THE EXCEL CENTER, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
MAY 18, 2026

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of The Excel Center, LLC met at 9:00 a.m. May 18, 2026, at the Goodwill Foundation Office. Present were:

Gita Baker, present
Kofi Barko, present
Patricia Castaneda, present
Garland Graves, not present
Perry Griffith, present/virtual
Kent Kramer, present
Jay Oliver, present/virtual
Don Palmer, present
Laura Pickett, present
Josh Shelton, present

Staff/Other:

Shelley Ashley
Katie Bustamante
Twyla Carlson
Josh Cooper
Ivan Cropper
Betsy Delgado
Steve Dillon
Corey Emery
Matt Fortney
Emily Fritsch
Mike Gallo
Jenny Grant
Lynn Greggs
Elysee Hamlin
Miriam Henry
Kacie Klem
Johnny Manson
Brandon Marks
Kim Myers
Lakia Osborne
LaMeca Perkins
Kari Podany
Dan Scott
Tami Tebbe
Sarah Thomas
John Westfall
Danielle White
L'Tanya White

Board Chair Gita Baker presided and called the meeting to order.

There was no public comment.

On a motion by Kofi Barko, duly seconded, the meeting minutes of March 10, 2026, meeting were approved as previously distributed. Roll call by individual members' present were all in agreement of approval.

Matt Fortney and Josh Cooper gave the Treasurer's report for the period through March 31, 2026. Total revenue year-to-date was reported at $28.4 million, which is $1.1 million ahead of budget. Operating profit year-to-date was $80,000, slightly behind budget by approximately $33,000. Cash flow decreased by approximately $825,000 over the last nine months, leaving a cash balance of $9.3 million.

Josh reviewed the balance sheet, noting that total assets were down approximately $2.1 million primarily due to timing-related payroll and accounts payable accruals from the prior fiscal year that were paid in July. Fixed assets decreased by approximately $1.1 million due to depreciation, with future capital expenditures anticipated for the Noblesville Excel Center reload project. Josh also reviewed the income statement and noted strong student enrollment counts contributed to state funding being $316,000 ahead of budget. Additional positive revenue variances were attributed to the LEI grant administered through the Goodwill Foundation. Expenses exceeding budget included wages and benefits due to lower-than-expected vacancy rates and continued increases in health insurance costs.

There was discussion on accounting treatment of multi-year grants and school-level deficits with the timeline for newer schools to achieve positive operating performance

On a motion by Kofi Barko, duly seconded, the financial statements for March and accounts payable vouchers for January, February and March were approved unanimously. Roll call by individual members' present were all in agreement of approval.

Katie Bustamante and Betsy Delgado provided network updates. Katie highlighted the recent Educator Appreciation Luncheon held during Teacher and Educator Appreciation Week. Each school recognized an Educator of the Year, and Megan Ward from Anderson was named the network-wide Educator of the Year for her leadership and support of multi-lingual learners across the network. Katie also announced upcoming graduation ceremonies, including Indy Met's graduation on June 6 and Excel Center graduations scheduled for June 25–26. She additionally shared updates regarding the relocation and reopening of the Noblesville Excel Center, with a ribbon cutting anticipated in August.

Betsy emphasized the importance of recognizing all staff roles through the Educator of the Year program, including coaches, lead teachers, and college and career staff.

Corey Emery reviewed the academic dashboard and demographic trends across the network. He noted a continued increase in older student enrollment populations, particularly among students aged 25 and older, potentially reflecting long-term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and broader economic changes.

Corey reported that multi-lingual learner and special education populations have remained stable year-over-year. He also shared that student persistence has improved significantly, with 72% of students enrolled for two or more terms compared to 52% the previous year. Credit completion trends remained strong overall, although the network enrolled approximately 300 fewer new students compared to the prior year.

There was discussion on schools increasing community outreach and strengthening referral partnerships to improve enrollment.

Corey and Lakia Osborne reported that the network had produced 572 graduates to date and maintained a 100% College and Career Readiness (CCR) rate for the twelfth consecutive term. Staff also highlighted significant progress in reducing performance gaps among multi-lingual learners, Black students, male students, and students aged 25 and older, with many subgroup gaps reduced by half compared to prior years.

Lakia Osborne presented annual policy approvals for the 2026–27 school year, including the Student Handbook, Staff Evaluation Plan, and Safety Specialist List.

Key revisions to the Student Handbook included:

- A transition to a unified schedule across all schools to support distance learning and dual credit offerings;
- Added language regarding high-ability student supports and tracking;
- Updates to attendance policies related to excused and unexcused absences; and
- Removal of outdated work permit language in support of expanded work-based learning opportunities.

Updates to the Staff Evaluation Plan included revised job titles and the addition of a review schedule for rubrics, interview processes, and onboarding procedures to improve transparency.

Lakia also reviewed the annual Safety Specialist List (see below list of names) as required by Indiana legislation.

Board discussion included the state's increased emphasis on school safety and annual certification requirements for designated safety specialists.

Elysse James	Jack Alvarado	Nick Early	Erica Kegley	Jack Sorrels
Dana Calfee	Danielle Moffatt	Twyla Carlson	Edward Williams	Steven McMakin
Sylvia Lauer	Heidi Hosier	Jenny Grant	Shannon Brown	Dawn Harvey
Bryan Ewing	James Calabro	Michael Holcomb	Anthony Siegfred	Kacie Klem
Andrew Kramer	Michael Myers	LaMeca Perkins	Lauren Bangs	Jacob Hawk
Andrew Holmes	James Capps	Josh Yoder	Andrea Newman	Steve Dillon
Jeffrey Horton	Brandy Bridgeforth	Kristen Kledzik	Zachary Williams	Jordan Keyler
Shonda Russell	Chance Schmitt	Johnny Manson	Heaven Stegall	April Norman
Brandon Reed	Scott McClelland			

On a motion by Laura Pickett, duly seconded, the Board unanimously approved the 2026–27 Student Handbook, Staff Evaluation Plan, and Safety Specialist List as presented. Roll call by individual members present were all in agreement of approval.

Miriam Henry introduced John Westfall, Director of Excel Center West. John introduced recent graduate Leethanel Smith, who shared his personal success story. Smith discussed overcoming financial and personal hardships, earning an Emergency Dispatch Certification, and continuing his education at Lincoln Tech in electrical studies.

Miriam introduced Dr. Johnny Manson, Director of Excel Center Southeast. Johnny presented updates regarding new career pathway partnerships through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The initiative allows students to earn introductory certifications in HVAC, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical trades.

The first cohort includes students from Excel Center West, Michigan Street, and Southeast locations. Dr. Manson explained that the long-term goal is to expand the program throughout the network while building apprenticeship and employment partnerships with organizations including Ivy Tech, union apprenticeship programs, and Indianapolis Public Schools facilities operations.

There was discussion on apprenticeship opportunities, workforce partnerships, and the long-term benefits of career-connected learning for students.

There were no updates/comments from the Mayor's Office.

The meeting was adjourned.