APPROVED

Excel Academy Rhode Island

Minutes

Board of Trustees - Academic Oversight Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday January 30, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
Excel Academy Rhode Island
622 Woonasquatucket Ave
North Providence, RI, 02911

Meeting Notice Posted Publicly: 1/28/25

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

Committee Members Present
A. Kaynor, A. Medeiros, F. Reyes, F. Rojas, I. Blake, K. Ring, M. Perry, O. Stearns, S. Patton

Committee Members Absent
E. Matson, K. Cushing, K. Medina, L. Cariaga-Lo, P. Santiago

Guests Present
B. Smiley, C. Chhay, C. Heng, Grecia Ordonez (Excel RI parent & observer), Hong Hong Sao (observer), J. Greenthal, L. Giordano

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

F. Rojas called a meeting of the Academic Oversight Committee of Excel Academy Rhode Island to order on Thursday Jan 30, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

C. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

D. Approve prior Academic Oversight Committee meeting minutes

F. Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Oversight Committee Meeting on 11-07-24.
F. Rojas seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Oversight

A. Update on State of the Schools, Academic Data, and Priorities

S. Patton, F. Reyes, K. Ring, and members of the Excel Academy Rhode Island school team presented academic updates as presented in the enclosed Quarterly Board Academic Data Dashboard and Academic Update Slides. Highlights included:

- Excel Academy Rhode Island demonstrated growth in multiple measures of the state's accountability system.
- While the school's achievement was similar to the previous year, Excel's growth was substantially higher. The school improved across every category in the SQSS section.
- Interim assessments revealed some bright spots and some areas of concern to follow up on:
    - 6th Grade ELA performance was very strong, particularly with 25% of the class being students new to Excel.
    - In 5th grade ELA, few students (<10%) earned Not Meeting, which was significantly lower than our goal.
    - Students in 6th grade Math were on track to meet their goals based on the IA1 results.
    - 5th Grade Math remains our deepest area of concern, and we are employing multiple strategies to support teachers and students in this area (detailed on Slide 13).
- Excel's chronic absenteeism is similar to that of other peer charters and districts.
- Staff Satisfaction and Optimism remain exceptionally high at Excel Rhode Academy Island.

Board members asked clarifying questions about the data, which the team answered.

J. Greenthal asked whether the team has data or theories regarding the root causes behind much stronger performance than predicted in ELA relative to steady or slightly declining performance in Math on the first interim assessments. F. Reyes noted that we are cautious about conclusions from just the first assessment early in the year. S. Patton also added that the next round of assessments is coming up next week, so some of the data being presented is about to be refreshed. We will share the next set of data at the next Academic Oversight Committee meeting.

S. Patton and F. Reyes previewed upcoming data reporting for the Board.

L. Giordano asked a clarifying question regarding the culture around academics and student and family involvement with regular academic data review and how it connects to goal setting for students, which K. Ring answered. K. Ring also spoke to the strength of the school relative to culture and systems, which creates a structure for more academic goal-setting at the student level.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

List of documents used in the meeting:

- Academic Update Slides
- Quarterly Board Academic Data Dashboard
- 11.7.24 Meeting Minutes
- Teacher Observation Rubric

F. Rojas made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
A. Kaynor seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
F. Rojas

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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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