APPROVED

Excel Academy (CA)

Minutes

Board of Directors Study Session

Date and Time
Thursday August 8, 2024 at 9:00 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: +1 253 205 0468
Meeting ID: 849 2602 0536
Zoom URL: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84926020536

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, M. Humphrey, W. Hall

Directors Absent

S. Fraire, S. Houle

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 Aug 8, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

B. Record Attendance

Roll call

II. Approve/Adopt Agenda

A. Agenda

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

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

M. Humphrey Aye

III. Approve Minutes

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 13, 2024

L. Alvarado made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on 06-13-24.
M. Humphrey seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 20, 2024

M. Humphrey made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on 06-20-24.
L. Alvarado seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Consent

A. Consent - Personnel Services

B. Consent - Policy Development

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

Roll Call

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

V. Board Governance

A. Approval of 2024-2025 Board Evaluator Stipend

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

Roll Call

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

VI. Business/Financial Services

A. Approval of Excel Academy Charter School Petition for Charter Renewal

M. Humphrey made a motion to Bill Hall.
L. Alvarado seconded the motion.
Excel Academy's Charter Renewal Petition for Helendale Elementary School District was approved.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Excel Academy Charter School and the Helendale Elementary School District

L. Alvarado made a motion to Bill Hall.
M. Humphrey seconded the motion.
This MOU was created and agreed upon by the Charter and Authorizing district.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VII. Education/Student Services

A. Approval of the Updated 2024-2025 Local Performance Indicator Self-Reflection Reports for Excel Academy Charter Schools

M. Humphrey made a motion to Bill Hall.
L. Alvarado seconded the motion.
This item was an additional revision from the item approved in the June Board Meeting.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VIII. Personnel Services

A. Annual Executive Director/CEO Goals, Timeline and Evaluation Plan

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

Roll Call

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

IX. Oral Presentations

A. Annual Board of Directors' Self-Evaluation

During the board evaluation discussion, members reflected on various aspects of their roles and responsibilities. They acknowledged that while certain areas are still "in progress," such as long-term planning and the onboarding of new board members, the board has made significant strides in establishing effective processes and communication.

The conversation highlighted the ongoing financial tests and the uncertainty in state funding, which led to some evaluation items being marked as "in progress." The board expressed confidence in the leadership, particularly in Joe and Heidi, commending their proactive approach, especially in handling audits and unforeseen challenges.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of collaboration and the need for a clear process when onboarding new members. Some concerns were raised about past

onboarding experiences, and there was a consensus on the need for better orientation and understanding of the school's operations, especially for new members unfamiliar with virtual and distance learning.

Finally, the board discussed the importance of trusting the leadership and staff in areas like curriculum selection and student assessment, recognizing that while board oversight is crucial, it's also important to empower the principals and educational teams to lead these efforts. Overall, the board members expressed confidence in the current processes and leadership, while also acknowledging areas for continued improvement.

B. Excel Academy Charter Schools Executive Director's Strategic Plan 2024-2025

In the Executive Director's presentation of the Strategic Plan to the board, the key focus was on the school's goals and how each department contributes to achieving them. The presentation outlined four main goals: sustainable growth, retention, quality programs, and professional development.

Sustainable Growth: The Executive Director emphasized the importance of ensuring financial stability through student enrollment and community engagement. They discussed the strategic use of funds and the goal of creating a sense of belonging among families, with a vision of having strong community ties in each county served by Excel Academy.

Retention: The plan highlighted efforts to retain students and staff by offering meaningful feedback, supporting students' academic growth, and maintaining a strong special education program. Tools like POSIP were mentioned as a way to gather frequent, direct feedback from families and staff.

Quality Programs: The Director underscored the importance of continually improving educational programs, analyzing data, and empowering students through initiatives like grade-level homerooms. Parent education and student empowerment were also key components of this goal.

Professional Development: Emphasis was placed on ongoing staff development, with a focus on clear communication, effective feedback, and staying current with educational trends. The Director acknowledged the need for improvement in the "people side" of leadership, aiming for better communication and support for staff.

Throughout the presentation, the Director stressed the importance of each department's role in achieving these goals, aligning with the overall theme of collaboration and shared responsibility. They also highlighted the ongoing nature of these efforts, focusing on the current year's goals while considering multi-year objectives. The board was encouraged to provide feedback, particularly on making goals more specific and measurable.

X. 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 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. Hall

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