



Excel Academy Rhode Island

Board of Trustees Meeting

Published on February 18, 2026 at 1:06 PM EST

Date and Time

Thursday June 5, 2025 at 5:30 PM EDT

Location

Center for Southeast Asians
270 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907

Meeting notice posted publicly by 6/3/25.

Please note: All items listed on the agenda are subject to a possible vote by the Board of Trustees.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:30 PM
A. Record Attendance	Discuss	Arthur Kaynor	
B. Call the Meeting to Order	Discuss	Channavy Chhay	1 m
C. Public Comment	Discuss	Arthur Kaynor	1 m
D. Approve prior Board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Arthur Kaynor	1 m

Approve minutes for Excel Academy Rhode Island Board of Trustees on April 24, 2025

Purpose

Presenter

Time

II. Governance

5:33 PM

A. Approve FY26 Officers, Terms, Calendar, and Committee Assignments

Vote

Arthur Kaynor

5 m

- Enclosed FY26 Board Calendar
- Enclosed FY26 Committee Assignments
 - Including the following Building Committee membership updates:
 - Add Jamie Greenthal and Channavy Chhay
 - Remove Andrew Solomon
 - Update Chiv Heng as Chair
- FY26 Officers:
 - Chair: Mayor Brett P. Smiley
 - Vice Chair: Channavy Chhay
 - Treasurer: Chiv Heng
 - Clerk: Mayor Maria Rivera
- Term Renewals:
 - Mayor Brett P. Smiley for a second term: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028

B. Authorize Chair to approve Annual Report & School Manual, Handbook, and Policy updates

Vote

Arthur Kaynor

3 m

Vote to authorize the Chair to:

- Approve and submit the School Year 24-25 annual report
- Approve annual updates to school manuals, handbooks, and policies over the summer as needed. Note: these policies will be presented to the Board for ratification at the first meeting of School Year 25-26. The Board will also retrain on the Title IX Policy and the Board's role with respect to the Policy.
- Please see the attached protocol for reference.

III. Academic Oversight

5:41 PM

A. Approve LEA Strategic Plan Update

Vote

Arthur Kaynor

5 m

Purpose

Presenter

Time

- Vote to approve updated LEA Strategic Plan, with any necessary edits, as recommended by the Excel Academy Rhode Island Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team on April 24, 2025.

Note: stakeholder feedback is gathered from sources that may include but are not limited to – the Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team, a family input meeting and survey, the Family Leadership Council, a staff survey, and meetings with individual staff members.

Summary of Updates:

- School Year 24-25 Data has been incorporated.
- The following LEA Strategic Plan goals are largely consistent with last year's, with two updates: (1) an SGP goal which more closely mirrors our Excel's organizational priorities, and (2) ACCESS goals added at the request of RIDE.
 - XLRI will have fewer than 15% students identified as chronically absent.
 - XLRI will achieve an average SGP of 60 or higher on ELA and Math RICAS
 - XLRI will increase the percentage students Meeting and Exceeding Expectations by 6%
 - XLRI will ensure that at least 60% of MLL students meet their ACCESS Growth targets.
 - XLRI will have 50% of teachers and support professionals earn a 3 or higher on the Student Learning component of RIDE rubric.
 - XLRI will increase the percentage of experienced educators who share identities with our students by 10%.

B.	Vote to Approve Head of School Hiring Recommendation	Vote	Chiv Heng	10 m
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IV.	Finance			5:56 PM
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A.	Approve the FY26 (School Year 25-26) Budget	Vote	Aaron Stelson	20 m
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- Vote to approve the FY26 (School Year 25-26) Budget, per the Finance Committee's recommendation on April 10, 2025.

Notes:

	Purpose	Presenter	Time	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed FY26 Budget is not substantively different from the draft budget reviewed and recommended for approval by the finance committees of each board in April. • Please prioritize reviewing the FY26 Budget Memo sent by Aaron Stelson on 5.12.26. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ For finance committee members, Section 2: Organizational Draft Budget (p. 1 – 5) is substantively the same as earlier draft budget you already reviewed. If you are short on time, you could skim this section. • The following materials are also provided for reference: the April Cash Balances Email and the 5-Year Strategic Financial Model. 			
B.	Confirm the FY26 CMO Fee	Vote	Arthur Kaynor	2 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to confirm a CMO fee in RI for FY26 of 12.5% of public revenue as defined by the CMO agreement, consistent with the FY26 budget. 			
	Note: The CMO Agreement between XLRI & Friends of Excel includes a 14% fee for FY26. This vote is to confirm a lower fee % than what is in the agreement.			
C.	Update Promissory Loan Dates	Vote	Arthur Kaynor	2 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to approve updates to Promissory Notes to extend the maturation deadlines from 6/30/25 to 6/30/32, to align the maturation date with the end of the next five-year charter term and management agreement term. 			
D.	Approve the addition of Aaron Stelson to Excel RI financial accounts	Vote	Arthur Kaynor	2 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to approve resolutions authorizing the addition of Aaron Stelson, Senior Director of Finance, to all Excel Academy Rhode Island financial accounts on which the Chief Financial Officer is currently a signer, retroactive to May 2, 2025. 			
E.	Delegate approval of updated Financial Policies & Procedures, retroactively to July 1, 2025	Vote	Arthur Kaynor	2 m
F.	Approve Opening Vanguard Account	Vote	Arthur Kaynor	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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- Vote to approve resolutions authorizing opening of an investment Vanguard account on behalf of Excel Academy Rhode Island with the following authorized signers: Chiv Heng, Owen Stearns, Aaron Stelson.

V.	Real Estate, Fundraising, and Advocacy		6:29 PM
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A.	Advocacy & Fundraising Updates	Vote	Owen Stearns & Arthur Kaynor	15 m
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- Update on Advocacy Timeline & Next Steps
- Approve a \$250K refundable deposit and a \$100K diligence budget for the 225 Chapman St. project, and authorize the Treasurer to establish a Promissory Note with Friends of Excel Academy for a \$350k loan.
- Thank you to Chiv Heng, Channavy Chhay, and Jamie Greenthal for participating in the recent Site Visit Board Interview!

VI.	Other Business		6:44 PM
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A.	FYI - Reminder about upcoming events & engagement goals	FYI	Arthur Kaynor	1 m
	School Campus Tours			

Excel RI

- February-5
- February-28
- March-19
- April-28

Excel MA

- February-25
- March-24
- April-30

Save the Dates:

- Signing Day Ceremony at Excel HS - May 30, 2025, 11am
- Excel Academy Charter High School Graduation - June 11, 2025, 5pm

Purpose Presenter Time

Reminder: Please schedule 1:1 Board engagement check-ins with Owen & Arthur.

VII. Closing Items

6:45 PM

A. Adjourn Meeting Vote Channavy Chhay 1 m

The public is welcome to attend any meeting of the Board of Trustees or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact Arthur Kaynor at akaynor@excelacademy.org at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting. Any changes in the agenda will be posted on Excel Academy Charter School’s website, Excel’s principal place of business, and will be electronically filed with the Secretary of State at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. If you would like to attend a Board meeting and provide public comment, please sign up 48 hours in advance here: <https://forms.gle/7315BJ7v1bHGGh2Q9>.

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