

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

RESCHEDULED September Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Location

3490 Third Ave., Bronx

Mission Statement

The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School will eliminate the learning achievement gap for economically disadvantaged urban children—including special needs students and English language learners—by using engaging and demanding education; a team teaching model, linking an experienced teacher with a licensed social worker in grades K-2 and with a teaching fellow in later grades; rich extracurricular activities (fencing, arts, chess) to educate the whole child; and family support counseling—all in order to graduate our students at or above grade level in literacy and math.

Vision

Yalow's goal: Developing the whole child, encouraging each young student to excel.

Trustees Present

B. Yalow, G. Feliciano, I. Lee (remote), L. Howard, M. Balbuena, M. Rosen (remote), R. Lyon, S. Hayes

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Diacou, K. Smaw, S. Burton

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance and Guests****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

M. Balbuena called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Wednesday Sep 18, 2019 @ 6:47 PM at 3490 Third Ave., Bronx.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Balbuena made a motion to approve minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting on 08-20-19.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

II. 2019 Annual Audit

A. Review and approval

Mr. Rosen reviewed the letter from Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP, Certified Public Accountants and stated per their report Yalow Charter School has performed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

M. Rosen made a motion to to approve the Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report, June 30 2019.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

III. Recap of September 7, 2019 board retreat

A. Summary

The Board Retreat was held on September 7, 2019. The Board received great feedback from Pasek Consulting services who consults charter schools particularly around renewals.

Several items were discussed as well as priorities for the next 3 weeks. He suggested 3 areas to focus on:

1. how are we going to support the 27% of students falling behind in math and the 43% percent behind in ELA
2. how are we supporting students social emotional development
3. what is the plan to move into one building to house both campuses

B. Student performance discussion

M. Rosen noted that on the NYS ELA and Math tests Yalow's students with disabilities (SWD) scored as high all SWD students in NYC. He asked to know:

1. how many SWD students were in 3rd- and 4th-grades in 2018-2019?
2. the breakdown of disability categories among SWD students?

M. Balbuena requested academic leadership focus on:

1. communicating academic data tracking to parents, beginning in October
2. preparation of quarterly internal scholastic data for individual students along with teacher goals
3. creation of an academic plan for students scoring 1 or 2 on the NYS tests by the:
 - RTI team
 - SWD team

IV. Principal Report

A. Teacher hire update as of September 12, 2019

Dr. Burton reported there are teachers in every class room. However there still remains a shortage. He is working with recruitment firms and interviewed a teacher –social worker this week who is interesting in joining.

B. Amsterdam Lesson Study Conference Singapore Math Powerpoint

Dr. Burton stated the presentation in Amsterdam went well. Topics discussed were lesson studies and approaches to professional development. Dr. Burton stated about 35 people attended the trip and was asked to present again next year in San Francisco.

C. Letter Of Appreciation

B. Yalow made a motion to send Ms. Ishida a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Board. S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

V. Executive Director Report

A. Academic annual report to NYSED

The Academic Annual report was submitted on 8/1/19. Mr. Diacou stated it's important to read the entire document but particularly the goals on pages 21-25.

The meeting with the State will take place on October 10th-11th. Board members who are available will join the meeting in person and others by phone.

B. Charter renewal schedule

Mr. Diacou informed the Board that the school will submit a cover letter along with the submission of Benchmark #1 (Student Performance) of the Charter Renewal Application. The letter will inform the State of Yalow's goals for students over the next five years and the necessity of a full five-year charter renewal in order to finance a new school building to consolidate Yalow's two campuses at one site.

VI. Executive Session

A. Bonus distribution

Tabled for next meeting.

B. Review proposed Pasek Consulting contract

M. Balbuena made a motion to go into contract with Pasek Consulting effective October 1, 2019.

L. Lyon seconded the motion.

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

VII. Other Business

A. Other

Mr. Balbuena and Mr. Lee met with Mr. Diacou and Dr. Burton and reiterated the separation of powers between the CEO and Principal. Mr. Lee informed the Board that the Vice Principal/Chief Data Officer be included as a member of the Academic Leadership team.

The Board believes it would be beneficial for the CEO and Principal to also participate in professional development courses such as effective communication, enhancement of people skills and strategies.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Howard