.

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

Committee Members Present
B. Rodriguez (remote), S. Zrike (remote), T. Griffith Walker (remote)

Committee Members Absent
None

Guests Present
A. Kaynor (remote), F. Reyes (remote), N. Keough (remote), O. Stearns (remote), Y. Dubon (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Zrike called a meeting of the Academic Oversight Committee of Excel Academy Massachusetts to order on Monday Dec 8, 2025 at 1:31 PM.

C. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments at this meeting.

D. Approve Minutes for prior Academic Oversight Committee Meeting

B. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees - Academic Oversight Committee Meeting on 09-29-25.
S. Zrike seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Oversight

A. Update on State of the Schools, Academic Data, and Priorities

N. Keough and F. Reyes presented updates on student and staff data at the school, as detailed in the Board Academic Data Dashboard and Academic Update Slides which were provided to the Committee, including the following highlights:

- Excel continues to improve on student attendance after the substantial growth made over the last two years. Suspension rates remain stable with the previous two years.
- Our Interim Assessment 1 results in MS and HS led us to believe we are on track to meet our high-level goals for both MCAS and AP coursework, with specific bright spots in MS Math and in our AP program in both Humanities and STEM courses.
- Staff satisfaction has improved significantly from the previous year, with the greatest improvement in trust in leadership and motivation.

S. Zrike asked for context about the connection between IA and AP data. N. Keough commented that the IA is all based on previously released AP exams and that we calibrate scoring to align with AP grading practices and standards. F. Reyes added that he dedicates time particularly with less experienced teachers to ensure that the scoring is accurate and well calibrated.

N. Keough and F. Reyes presented a proposal for updated competency guidelines.

S. Zrike asked the rationale for IA3 or IA4, N. Keough and F. Reyes clarified that some courses do not take IA4 due to MCAS timing and IA3 is the most comprehensive cumulative assessment.

S. Zrike asked for confirmation of how the policy addresses past students, transfer students, and level 1 or 2 newcomers, which F. Reyes clarified.

Committee members thanked the team for impressive results and appreciated the thoughtful reflections on areas for improvement.

B. Vote to Recommend Board Approval of Updated Competency Determination Policies

S. Zrike made a motion to Vote to recommend Board Approval of enclosed, updated Competency Determination policies and guidelines for students at Excel Academy Charter School, with any necessary edits.
T. Griffith Walker seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Griffith Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, having completed the business of the Committee.
B. Rodriguez seconded the motion.
The committee **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 2:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Zrike
List of documents used at the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior Meeting Minutes
- Board Academic Data Dashboard
- Academic Update Slides
- Updated Competency Determination Policy and Guidelines

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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