APPROVED

Excel Academy Rhode Island

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday April 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Meeting notice posted publicly on 4/3/26.

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, J. Greenthal, L. Giordano

Trustees Absent
C. Lombardi, M. Rivera

Guests Present
A. Kaynor, C. Reed, K. Ring, O. Stearns, Sheila Dormody, Y. Dubon

I. Opening Items

A. **Record Attendance**

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Chhay called a meeting of the board of trustees of Excel Academy Rhode Island to order on Thursday Apr 9, 2026 at 5:33 PM.

C. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments at this meeting.

D. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

C. Chhay made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 02-04-26.
C. Heng 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 upcoming meetings and events, including that the Academic Oversight Committee and School Improvement Team will meet on April 15th to review and update the school's LEA Strategic Plan. All Board members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A. Kaynor thanked C. Chhay, C. Heng, F. Rojas, and J. Greenthal for representing the Excel RI Board in the RIDE charter renewal site visit inspection.

B. High School Planning Updates

K. Ring presented updates on high school planning, as detailed in the high school planning slides provided to the Board.

L. Giordano asked for additional information about XLRI MS staff members planning to transition to XLRI HS next year, and K. Ring previewed anticipated staffing transitions across campuses.

C. Heng asked a clarifying question about the anticipated number of teaching staff, which K. Ring answered.

O. Stearns commended K. Ring for retaining a high percentage of staff for a new high school and noted the strong foundation this provides for the school’s launch.

C. Chhay asked whether the school had received parent feedback regarding transportation. K. Ring described the thorough, family-informed process that led to the

decision to provide RIPTA access for all students and thanked F. Rojas and other parents for their thoughtful engagement.

J. Greenthal asked how the team is balancing the existing network playbook with school-level autonomy. K. Ring shared that she is working closely with N. Keough and that the team has generally chosen not to deviate significantly from the strong XLHS model. O. Stearns added that this balance may evolve further as the school expands into later grade levels and navigates different budgetary constraints than in MA.

L. Giordano shared that the academic community is excited to see what XLRI HS will accomplish.

K. Ring shared that the team has held many meetings with the Parent Advisory Committee to help inform design decisions for the new school.

L. Giordano asked about opportunities for student input. K. Ring shared that while students are not making decisions about items such as wall or floor colors, they are helping shape other aspects of the school through groups such as the Operations and Culture Subcommittee and the Sports and Culture Committee, as well as through activities such as vendor food tastings.

III. Governance

A. Approve New Board Member: Jenna Silver

L. Giordano briefly introduced Jenna Silver, a prospective Board candidate, and noted that the vote to approve Jenna's nomination will be scheduled for the June meeting.

B. Approve Updated Enrollment Policy

A. Kaynor presented the proposed updated enrollment policy which was provided to the Board in advance and summarized rationale for the proposed updates.
C. Chhay made a motion to approve.
J. Greenthal seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. XLRI Charter Renewal Update

A. Kaynor provided an update on the charter renewal inspection preparation, timeline, and next steps.

D. Reminder: Annual Disclosures

A. Kaynor provided the following reminder about annual disclosure requirements:

Reminder: 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 (4.24.26). 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!

IV. Real Estate

A. Real Estate Updates & Votes

O. Stearns provided updates on the school's real estate search and A. Kaynor outlined four votes for the Board's consideration and summarized related materials, which were provided to the Board in advance.
C. Heng made a motion to approve the four real estate votes detailed on the agenda and below as a slate.
B. Smiley seconded the motion.
Slate of votes:

- Ratify enclosed Purchase & Sale Agreement.
- Approve increasing the initial budget for diligence and design on the high school facility and a related gym project from $500k to $750k.
- Approve resolutions authorizing a budget of up to $4M for land acquisition.
- Approve a budget of up to $1.5M for construction necessary for Summer 2026 occupancy.

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

V. Finance

A. Ratify CSP Grant Application & Reimbursement Requests

A. Kaynor updated the Board on the school's CSP application and summarize related two votes.
C. Chhay made a motion to authorize the Chair, retroactively to January 1, 2026, to submit a CSP (Charter School Program) application on behalf of the Excel Academy Rhode Island Board and to authorize the CEO and Director of Development & Governance, retroactively to January 1, 2026, to submit CSP grant reimbursement requests on behalf of Excel Academy Rhode Island.
C. Heng seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. FY27 Budget Process Update

A. Kaynor provided the following update on the FY27 Budget Planning Process:

Please note that the Finance Committee will be meeting on April 15th to review a draft budget for FY27 (School Year 26-27). 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 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 FY27.

VI. Board Engagement & Development

A. Upcoming Events

O. Stearns and A. Kaynor reminded Board members about fundraising, recruitment, and engagement goals and previewed upcoming events and activities.

VII. Other Business

A. Update on local events

O. Stearns updated Board members on local events.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Chhay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, having completed the Board's business.
L. Giordano 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 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Chhay
List of documents used at the meeting:

- Agenda
- Prior meeting minutes
- High school planning update slides
- Jenna Silver resume
- Memo re: enrollment policy updates
- Updated enrollment policy
- Real estate resolutions
- Purchase & sale agreement

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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