

APPROVED



Excel Academy Rhode Island

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday April 10, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location

CCRI

1 Hilton St.

Providence, RI 02905

Meeting Notice Posted Publicly: 4/8/25

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

Trustees Present

B. Smiley, C. Chhay, C. Heng, F. Rojas, I. Blake, J. Greenthal, L. Giordano

Trustees Absent

C. Lombardi, L. Cariaga-Lo, M. Rivera

Guests Present

A. Kaynor, A. Solomon, A. Stelson, C. Reed, O. Stearns

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Smiley called a meeting of the board of trustees of Excel Academy Rhode Island to order on Thursday Apr 10, 2025 at 5:32 PM.

C. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments at this meeting.

D. Approve prior Board meeting minutes

L. Giordano made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 01-30-25.

C. Chhay seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Oversight

A. Preview of Academic Oversight Committee / SIT Meeting

A. Kaynor provided a preview of the upcoming April 24th meeting agenda and noted that the Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team will meet to review the LEA Strategic Plan and that the full Board will also meet to discuss a couple topics, including updates on advocacy, fundraising, and real estate.

III. Real Estate

A. Real Estate, Fundraising, and Advocacy Updates

A. Kaynor and O. Stearns provided updates on real estate, advocacy, and fundraising, including the following topics:

- Review status and Board next steps for the Carl G. Lauro, Rhode Island College, and 225 Chapman St. real estate projects.
- Review and update the Board on the school's latest thinking regarding enrollment scenario planning for each of the following possible real estate outcomes: RIC only, Lauro only, RIC & Lauro.
- Update on Rhode Island College project and vote to approve updating the diligence budget.
- Update on Lauro project and review of advocacy timeline and Board next steps.
- Update on 225 Chapman project and letter of intent.

B. Vote to approve updated RIC diligence budget

C. Chhay made a motion to approve updating the RIC project budget from \$250k to \$325k to cover anticipated diligence work in March-May.

I. Blake seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Governance

A. Update on FY25 Goals, Fundraising, and Board Recruitment

A. Kaynor updated the Board on progress with RI Growth Campaign fundraising and Board recruitment next steps and priorities, as detailed in the Progress Report that was provided to the Board in advance. A. Kaynor noted that we are asking each Board member to provide 2-3 prospective names for new Board members. A. Kaynor also requested volunteers to participate in the Growth Campaign Committee. A. Kaynor answered clarifying questions from the Board about the goals and next steps.

O. Stearns notified the Board of the passing of Liza Cariaga-Lo and asked for a moment of silence in her honor and then opened up for memories and reflections.

The Board and team was so lucky to have Liza deeply involved in the early years of Excel in Rhode Island. She was brilliant, thoughtful, kind, and incredibly committed to Excel's students and mission – often coming up from New Haven for board and committee meetings, even when going through treatment. We will notify the Board when there are events and initiatives in her honor.

B. Reminder: Annual Disclosures

A. Kaynor reminded the Board about annual ethics disclosures. The RI Ethics Commission sends your annual disclosure forms via mail, and the forms are due back to the Ethics Commission by the last Friday in April (4.25.25). You can submit your disclosures online. Please contact Arthur Kaynor if you have not received your disclosure paperwork yet or have questions about completing this requirement. Thank you!

V. Finance

A. FY26 Budget Process Update

A. Kaynor encouraged non-Finance Committee Board members to stay for the Finance Committee meeting this evening from 6:15-7pm, to review a draft budget for FY26 (School Year 25-26) and to approve Excel RI's 990 tax form. Non-Committee Board members are welcome to participate each year in the school's budget planning process. Please reach out to Arthur Kaynor if you would like to meet with a member of the Finance Team to learn more about the budget. Following the 4.10.25 Finance Committee meeting, a budget proposal memo will be circulated to Excel's three Boards in advance of their May and June meetings when each Board will vote to approve its respective budget for FY26.

VI. Other Business

A. FYI - Reminder about upcoming events & engagement goals

A. Kaynor reminded the Board about upcoming events at the school and the Board's engagement goals.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Chhay made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

F. Rojas seconded the motion.

The board **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 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Smiley

List of documents used at the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior meeting minutes
- FY25 Goals Progress Report
- Growth Campaign Committee overview

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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