APPROVED

Excel Academy (CA)

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date and Time
Thursday June 13, 2024 at 11:55 AM

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: 838 4197 5894
URL: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83841975894

MISSION STATEMENT

Excel Academy will provide a flexible, personalized learning experience where teachers and parents collaborate to provide academic excellence and social and emotional foundations to instill a love for learning in each individual student.

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, S. Fraire, S. Houle, W. Hall

Directors Absent

M. Humphrey

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 Jun 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Approve/Adopt Agenda

A. Agenda

S. Fraire made a motion to Bill Hall.
S. Houle seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Humphrey	Absent
S. Houle	Aye
S. Fraire	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye
W. Hall	Aye

III. Approve Minutes

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 9, 2024

S. Fraire made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on 05-09-24.
L. Alvarado seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
S. Fraire	Aye
W. Hall	Aye
S. Houle	Aye
M. Humphrey	Absent
L. Alvarado	Aye

IV. Correspondence/Proposals/Reports

A. Excel Academy Year in Review - Presented by Heidi Gasca, Executive Director

Heidi acknowledges the end of the school year and introduces a video highlighting the 2023-2024 school year at Excel Academy.
The video includes:

- Music and visuals celebrating the school's achievements and activities.
- Highlights of hands-on learning experiences, student success stories, and personal testimonies from teachers.
- Stories of student resilience and accomplishments, including overcoming personal challenges like illness and significant academic progress.
- Celebrations of student graduations and personal connections between teachers and students.

Post-video, the board discusses the impact and significance of the video. They appreciate the positive and uplifting content, recognizing it as a promotional and motivational tool. The discussion shifts to student engagement, attendance at events, and the importance of inclusivity and outreach to ensure all students are involved. They also emphasize the role of teachers in encouraging participation and the need for strategies to engage reluctant students. The meeting concludes with acknowledgments of the challenges and efforts in reaching out to diverse student populations and ensuring their involvement in the school's community activities.

V. Consent

A. Consent - Business/Financial Services

B.

Consent - Education Student/Services

C. Consent - Personnel Services

D. Consent Items - Policy Development

E. Approve Consent Agenda

S. Fraire made a motion to Bill Hall.
S. Houle seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

W. Hall	Aye
S. Fraire	Aye
S. Houle	Aye
M. Humphrey	Absent
L. Alvarado	Aye

VI. Board Governance

A. Approval of the Revised Excel Academy 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar & Schedule

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.
L. Alvarado seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

W. Hall	Aye
M. Humphrey	Absent
S. Fraire	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye
S. Houle	Aye

VII. Business/Financial Services

A. Approval of Additional Chromebooks Purchase

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.
S. Fraire seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Humphrey	Absent
S. Fraire	Aye
S. Houle	Aye
W. Hall	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye

B. Approval of Instructional Funds Increase for Students for the 2024-25 School Year

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.
L. Alvarado seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

W. Hall	Aye
S. Fraire	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye
M. Humphrey	Absent
S. Houle	Aye

VIII. Personnel Services

A. Approval of CharterLIFE Benefits (Renewal)

S. Fraire made a motion to Bill Hall.
S. Houle seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

W. Hall	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye
S. Fraire	Aye
S. Houle	Aye
M. Humphrey	Absent

IX. Policy Development

A. Approval of New Board Policies

S. Houle made a motion to Bill Hall.
S. Fraire seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Humphrey	Absent
S. Fraire	Aye
S. Houle	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye
W. Hall	Aye

X. Public Hearing

A. Local Indicators and Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP) 2024-25

Hearing opened at 12:43 pm

Hearing closed at 12:59 pm

The public hearing began with an overview of Excel local indicators and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The presenter, Jenny Craig, highlighted key areas of focus, including teacher assignments (no missed assignments or vacancies), full implementation of academic standards across subjects, and strong community engagement and communication.

Key Points:
Local Indicators:

- No missed teacher assignments or vacancies.
- Full implementation and sustainability of academic standards, including Next Generation Science Standards and Career Technical Education.

LCAP Goals:

- **Goal 1:** Improve academic achievement for all students, including English learners and students with disabilities. Metrics include standardized test scores and course access.
- **Goal 2:** Promote a positive school climate through high-quality teaching, clear expectations, and frequent communication. Metrics include attendance, suspension/expulsion rates, and teacher qualifications.
- **Goal 3:** Increase family and community engagement, focusing on culture awareness and participation in school activities. Metrics include survey participation and feedback.
- **Goal 4:** Ensure all students are on track to graduate, with access to advanced courses and support for college and career readiness. Metrics include graduation rates and enrollment in advanced courses.

