



THE ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL

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ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2015
116 East 169th Street
Bronx, New York 10463

Present – Ivan Lee, John Carr, Shirley Saunders, Benjamin Yalow, Sandra Hayes, Gregoria Feliciano, William Scribner. Michael Rosen, William Jackson participated by Skype.

Trustees Excused – Benjamin Kearney

Additional Attendees – Alec Diacou, executive director, Yvonne-Booker Byers, director of assessment, Jill Beharry (CSBM), Viviana Torres (CSBM), and Collin Raymond (CSBM), Shanequa Charles (parent)

Call to Order – Mr. John Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda – The meeting agenda was adopted; a quorum was present

Approval of November Minutes – Unanimous

Overview of assessments by Yvonne Booker-Byers, director of assessment – A detailed literacy assessment using the STEP Literacy (Strategic Teaching & Evaluation of Progress) baseline assessment results was presented. We were advised on student performance and what the test measures for kindergarten and first-grade. Results indicated that in general our students are performing below the national target levels. An assessment calendar for 2015-2016 is in place for tracking Yalow students' continued performance and growth.

A detailed math skills assessment was also made using the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) to establish base line assessments for students. Unlike STEP literacy assessments, MAP is a computerized test measuring skills to target the student's academic performance in math. This allowed the staff to develop an action plan for our kindergarten and first-grade classes and growth expectations for each quartile testing cycle. A FY15-16 student assessment calendar was provided to the Trustees.

Sandra Hayes requested a comparative statistic on student assessments with other charter schools.

Executive Director Report

Thanksgiving dinner – was a huge success, and all who contributed have been thanked. \$2,500.00 was raised and letters concerning tax deduction should be mailed out.

Parent-Teacher Conference – A hand out of parent participation was issued to Trustees (will be corrected).

Facility update

HVAC – dampers were replaced and sensors was installed (Hughes Environmental Engineering are the school consultants)
 Painters – finished
 Roof – incomplete
 Exterior Lighting - complete
 Fencing/Parking Lot – Would like to add picket fencing along the back of the parking lot and a portion of Walton Ave.to keep out debris
 Classroom lighting – being replaced
 Classroom reading libraries – books ordered and delivery is pending
 Yalow library – a work in progress; books, and English-speaking audio books have been ordered for ESL students
 Flooring for fencing room – expected to be completed over the holiday.

Applications & Lottery enrollment for FY 16-17

DOE moved NYC public school Kindergarten registrations to December 1, 2015
 Yalow student applications accepted beginning January 15, 2016
 Yalow lottery for 32 kindergarten seats April 1, 2016 will fill one K class
 Expect to fill majority of slots with siblings.

Staffing – 28 full time; 19 part time. The nurse is paid for by the DOE. A staff roster was issued.

Chess team – meets 3 hours on Saturdays—16 students, requiring 2 chess instructors. Waiting for a new instructor to increase to 24 students. Over 3 years we will have a competitive team. A summer chess program needs to be added in the FY16-17 budget.

Peer School Outreach – Outreach has been made to leading parochial schools and charter schools to compare programs and protocols. Sandra Hayes requested that a report could be made to inform us of those activities and the impressions they left.

Finance Report

Michael Rosen and Jill Beharry (CSBM) presented November financial statements. School cash flow is on budget, and we project to end FY15-16 with a surplus.

A motion was made and passed unanimously combining the following general ledger budget lines under salaries (gl 5000): Academic Consultants, which previously included the chess and fencing programs (gl 6030) with Specialty Teachers (gl 5125); the contract Janitorial Services (gl 8120) with Custodian (gl 5215).

Ms. Beharry announced that she will be leaving and 2 other CSBM staff, Viviana Torres and Collin Raymond, will be working on Yalow's account. A motion was made and passed unanimously thanking Ms. Beharry for her dedication and service getting school finances up and running during our start-up period.

New Business – The executive director was asked to get additional information on how other charter schools, such as Harlem Village Academy, run their academic programs.

Monique Evans, operations manager, will present an overview for a 403(b) plan for employees at the next board meeting.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Adjourned – 8:35 p.m.