

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday August 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Location

Via GoToMeeting

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

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Diacou (remote), AndrewPeters, prospective new board member (remote), K. Smaw (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Balbuena called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Aug 18, 2020 @ 6:30 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

II. Chairman updates

A. Professional development calendar-Summer Teacher Workshop

B. School's reopening plan

1. Deep cleaning of 169th Street campus completed Monday, August 17, 2020
2. Deep cleaning of Third Ave. campus completed Wednesday, August 18, 2020
3. 60 families electing remote instruction (1st—5th-grade students)
4. Teachers return to Yalow on Wednesday or Thursday, August 19-20
5. Students return Tuesday, September 8
6. Chairman Balbuena inspected the building on August 17 to confirm the building meets COVID-19 standards of cleanliness

III. Items for board approval

A. Approve July 21 board minutes

S. Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from July Board Meeting on 07-21-20.
G. Feliciano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Board Elect

S. Hayes made a motion to reappoint Miguel Balbuena for a new term.
G. Feliciano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

M. Rosen made a motion to reappoint Sandra Hayes for a new term.
G. Feliciano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

S. Hayes made a motion to reappoint Ross Lyon for a new term.
L. Howard seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Board Officer Elect

G. Feliciano made a motion to reappoint Miguel Balbuena for a new term as Chair of the Board.
I. Lee seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

G. Feliciano made a motion to nominate herself for Vice Chair of the Board. By majority vote 4-2, Gregoria Feliciano has been elected as Vice Chair of the Board.

G. Feliciano made a motion to reappoint Lakiesha Howard as Secretary of the Board. There being no obstinance, Lakiesha Howard has been elected for a new term.

L. Howard made a motion to reappoint Michael Rosen for a new term as Treasurer of the Board.
G. Feliciano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Finance report

A. Financial statements will not be presented this month, pending completion of annual audit. cash on hand, \$5.7 million, August 15, 2020 (Citibank)

M. Rosen cautioned the board that amidst all the economic uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Yalow must hit its financial goals for 2020 and beyond.

B. Yalow noted that the school's budget for 2020-2021 is running at breakeven, and we are at great financial risk should families decide to leave the school after their students begin the school year.

V. Principal report

A. Closing the student achievement gap: and pre- and post-Covid-19 mock exams for grades k-5

There has been a decline in student scores. For the most part, student scores were much higher pre-COVID when students were physically present at school. It has been challenging for both students and teachers with the remote learning platform with teachers having to teach differently and students having to learn differently. The academic team reviewed and reconfigured some of the curriculum to help stabilize students with starting a review of in person instruction from April-June to support their learning misunderstandings. The hope is that by October students will be better equipped to start first unit for instruction on the new platform.

B. Teacher Hire Update

FY20 – 21

12 Uncertified Teachers (excludes Chess & Fencing)

5 Uncertified TSW

7 Uncertified Teachers

VI. Executive Director report

A. Audit schedule

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- audit expected to be completed by end of August
- finance committee to schedule meeting to review findings
- audit to be submitted to board one week prior to September 15 board meeting

B. Cardinal Hayes High School update

- drawings of 3rd and 4th (partial) floors attached
- CHHS architects (Dormani) are preparing *test-fit* drawings for review based on Yalow's room requirement input (attached)
- Yalow will review prior to finalizing for Department of Building submission
- drawings drive the construction budget
- construction cost estimates will be finalized for allocation of expenses between CHHS and Yalow
- Civic Builders construction team completed a walk-through on Thursday, August 13
- no formal agreement with Civic Builders has been consummated; it will take them a few days to digest the scope of the CHHS project and their time constraints visa-vis other projects (e.g., South Bronx Classical Charter #4)
- draft lease expected for review by end of August

C. Updated student enrollment

Enrollment stands at 556, exceeding max enrollment of 536. Numbers are changing daily as other schools "grab" kindergarten students previously accepted into Yalow.

D. Fundraising donor request attached

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- attached document has been prepared for a donation Gregoria Feliciano is soliciting from a major food corporation in the tri-state region to support Yalow's chess programming.
- We've designed this short, simple, document as a template that may be used for potential conversations with any prospective donors board members think might have interest for targeted Yalow programs (e.g., arts, fencing, literacy, etc.)

E. \$287,771 ESSER grant submitted August 15, 2020

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- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds cover costs of retrofitting Yalow's 2 campuses for COVID-related expenses over the 2020-2022 period.
- Yalow will receive more funding than most other charters because 95% of the students we've recruited are eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches.
- ESSER (CARES Act) application attached.

VII. 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 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Howard

VIII. Executive Session

A. Learning Platform

The Board agreed for Yalow to develop a Hybrid model that allows students to continue with quality learning and a provides parents with choice to choose between remote- or hybrid-instruction.

B. Bonuses

Tabled for future meeting.

C. Other Business

Mr. Balbuena stated a small committee will be formed to work with Alec on envisioning the lay out at Cardinal Hayes High School. An invitation will be sent for those interested.

D. Executive Session adjourned at 8.28 p.m.

Documents used during the meeting

- Attachment G Board of Trustees Membership Table v.4 .pdf
- 2020-2021 Data.pdf
- Yalow Teachers Hire Template 08.17.2020 v2 (FY 2020-2021).pdf
- CHHS 3rd-Floor A-104, A-105 R0.1.pdf
- CHHS 4th floor-A-000 D R0.0-A-105.00 A.pdf
- CHHS Room Requirements.pdf
- Final Rosalyn Yalow Sponsorship Opportunities .pdf
- Assurances Esser 2020-2022.pdf
- 2019-2020 Bonus Payments.pdf