

APPROVED



RISE Prep Academies

Minutes

RISE Prep October Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday October 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Location

30 Cumberland Street Woonsocket, RI 02895

A vote may be taken on any agenda item.

Zoom link: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8615357511?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8615357511?pwd=VVhWdElmLzRRWWhvOFZDQVVBZzQrZz09#success)

[pwd=VVhWdElmLzRRWWhvOFZDQVVBZzQrZz09#success](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8615357511?pwd=VVhWdElmLzRRWWhvOFZDQVVBZzQrZz09#success)

Directors Present

C. Dias, G. Gasey, J. Leveille, J. O'Rourke, M. Beauchamp, P. Hamilton

Directors Absent

T. Calouro

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned

P. Hamilton

Ex Officio Members Present

S. Izzi

Non Voting Members Present

S. Izzi

Guests Present

C. Colarusso, K. Waller, R. DaCruz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

Coleen Colarusso joined at 10:12.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

P. Hamilton called a meeting of the board of directors of RISE Prep Academies to order on Tuesday Oct 7, 2025 at 10:01 AM.

C. Approve Minutes - September Board Meeting

M. Beauchamp made a motion to approve the minutes from RISE Prep September Board Meeting on 09-02-25.

J. O'Rourke seconded the motion.

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

II. Executive Director Updates

A. SBA Submission & Next Steps

Mrs. DaCruz submitted stage II on time, and it is in the portal. RIDE was supportive.

B. CSP Grant Aware Update for 25-26 Activities

Mrs. Da Cruz presented the update regarding the reimbursements. She stated that had a fruitful conversation with Mr. Osbourne and he reassured her that the school will receive the second part of the grant of \$500,000 and an additional \$166,000.

C. Resignations & Hiring Update

Mrs. Da Cruz informed the board that they had 3 resignations. There were multiple reasons for this situation, such as some teachers didn't feel was the right fit; they thought that the kids from Woonsocket are more challenging than what they anticipated. At this time there are ongoing efforts to hire new staff and cover the vacancies.

D. RICAS Results Release

Mrs. Da Cruz informed the board about the results and stated they were the worst they ever been. She continued by stating that it was for the first time in the school's history that they didn't outperform the State average and other Mayoral schools. Part of the reasons for the situation were identified as back filling in Woonsocket, operating in half model and being unfounded.

Mrs. Dacruz stated that even though they were expecting to take a hit there is still the belief that this model should work for all kids and that they will work hard to prove it. Mrs. Colarusso and Mrs. Dacruz are working together with the teachers to identify and close the gaps, setting and holding expectations accordingly.

The biggest bright spot was considered the fact that the school consistently outperformed the state average in MLS.

Mrs. DaCruz emphasized that there is still a lot of work to be done and they never want their kids to be under the State Average.

E. Academic Priorities & Focus

Mrs. Dacruz stated that she is pleased that Tier 1 is going to be stronger than before and they have a plan in place to improve the teacher's skills and improve the students' performance.

III. Consideration of Release: Request for Proposals (RFP) - Construction Manager - Upper Academy Project

A. Consideration of Construction Manager RFP & Release

Mrs. DaCruz stated that they have to bring in a construction manager as the design is still on, to flag pieces that look good in paper but not in practice. At this moment it's necessary just to release the RFP, and after going through the whole process will bring back to the board the information about who bit on it and the selection process.

M. Beauchamp made a motion to release the RFP for the Construction Manager for the Upper Academy Project.

J. O'Rourke seconded the motion.

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

IV. Finance Update

A. Audit Progress Update

Mrs. Waller informed the board that she was pleased with the audit and that it will be finalized by the end of October.

B. Consideration of Pre-Development Loan Term Sheet

Mrs. Waller stated that they will need permission to pre-develop loan term sheets. NFF sent the list of requirements. In discussion is also the intention to seek another lender as well.

C.

Upcoming Financial Reports Board Review

Mrs. Waller will have the financial report ready for review at the next meeting.

V. Communications Update

A. Upcoming Communications

Mrs. DaCruz informed the board that the newsletter is going to go out "this week or next".

Second round of digital advertising will roll out in November, when applications for enrollment go out as well.

The website is continuing to be improved.

Mrs. Hamilton congratulated Mrs. DaCruz for the good interview with Valley Breeze.

VI. Executive Session: Consideration of Matters Related to Real Estate & Facilities

A. Exec Session

C. Dias made a motion to move into 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).

M. Beauchamp seconded the motion.

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

M. Beauchamp made a motion to close the executive session and seal the minutes.

C.Dias seconded.

The board Voted to approve the motion.

P. Hamilton left at 10:47 AM.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

M. Beauchamp announced that was voted to allow R. DaCruz and S. Izzi to negotiate the parking at 120 Spring Street.

M. Beauchamp made a motion to adjourn.

C. Dias 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 10:57 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Gassey

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