APPROVED

Excel Academy (CA)

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date and Time
Thursday March 13, 2025 at 11:40 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

Teleconference Locations:
16222 Quail Rock Road
Ramona, CA 92065

Zoom Meeting Information:
Dial In: +1 669 444 9171
Meeting ID: 862 9191 5672
Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86291915672

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 (remote), 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 Mar 13, 2025 at 11:48 AM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Approve/Adopt Agenda

A. Agenda

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

Roll Call

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

Roll Call

S. Houle	Aye

III. Approve Minutes

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 13, 2025

L. Alvarado made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on 02-13-25.
S. Houle seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Adjourn to Closed Session

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

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

Roll Call

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

V. Reconvene Regular Meeting

A. Report out any action taken in closed session.

A settlement agreement was approved for Closed Session Case No. 2024100529.

VI. Correspondence/Proposals/Reports

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

This presentation highlighted a successful all-staff meeting in February focused on professional development, aligning with the school's mission and vision, and understanding the learning styles of today's tech-savvy students. The school continues to prioritize intervention support, a thriving GATE program, and fostering strong social connections among students and families through various engaging events. Additionally,

the presentation showcased a marketing video and celebrated Annie Mun, the leadership teacher, for her impactful work in student fundraising. Ongoing professional development across departments and the postponement of a community event due to weather were also mentioned, alongside continued CAASPP test preparation and a successful science fair.

B. Family Testimonial - The Kakuda Family

Blake's parent, Mr. Kakuda, shared a heartfelt testimonial about his son's positive experience at Excel Academy. Blake, diagnosed with autism at 18 months and initially thought to be nonverbal, began speaking at age five after extensive therapy. A video showcased Blake enthusiastically describing his various classes and the support he receives from his teachers. Mr. Kakuda praised the exceptional special education teachers and the collaborative IEP team, including OT, speech therapy, and assistive technology support, all working towards Blake's goal of self-sufficiency in data entry. Impressively, since attending Excel Academy, Blake's GPA has risen to a 4.0, and his reading comprehension and vocabulary skills have improved at a significantly higher rate compared to his previous schooling. Mr. Kakuda expressed deep gratitude to the board and all the Excel staff for their tremendous positive impact on Blake's life.

VII. Consent

A. Consent - Business/Financial Services

B. Consent - Education & Student Services

C. Consent - Personnel Services

D. Consent Items - Policy Development

L. Alvarado made a motion to Bill Hall.
S. Fraire seconded the motion.
Items approved:

1. Check Register - February 2025
2. Cash Payments - February 2025
3. NearPod Contract for the 2024-2025 School Year
4. Self-Administration of Medication form for EACS Students
5. Classified Personnel Report
6. Certificated Personnel Report
7. Board policies:

6000 Series - Instruction (Revised with Changes)
6010 - EA Independent Study Policy
6015 - EA Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Policy
6025 - EA Section 504 Policy

6035 - EA Mathematics Placement Policy
6040 - EA Local Assessment Policy
6070 - EA Special Education Independent Educational Evaluation Policy
6095 - EA Repeated Courses Policy
6125 - EA TK-12th Grade Report Card Policy
6200 - EA Satisfactory Educational Progress Policy

6000 Series - Instruction (Reviewed with No Changes)
6005 - EA Parent & Family Engagement Policy
6020 - EA Education for Homeless Children and Youth Policy
6030 - EA Education for Foster and Mobile Youth Policy
6050 - EA Virtual Proctoring Policy
6055 - EA Educational Activity Policy
6075 - EA SPED Certificate of Completion Policy
6115 - EA Attendance Policy

6000 Series - Instruction (Eliminated)
6120 - EA Virtual Meeting Policy
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VIII. Business/Financial Services

A. Approval of the Second Interim Financial Report

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Annual Audit Engagement Services between CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) and Excel Academy Charter Schools

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

IX. Education Services

A. Approval of the Curriculum Associates (iReady Assessment) Agreement (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
S. Fraire	Aye
L. Alvarado	Aye
M. Humphrey	Absent
S. Houle	Aye

X. Policy Development

A. Approval of New Board Policies

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

Roll Call

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

XI. Comments

A. Board Comments

The board members expressed strong positive sentiments about the meeting and various aspects of the school's work. Key takeaways include:

- **Appreciation for Staff and Efforts:** There was significant appreciation expressed for the hard work of all staff members and Heidi's leadership.

- **Positive Parent Experience:** Mr. Kakuda's presentation about his child's positive experience, feeling supported and having needs met, was highlighted as "awesome" and gave one member "goosebumps," emphasizing the importance of parental trust and support.
- **Successful Bowling Event:** The high participation (375 attendees) at the bowling event was acknowledged as "amazing" and indicative of good work.
- **Positive Feedback from Excel Visit:** A visit to Excel's office, where board members met with staff and parents, was described as a "great experience" that provided valuable insights into the organization's atmosphere and feelings, which aids in their governance work.
- **Impactful Student Testimony:** A student's heartfelt, unscripted testimony was noted as particularly powerful and confidence-building.
- **Positive Financial Status:** The reported 8% return on investment and the overall good financial shape of the organization were highlighted as especially important in the current climate.
- **Acknowledgement of Unseen Staff:** There was a specific thank you extended to the staff members who work behind the scenes and whose contributions might not always be visible.

B. CEO Comments

Heidi emphasized the strong team effort as the school approaches the end of the year in March, especially highlighting the smooth transition with Heather joining as the new Director of Education mid-year. She specifically commended the executive cabinet – Jenny, Joe, Lauren, Megan, and Lara – for their supportive embrace of Heather and their resilience in navigating the changes. Heidi expressed admiration for everyone's approach to communication and their continued achievement of great things despite the growing pains of this significant transition. She concluded by thanking her executive cabinet for their collaborative spirit.

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 12:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. Hall

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