

APPROVED



## RISE Prep Academies

### Minutes

#### Standing Board Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM

##### **Location**

30 Cumberland Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

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A vote may be taken on any agenda item.

Zoom link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8615357511?pwd=VVhWdElmLzRRWWhvOFZDQVVBZzQrZz09#success>

Note: Members of the public can participate in public comment virtually. All RISE Prep Board Members must participate in-person.

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##### **Directors Present**

C. Dias, G. Gassey, J. Egan, J. Leveille, J. O'Rourke, M. Beauchamp, P. Hamilton, T. Calouro

##### **Directors Absent**

*None*

##### **Ex Officio Members Present**

S. Izzi

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##### **Non Voting Members Present**

S. Izzi

### **Guests Present**

K. Waller, R. DaCruz

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

P. Hamilton called a meeting of the board of directors of RISE Prep Academies to order on Tuesday Apr 22, 2025 at 10:05 AM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

M. Beauchamp made a motion to approve the minutes from Standing Board Meeting on 03-04-25.

J. Egan seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Executive Director Updates**

### **A. General Updates**

Ms. DaCruz stated that the school's attorney, Mr. Izzy put together a letter that will be sent to RIDE in response to the Major Amendment hearing. In the letter we are asking them to establish a clear process of conversion from Mayoral to independent charter by August 2025. Additionally, we are asking for the second installment of the payment for the addition of the upper academy, the CSP grant. In the letter, Mr. Izzy is asking for transparency regarding other charter schools who received the funds and to identify the criteria that made them eligible. Ms. Waller stated that the school submitted an application at the same time when the application was submitted for the first round of funds. Mr. Izzy emphasized that RISE Prep always followed the guidelines and requests from RIDE during the Major Amendment application as well as in any other matter since the school's opening. The entire board agreed with the context of the letter and proceeded to vote.

Ms. DaCruz provided the updates regarding the process for joining the Retirement program, as RIDE provided the letter necessary. The employees were also surveyed and encouraged to express their feeling and concerns. Mr. Izzy recommended official reassurance for approval from the ERSRI.

Ms. Diaz suggested to make sure that the Woonsocket School District is aware of the fact the numbers regarding the local shares are not yet real and that WSD was not supposed to get the extra funding this year anyway.

Ms. DaCruz informed the board that the school was awarded the \$50,000 grant for the PowerSchool Student Info. System Implementation through the Wardwell Family Foundation for the academic year 2025-2026.

Ms. Waller stated that the school got approval to use federal funding (Title I and Title IV) for the professional development part of PowerSchool program during the current school year as some of the teachers are doing that now and the funds help with the one-on-one training, etc.

Ms. DaCruz informed the board that they started the legal process with the students with chronic absentee. She emphasized that despite the efforts and logistics available there are a few cases that need extra attention and that are not the students at fault but the parents. Overall, the student absenteeism is down 5% this year and the teacher absenteeism took a big hit because of flu season. The metrics considered are the school's metrics and not the state's metrics.

Ms. DaCruz stated that they are tracking the new legislation on the General Assembly this year, paying special attention to the pieces that might have an impact on the school.

J. O'Rourke made a motion to approve to send the Mr. Izzy's letter to RIDE.

M. Beauchamp seconded the motion.

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

### **III. Communications Update**

#### **A. Update from Work with Communications Consultant**

Ms. Hamilton : Mike Trayner is been working . Press releases -monthly

Ms. DaCruz - for enrollment, teachers recruitment and general info.

Next Tuesday- press conference , 10 am at 120 Spring St. Will notify The City Council , The Governor Office, School Committee to be transparent.

### **IV. Facilities Committee: Upper Academy Requests for Proposals**

#### **A. Owner's Representative RFP Update**

Ms. DaCruz stated that the RFP will be brought back at the next meeting.

#### **B. Architect/Design Services: Request to Use Firm on MPA List**

Ms. DaCruz -recommended to work with KITE Arhitect .

J. O'Rourke made a motion to approve RD to get a quote from Kite Architects.  
J. Egan seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**C. Commissioning Agent: Request to Use Firm on MPA List**

M. Beauchamp made a motion to retain the Commissioning Agent.  
J. O'Rourke seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**D. Construction Manager RFP Timeline Update**

Ms. DaCruz stated that more work with the architect should take place before the RFP, therefore it will be released on early summer 2026.

**V. Finance Committee Update**

**A. Discussion**

Ms. Waller stated that for the next meeting there will be available a budget draft with the goal to have the final budget ready for approval for the June meeting.

**VI. Executive Session**

**A. Consideration of Matters Related to Real Estate and Facilities**

J. Egan made a motion to to enter executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46- 5 (a) (5), (discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public). If held in executive session, the board may vote to seal the minutes of the executive session.  
M. Beauchamp seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.  
M. Beauchamp made a motion to seal the minutes and reenter the public session.  
J. O'Rourke seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**VII. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

J. Egan made a motion to adjourn.  
J. O'Rourke seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** 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 11:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
G. Gassey

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Note: Members of the public may provide public comment virtually, but the Board of Directors must participate in the meeting in-person.