

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Location

650 Grand Concourse, 4th fl Cafeteria

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), R. Lyon (remote), S. Hayes

Trustees Absent

M. Rosen

Guests Present

A. Diacou, K. Smaw

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 Tuesday Mar 15, 2022 at 6:37 PM.

II. Charter Revision Application

A. Weekly half days on Wednesdays

Background: Yalow's approved charter (June 24, 2014) discussed bi-weekly half days to allow time for teacher professional development to focus on student academic growth and identifying skills requiring reteaching or remediation. • In 2015-2016 many parents were confused by the bi-weekly half-day schedule, and the school made half day professional development a weekly event. • NYSED acknowledged the change in their annual school site visit reports • an anonymous complaint was submitted to NYSED stating that weekly half days had not been approved by NYSED.

B. Charter revision request No. 1

B. Yalow made a motion to continue Yalow's practice of dismissing students at 12:00 p.m. every Wednesday in order to allow teachers to participate in professional development unless there is substantial objection the charter revision received from the survey results, the revision will be submitted. The Executive Director is ordered to submit the results to the Board once the results are received. R. Lyon seconded the motion.

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

C. Enrollment Policy and Procedures

Due to the number of families leaving NYC during the pandemic, competition among all schools to enroll new students has increased dramatically for k-12 schools—both NYC DOE schools and charter schools. On March 10, 2022, the DOE changed its student admissions policy. Any newly enrolled student with a sibling in another grade will be given automatic priority for acceptance in any other K-12 grade. Rosalyn Yalow Charter School needs to compete on a level-playing field, and is requesting a similar change to the school's Enrollment Policy and Procedures to compete with DOE schools. See the attached March 10 email from NYC DOE.

D. Charter revision request No. 2

R. Lyon made a motion to The following boldfaced language to be added to p. 2 under the section titled Lottery Process. Siblings of accepted applicants currently enrolled in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grades at other schools will be admitted.

I. Lee seconded the motion.

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

III. Finance report

A. Cash flow forecast

Remaining cash after Hayes construction costs paid: \$3,239,512. (includes \$175,000 increase in electric switchgear estimate to \$875,000) Yalow's cash position benefits from state ARP and federal CRRSA grant revenues, and fewer administrator and teacher hires than originally budgeted.

- Estimated June 30, 2022 cash balance of \$1,926,436.

B. 2022–2023 & 2023–2024 available cash scenarios (3)

Stress tests: The finance committee is examining various scenarios for: • student enrollment, and • inflation Assumptions: • 2021–2022 classroom count: 19—remains unchanged for 2022–2023 & 2023–2024 • Textbooks: \$100,000 in 2022–2023; \$105,000 in 2023–2024 • Per Pupil revenue: \$17,637 (4.7%) in 2022–2023; \$18,325 (3.9%) in 2023–2024 • In 2023–2024, every 1% of inflation increases the scenario deficit by c. \$ 100,000. See 9%, 7%, and 5%.

IV. Principal report

A. Baseline student data–fall 2021–2022

STEP Literacy assessment Cycle 2 results: K-2 Data Analysis for Cycle II. 182 students showed growth! Teachers will use the current STEP data organize new guided reading groups to move students to benchmark. Mid-year grade-by-grade STEP benchmarks (cycle 2).

B. RTI intervention—Springboard Saturday academy update

49 students participated along with their parents (fall 2021) • Families became reading coaches (98% parent attendance) • 73.4% of students met their assessment growth goal • Students increased their reading proficiency as measured by Dibbles assessments, although most continue to need advanced reading supports.

C. Family engagement

- Parents of 49 students participated in the 5-week Saturday academy family accelerator workshops from October to December. See RTI, below.

D. Hiring updates

Yalow has a very strong student-to-teacher ratio of 9:1, which exceeds the schools objective of an 11:1 student teacher ratio.

The school has 51 teachers: 45 general education and response to intervention team teachers, plus 6 chess and fencing instructors supporting 458 students. The school continues to hire for budgeted positions: • 2 chess positions that had been placed on hold, pending resumption of in-person chess tournaments • 3 teacher-social workers • 5 RTI team members (reading interventionists) • CKLA coordinator previously placed on hold • assistant principal (leave replacement).

E. Year-to-date-attendance 2021-2022

Average attendance rate: 89.0%.

Chronic absenteeism: 40.1% (185 students) Perfect attendance: 2.4% (11 students) Chronic Absentees by Grade: Kindergarten: 39 students out of 74 (52.7%) 1st-grade: 34 students out of 82 (41.5%) 2nd-grade: 35 students out of 84 (41.7%) 3rd-grade: 35 students out of 82 (42.7%) 4th-grade: 28 student out of 76 (36.8%) 5th-grade: 14 students out of 58 (24.1%).

V. Executive Director report

A.

