

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday December 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Location

4th floor cafeteria
Rosalyn Yalow Charter School
650 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451

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

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Diacou, K. Smaw

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

G. Feliciano called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Dec 20, 2022 at 7:08 PM.

II. Items for Board approval

A. Election of Board Treasurer

M. Rosen resigned effective October 31, 2022. Position of Board Treasurer remains vacant.

Section 3.3 (c) of Yalow's Bylaws (approved by NYSED on June 25, 2019) proscribes the fiduciary duties for the Board Treasurer (excerpt was attached to meeting agenda).

M. Balbuena move the election of Treasurer to Executive Session.

III. Finance report

A. Enrollment 2022–2023

Thursday, December, 15 K. Smaw completed a classroom-by-classroom student check-in with teachers confirmed 444 enrolled students.

B. FY2022–2023 cash forecast

Cash balances December 14, 2022: \$5,723,228.

Remaining cash after Hayes construction costs paid: \$2,909,185 (excludes potential ARP for 2022–2023).

(includes electric switchgear estimate of \$1.5 million)

We've been using a June 30, 2023 cash forecast of \$1,805,356 for the past several months. Many changes from those budget assumptions have occurred over that period of time, such as reductions in number of classrooms and hiring.

- The June 30 forecast will be updated in January using December 31, 2022 cash balances.

Given current enrollment of 445 students, it seems likely that the school will be financially secure through 2024–2025.

IV. Principal report

A. Year-to-date attendance 2022–2023 (through December 12)

Average attendance rate: 86.0%

Perfect attendance: 50 students (11.2%)

Chronic Absentees by Grade:

Kindergarten: 37 students out of 76 (48.7%)

1st grade: 27 students out of 73 (37.0%)

2nd grade: 33 students out of 85 (38.8%)
 3rd grade: 17 students out of 74 (20.2%)
 4th grade: 26 student out of 63 (41.3%)
 5th grade: 22 students out of 75 (29.3%)

Total: 162 students out of 446 (36.3%)

Refer to Sunday, December 18, 2022 *NY Daily News*, article on New York City's chronic absenteeism and enrollment decline (attached).

First day of school was September 6, 2022.

- buses began Monday, September 12.

DAILY STUDENT ATTENDANCE										
	Week 5					Week 6				
	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/7 !!	10/10	10/11	10/12	10/13	
10/14										
Attendance:	416	400	376	426	411 !!	NA	419	377	428	
414										
	Week 7					Week 8				
	10/17	10/18	10/19	10/20	10/21 !!	10/24	10/25	10/26	10/27	10/28
Attendance:	422	419	397	427	414 !!	411	428	384	423	
388										
	Week 8					Week 9				
	10/31	11/1	11/2	11/3	11/4 !!	11/7	11/8	11/9	11/10	
11/11										
Attendance:	399	406	390	408	408 !!	415	NA	364	387	NA
	Week 10					Week 11				
	11/14	11/15	11/16	11/17	11/18 !!	11/21	11/22	11/23	11/24	
11/25										
Attendance:	396	401	368	396	394 !!	397	394	319	NA	NA
	Week 12					Week 13				
	11/28	11/29	11/30	12/1	12/2 !!	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9
Attendance:	397	396	372	403	392 !!	408	404	365	403	399
	Week 14					Week 15				
	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16 !!	12/19	12/20	12/21	12/22	
12/23										
Attendance:	385	398	354	389	NA !!					

Attendance is being taken twice daily, 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., to capture those students who may be arriving late.

- B. Yalow commended school leadership on maintaining accurate and up to date student attendance records which confirms that the school has 56 more students than forecast in Yalow's 2022–2023 budget.
- The additional student are a huge financial boon to the school bottom line.
- It means that the school can afford to move forward with completion of the HVAC project.

- HVAC will make the school more attractive to prospective new parents, which helps to increase future enrollment.

B. Yalow also commended the 50 Yalow students (11.2%) with perfect attendance.

For the January Board Meeting, B. Yalow mentioned that the finance committee will update the 2022–2023 budget and June 30, 2023 cash forecasts using December 31, cash balances, current enrollment of 446 students, and monthly cash flow run rates using current staffing levels.

B. Parent engagement

Several recent Yalow parent and student engagement events:

1. Parent-teacher-association engagement meeting, Saturday, December 17, 2022 (100 adults and children from 30+ families in attendance)
2. Chess-in-the Schools tournament Saturday, December 10, at MS386 (34 students from 25+ families)
3. Right Moves Chess tournament Sunday, December 5, at Riverbank State Park (23 from 20 families)
4. fencing tournament at Yalow, Saturday December 4 (10 students from 10 families)
5. math family visiting days December 12, 13, & 14
6. spirit week December 19–23
7. Wednesday food pantry coat giveaway for families in December (food, coats, and Metro cards distributed as requested)

V. Executive Director Report

A. Updates: major CHHS building issues impacting Yalow

Discussion topics from December 15, 2022 Hayes board meeting:

- November 29, 2022 letter to Hayes President, Michael Carey, from A. Diacou reviewed (attached). Letter outlines opportunity cost to Hayes (up to \$440,000 annually) from lower student enrollment at Yalow if electric switch room is not replaced by June 30, 2023.
- Hayes-Yalow cost-sharing proposal for electric switch room discussed
- mechanical engineer hired by Hayes to prepare "turnkey" specifications for electrical contractors to submit bids to replace electrical switch room and fully integrate Yalow HVAC units into Hayes electric grid

Hayes board postponed cost-sharing decision until bids for electrical switch room replacement and Yalow HVAC hook up are received.

