



# THE ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL

116 East 169<sup>th</sup> Street • Bronx, New York, 10452  
• Phone: 347.735.5480 • info@yalowcharter.org  
Web: [www.yalowcharter.org](http://www.yalowcharter.org)

## ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

116 E. 169<sup>th</sup> St.

Bronx, New York 10452

### Trustees Present

John W. Carr, Dr. Ben Yalow, Ivan Lee, Sandra Hayes, Shirley J. Saunders, Bill Jackson, and Michael Rosen via Skype.

### Additional Attendees

Alec Diacou, Executive Director, and Jill Beharry, from Charter School Business Management

### Call to Order

Mr. Carr called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

### Adoption of Agenda

A quorum was present and the agenda adopted.

### Executive Director Report

**Shortened School Day** -- Mr. Diacou reported that teachers had expressed concern about the negative impact the long day was having on student behavior and their ability to effectively teach and manage the classroom, particularly in the first year of operation of the school. He reported that many families had also expressed concern about the lateness of the time students were picked up from their bus stops, returned home, and able to get to bed. After extensive discussion with the teaching staff, Mr. Diacou reported that he and Ms. Gonzalez, the principal, recommended shortening the school day by one hour, ending at 5:00 p.m., rather than 6:00 p.m. He also said that they expected the shortening of the school day would have a positive impact on teacher moral and student behavior, with no negative effect on student learning and development.

After extensive discussion, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**Resolved** that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to shorten the school day and to dismiss students at 5:00 p.m., subject to confirmation of new bus schedules with the Office of Pupil Transportation and parent notification of new dismissal times and bus schedules.

**Daily Schedule** -- Mr. Diacou also discussed the daily schedule and several members of the board emphasized the need for equalization of math instruction for all 50-minute instruction blocks.

**Student Behavior** -- Mr. Diacou then reported on general behavior issues affecting some students, the need

for professional diagnosis, and the related issues of individual parents accepting the need for additional review and assessment for their children.

***Curriculum*** – Mr. Diacou reported that the school priorities set academic subjects first and music, arts and fencing second, and that CKLA trainees had reviewed step literacy with the teaching staff.

***Student Enrollment*** – Mr. Diacou noted that 211 students were enrolled, three students were pending discharge, and an additional nine new students were expected to enroll.

***Staff*** – The Principal had requested, Mr. Diacou reported, additional teaching aids to assist with classroom management, in addition to the existing 25 full time employees and 11 part-time or contractual personnel. After a discussion of the financial implications, it was the sense of the board that such additional teaching aids should be pursued and the results reported back to the board.

***Facility and Operations*** – Mr. Diacou reported that the school began to hold student recess in the parking lot, which should help with behavior management; the school was pursuing assignment of a full time nurse provided by the city at no charge for schools with 200 students or more. He also reported that additional HVAC cost of approximately \$8,000 were being incurred, of which the landlord was expected to pay or assist in the payment; the school installed 4 water fountains, and a washer and dryer in the fencing room.

***Family Support Center*** – Mr. Diacou reported on ongoing discussions with Riverdale Mental Health Center regarding it staffing the Family Support Center once a week, and the first school field trip to the American Museum of Natural History scheduled for October 23, 2015.

***Professional Development*** – Mr. Diacou reported that student assessment, which he described as the “gold standard”, had been completed for all children.

#### **Monthly Financial Report –**

Jill Beharry gave the report.

**Executive Session** – None

**New Business** – A passionate discussion was held on the naming of the classrooms after various colleges with the conclusion that no change was appropriate.

**Public Comment** – None

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.