Updates: major CHHS building issues impacting Yalow

1. selection of engineer to submit load letter to Con Ed 2. replacement of electrical switches 3. installation of dunnage on parapet to support HVAC compressors 4. replacement of parapet roofing Precision Switch Board will meet with CHHS team on Tuesday, March 15 to review the original electrical switch replacement schematic provided in August 2021 and review installation logistics with CHHS. If agreed to by CHHS, Precision Switch Board will submit a load letter to Con Edison by Thursday, March 17. The load letter will request an increase in the amperage provided to CHHS by Con Edison to 4,000 amps, from the existing 1,600 amps. Two simplified schematic diagrams are attached to illustrate what the switch room will look like after the replacement of the existing electrical switches. Extra capacity (c. 1,500 amps) will be reserved for future load usage. The CHHS team is preparing a Request for Authorization (RFA) to be submitted to the Archdioceses for approval, prior to commencement of any new building work. Once the Archdioceses approves the RFA, work on the electrical switches, installation of dunnage, and roof replacement can proceed. (The Archdioceses owns Cardinal Hayes High School.) Yalow is reserving \$875,000 to pay for replacement of CHHS electrical switches, although the actual costs won't be known until the load letter is submitted to Con Edison and Con Edison decides whether or not they will impose added costs. CHHS is expected to reimburse Yalow for a portion of costs related to the electrical switch replacement project. Roof replacement will be paid by CHHS.

B. Update: replacement of 2 classroom ceilings

On February 4, 2022 water from roof leaks damaged two classroom ceilings (St. John's and Brown Universities). Those classrooms were relocated to the music and art rooms. The damaged ceilings will be removed and replaced over the Easter break, beginning Friday April 15, 2022. Replacement costs to be paid by Arch Mutual insurance.

C. Concourse Village-Melrose v. citywide COVID-19 infection rates

No in-school infections occurring within Yalow. Concourse Village-Melrose v. citywide COVID-19 infection rates: See attached citywide map and NYCDOH COVID-19 data report from March 13, 2022. • zip code 10451: 0.39% (March 2–March 8) • NYC: 1.31% Yalow COVID-19 report card attached, dated March 13, 2022.

D. Cardinal Hayes additional work

Completion of architect's punch list being reviewed. Chief among these: installation of grease trap beneath new kitchen sink, which requires fabrication of new legs for sink to raise height by 9". Pursuing alternatives to \$6,300 quote. Another fabricator that Yalow has used for the desk partitions is pricing the making of (14) 9" leg extensions for the sink. Minor additional work: • fabrication of "Corian" type solid-surface protective window ledges in new 4th floor student bathrooms • polycarbonate dividers continue being installed on 3rd floor classrooms to replace separated tri-part desk partitions.

E. 2022–2023 lottery applications

Lottery applications are down by 2/3rds compared with the pre-COVID-19 pandemic applications because inperson meetings with parents at day care centers have been prohibited in most pre-schools. (As reported in the March 2020 board minutes, Yalow had 372 applications on March 18, 2020, including 328

applications for kindergarten.) 3/10/22 kindergarten: 111 1st grade: 10 2nd grade: 7 Total: 128 Yalow is conducting a robust marketing campaign—newspaper advertising and videos sent to parents highlighting Yalow extracurricular programming: direct pamphleting 4 mornings each week on street corners, in front of Lincoln Hospital and 17 day care centers • advertising in El Diario, El Bengali, and Penny Pincher • sending weekly Mailchimp notices to 2,000+ previous Yalow applicants.

VI. Other business

A. Data

Mr. Balbuena highlighted the data requested quantifying/rationalizing staff departures is missing from the Principles report.

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 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Howard

Documents used during the meeting

- Fwd Middle School Admissions Update Sibling Priority Expanded.pdf
- PROPOSED Revison- Enrollment Policy 3.15.22.pdf
- Construction Cash Flow forecast_030922.pdf
- RYCS Scenario General Enrollment Planning of 24 fiscal year with 3 percent inflation and PP increase - on 3-9-2022.pdf
- RYCS Scenario General Enrollment Planning of 24 fiscal year with 5 percent inflation and PP increase - on 3-9-2022.pdf
- RYCS Scenario General Enrollment Planning of 24 fiscal year with 7 percent inflation and PP increase - on 3-9-2022.pdf
- RYCS Scenario General Enrollment Planning of 24 fiscal year with 9 percent inflation and PP increase - on 3-9-2022.pdf
- STEP Cycle 1 Data Analysis.pdf
- Springboard-Rosalyn Yalow Impact Report Fall 2021.pdf
- Board Meeting Graphs.pdf
- Board Meeting Aggregated Student Attendance SY 21_22 - Sept - March.pdf
- Student Attendance Report Summary 3.11.22.pdf
- Meeting Request please 3.10.22.pdf
- School Report Card 3.11.22.pdf
- Concourse Village-Melrose COVID-19 Map.pdf
- Why I like RYCS-Spanish.PDF
- AD_RYschool_Chorus-Spanish.PDF
- AD_RYschool_Fencing.pdf

- AD_RYschool_Violin.pdf
- Rosalyn Yalow Charter School ad printed on 26 Feb 2022.pdf
- Rosalyn Charter School for 12 March 2022 Chess Game.pdf