

APPROVED



Excel Academy (CA)

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date and Time

Thursday December 14, 2023 at 12:30 PM

Location

Excel Academy Charter School
1 Technology Drive, Ste I-811
Irvine, CA 92618

Regus- Gateway Chula Vista
333 H Street, Suite 5000
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Zoom Meeting Information:

Dial In: +1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 876 6053 8214

URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87660538214>

MISSION STATEMENT

Excel Academy will provide flexible, personalized learning through a customized course of study that will educate, motivate, and instill a love of learning in each individual student. Teachers and parents will join together to maintain high expectations and promote academic excellence for all students creating the next generation of leaders.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The Governing Board's presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting Excel Academy Charter Schools.

Directors Present

L. Alvarado, M. Humphrey, S. Fraire, S. Houle, W. Hall

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

L. Hansen

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

W. Hall called a meeting of the board of directors of Excel Academy (CA) to order on Thursday Dec 14, 2023 at 12:30 PM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Approve/Adopt Agenda

A. Agenda

M. Humphrey made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Fraire seconded the motion.

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

III. Approve Minutes

A. Approve Minutes

S. Fraire made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on 10-12-23.

L. Alvarado seconded the motion.

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

B. Approve Minutes

M. Humphrey made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors Study Session on 11-09-23.

S. Houle seconded the motion.

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

IV. Adjourn to Closed Session

A. The Board will consider and may act on any of the Closed Session matters.

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.

M. Humphrey seconded the motion.

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

V. Reconvene Regular Meeting

A. Report out any action taken in closed session.

No action was taken.

VI. Public Comments/Recognition/Reports

A. Introductions

Heidi introduced all on the Zoom call.

VII. Correspondence/Proposals/Reports

A. School Highlights - Presented by Heidi Gasca, Executive Director/CEO

Heidi discussed the highlights from the month of November.

B. Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Presentation - Presented by Tamara Murphy, Intervention Coordinator, and Sarah Horikawa, TOSA of MTSS

Tamara Murphy & Sarah Horikawa introduced the intervention team, consisting of 11 members, including three new positions, collaborates effectively to provide support to students. Sarah outlined three intervention goals aligned with SPSA, LCAP, and WASC: academic achievement, professional development, and continuous monitoring.

The WIN (What I Need) program in the Intervention department targets students who have not met grade level standards, with 248 students in reading and 312 in math. The program offers targeted interventions through weekly lessons at home, monitored by the compliance coordinator. The school has implemented school-wide reading fluency

assessments, a proactive dyslexia screener process, and enhanced the WIN live classes' curriculum and professional development.

The intervention team has focused on refining the assessment process to provide valuable feedback for student learning. New initiatives include a reading-intensive class for 3rd and 4th graders, increased math support for 1st to 4th graders, and additional phonics classes. The emphasis is on addressing the needs of students in critical areas like reading skills, with a proactive approach to prevent further challenges. Student success team meetings and special education referral meetings are conducted as needed, employing a support cycle of analyzing, strategizing, collaborating, and creating action plans to monitor and ensure students' ongoing progress.

VIII. Consent

A. Consent - Business/Financial Services

B. Consent - Education Student/Services

C. Consent - Personnel Services

D. Policy Development

E. Approve Consent Agenda

M. Humphrey made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Fraire seconded the motion.

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

IX. Business/Financial Services

A. Approval of 2023-2024 EACS First Interim Financial Report

L. Alvarado made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Fraire seconded the motion.

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

B. Approval of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) Draft Annual Audit Report - Year Ended June 30, 2023

S. Fraire made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Houle seconded the motion.

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

X. Education Services

A. Approval of School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.

L. Alvarado seconded the motion.

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

XI. Organizational Structure - Annual Meeting of the Board

A. Election of the Excel Academy Charter Schools Board Officer: President

S. Fraire made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Houle seconded the motion.

Bill Hall was elected as Board President.

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

B. Election of the Excel Academy Charter Schools Board Officer: Vice President

W. Hall made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Houle seconded the motion.

Mike Humphrey was elected as Vice President.

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

C. Election of the Excel Academy Charter Schools Board Officer: Clerk

M. Humphrey made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Fraire seconded the motion.

Steve Fraire was elected as Board Clerk.

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

D. Full Board Action in Lieu of Audit Committee, Fiscal Year 2023-24

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.

M. Humphrey seconded the motion.

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

E. Approval of Excel Academy Charter Schools Board of Directors Manual Revisions

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.

M. Humphrey seconded the motion.

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

XII. Board Comments

A. Board Comments

The board members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and accurate budget report and other materials provided, highlighting the value of receiving information in advance for thorough review. They commend Chelsea and express confidence in the school's leader, Heidi, praising her compassion, dedication, and hard work, as well as acknowledging the entire team's efforts.

The board acknowledges the school's achievement as one of the few non-classroom-based charter schools to receive a distinguished school designation, describing it as incredible. They commend Joe for his role in financial oversight and express gratitude to everyone who presented during the meeting. The presence of Chelsea at the board meeting is welcomed, and they emphasize the school's positive and dedicated atmosphere, expressing pride in being associated with Excel Academy.

Steve appreciates the collaborative nature of the meetings and thanks those who presented, highlighting the importance of keeping everyone informed. He commends Heidi for her proactive communication, preventing surprises or challenges. The board wishes everyone happy holidays and expresses pride in being affiliated with Excel Academy. They recognize Heidi's visionary leadership, emphasizing the continuous growth and forward momentum of the school's vision. The board acknowledges the collective effort of the entire team, highlighting their manifestation of servant leadership to students, parents, and each other.

XIII. CEO Comments

A. CEO Comments

Heidi expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the team, acknowledging the rare gift of a supportive and united group. She emphasized the challenges faced in other work environments where such unity is lacking, making problem-solving more difficult.

Heidi highlighted the importance of addressing parent education, specifically focusing on attendance and engagement. To enhance understanding, the school is working with a group called Possip (Positive Gossip) to analyze data related to attendance and engagement. The goal is to ensure that efforts put into events yield proper feedback. An upcoming event, "Parent PowerUp" in February, aims to engage home educators with workshops on digital cyber safety and includes provisions for child care.

Heidi expressed excitement about the ongoing goal of focusing on parent education and acknowledges the diligent work of Jenny in providing detailed reports. Gratitude is extended to Joe for his work on the first interim, providing stability, and appreciation is conveyed to Chelsea for her support. Heidi also shared her positive experience with a coaching program, expressing satisfaction with the mentorship received.

XIV. 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 1:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Hall

S. Fraire made a motion to Bill Hall.

S. Houle seconded the motion.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information concerning this agenda, contact
Excel Academy Charter School.