Community Engagement:

- Multiple opportunities for educational partners to engage, including PLC meetings, administrative meetings, and surveys.
- Highlighted successful community events and increased participation in surveys and feedback.

Celebrations:

- Exceeded participation requirements for state assessments.
- Increased survey responses and positive feedback from students and parents.
- Significant improvements in student performance and engagement.

Challenges and Compliance:

- Emphasis on continuous improvement and compliance with state standards.

- Recognition of the collaborative effort required to meet LCAP goals and the importance of detailed documentation and analysis.

The hearing concluded with acknowledgments of the hard work and collaboration involved in creating and implementing the LCAP, emphasizing the importance of strategic planning, community engagement, and accountability in achieving educational success.

B. Proposed Budget 2024-2025

Hearing Opened at 12:59 pm
Hearing Closed at 1:18 pm

The public hearing opened at 12:59 PM to discuss the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 school year. Joe presented the budget, noting it is based on the May revision, which has not yet been adopted by the state but is expected by June 3rd.

Key Points:
Budget Overview:

- **Budget Cycle:** The proposed budget needs adoption by July 1st, with the next meeting scheduled for June 20th.
- **Assumptions:** Using a 1.07% COLA for 2024-2025 and 0% for the next two years. Projected ADA (Average Daily Attendance) is 1,644, with a 98% attendance rate.

Cost Analysis:

- The COLA is significantly lower than last year's 8.22%, impacting budget allocations.
- Proposition 28 Art and Music Program will receive $229,000, to be used for hiring an art teacher and other related expenses.

Pension Contributions:

- Discussed the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and its unfunded liabilities.
- Employer contribution remains at 19.10%, with potential risks due to investment volatility and demographic changes.

Multi-Year Projection:

- Projected increase in fund balance, with a healthy reserve of around 35% of expenses.
- Utilizing one-time funds from the art and music block grant to mitigate cost increases.

Concerns and Risks:

- Potential future cuts in funding for charter schools, estimated at around 10%.
- Importance of educating staff about budget constraints without causing undue alarm.

Board Comments:

- Appreciation for the clarity and detail of the presentation.
- Emphasis on the need to balance financial stability with staff and student needs.
- Discussion on future financial challenges and the necessity of proactive planning to maintain the school's operations and avoid layoffs.

The hearing concluded with a consensus on the importance of maintaining transparency and communication about financial matters to ensure staff are informed and prepared for potential changes.

XI. Comments

A. Board Comments

Board members expressed appreciation for the work done throughout the year. Highlights include:

Website Update: Gratitude for the revamped Excel webpage and the inclusion of a personal favorite activity, skydiving.
Team Acknowledgment: Thanks to Heidi, Joe, Lauren, Jenny, and Megan for their reassuring and positive contributions. The board also appreciated fellow members Larry, Susan, Mike, and Bill for their collaboration.
Meeting Atmosphere: Praise for the positive and uplifting nature of the meetings, emphasizing that good decisions and teamwork contribute to this environment.
Graduation Ceremony: Positive reflections on attending the graduation ceremony, noting the impressive speeches by the valedictorians and the overall success of the event.
Overall Sentiment: A feeling of being blessed and proud to be part of an organization that positively impacts students' lives, with a shared commitment to continuing this success in the future.

B. CEO Comments

The Executive Director expressed heartfelt appreciation for the staff during their all-staff celebration, emphasizing the mutual improvement and long-term commitment within the team. They acknowledged the significant contributions and positive impacts of each staff member, noting how intertwined everyone's efforts are.

Key Points:

1. **Staff Celebration**: The recent all-staff celebration was a humbling experience, highlighting the long tenures and deep commitments of the staff.
2. **Teamwork and Improvement**: The Director praised the continual improvement and dedication seen each year, with a focus on finding areas for growth.
3. **Warner Renewal**: Celebrated the approval of a seven-year renewal through Warner Unified, extending through 2031, recognizing it as a significant achievement.
4. **Gratitude**: Expressed deep gratitude for the board's support and collaboration, especially in overcoming unique challenges faced by small school districts.
5. **Positive Outlook**: Concluded with pride in the year's accomplishments and optimism for the upcoming year, appreciating the collective effort and heart put into their work.

XII. 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 1:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. Hall

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