Archdioceses has tabled its consent to roof repairs and installation of dunnage until they are assured the replacement of the electric switch room will move forward (contracts and cost-sharing agreements).

B. Programmatic Expenditures Breakdown FY2019 v. FY2023

When the Yalow was reviewed for charter renewal in 2020, the attached snapshot of programmatic expenditures was included in our charter renewal application. The February 24, 2020 *Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents, p.6 attached*, states, as follows:

- ***"RYCS appears to be in very good financial condition as evidenced by performance on key indicators derived from the school's independently audited financial statements."***

Since FY 2019, Yalow has shifted more money toward teachers (**45.2% today v. 35.7%** in FY2023), and spends fewer dollars on administration (**14.2% today v. 18.9%** in FY2019):

	FY 2019		FY2023 (390 students, 16 classrooms, 9% inflation)	
Revenue	\$9,593,203	100% !!	\$12,904,289	100%
Rent	1,942,000	20.2% !!	2,500,000	20.7%
Administration	1,812,501	18.9% !!	1,717,447	14.2%
General Ed teachers	2,871,207	29.9% !!	3,834,482	31.7%
Special Ed/ELL teachers	507,874	5.3% !!	1,055,513	8.7%
BAE teaching artists	104,731	0.5% !!	333,230	2.8%

C. Financial Transparency Report comparisons: 2019, 2020, 2021

Using public data prepared by NYSED for the 3 year period, 2019–2021, we are able to present per pupil expenditure comparisons and NYS student assessment outcomes for Yalow, NYS, and Yalow's two prospective merger partners, Global Community Charter School and South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures.

With 27.3% ELL students and 16.7% special ed students, Yalow expenditures per student and student outcomes compare very favorably to those for Global Community, South Bronx International, and NYS schools as a whole. The same formula for student funding applies equally to all NYC charter schools. *NYSED Financial Report comparisons for 2022 have not yet been published.*

Key 2021 observations:

- Yalow expenses per student were \$16,484 compared with the NYS average of \$23,468.
- Yalow's 2022 ELA/Math scores compare favorably with those for Global Community and South Bronx International (refer to attached bar charts)
- Yalow outperformed CSD7, CSD9, and Bronx schools
- Yalow underperformed NYC in ELA and math
- Yalow outperformed Global Community and South Bronx International in math and almost tied the NYS weighted average for grades 3–5

The February 24, 2020 *Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents*, p.3, states: *"In general, proportionately more ELLs/MLLs reach English proficiency at RYCS in comparison to ELLs/MLLs attending NYC CSD 9 schools. In ELA, Yalow's ELL/MLL, SWD, and ED students tend to outperform students in schools with similar grade spans and demographics."*

In 2020, Education Commissioner Shannon Tahoe identified the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School as one of 582 high-achieving schools, writing: *“Recognition schools are those with high academic achievement and strong progress, that also perform acceptably for all subgroups for which they are accountable... Recognition schools like Rosalyn Yalow Charter School represent the very best in public education and are a testament to the hard work and dedication of your students, staff, and community.”*

D. Open positions

Unfilled positions:

- 2 general ed teacher-social workers
- 2 special ed teachers
- 2 administration
- 1 operations manager

E. December chess team results

34 Yalow students from 30 families competed in the Bronx Borough President's Day Chess-in-the-Schools tournament. Bronx Borough President Vennesa Gibson handed out individual and team trophies to many of Yalow's students.

Team results:

- 1st place among 11 teams, *Novice* section, for students with individual chess ratings greater 500 (beating 5 Success Academy schools)
- 1st place among 6 teams, *Rookie* section, for students with individual chess ratings under 500 (beating 6 Success Academy schools)
- 2nd place among 16 teams, Non-rated section, for new players who haven't yet earned an official USCF rating (placing ahead of 3 Success Academy schools and Icahn2)

Yalow chess camp takes place December 27–30 for students hoping to compete in the 55th Annual NYS Scholastic Chess Championships in Saratoga, NY, March 11-12.

VI. New Business

A. NYS Open Meetings Law

A communication regarding the Open Meetings Law was attached to the agenda.

B. R. Lyon requested that Dan Pasek (Pasek Consulting) provide the board with an end of contract strategic summary.

In anticipation of submission of Rosalyn Yalow's Charter Renewal Application, D. Pasek suggested two options concerning Yalow's current Board Member composition:

1. If the Board chooses not to change its members, the Board should to begin writing the school's charter renewal application immediately. The application is very tough, and will take a great deal of time to complete.

2. Board replacement. Bring on a new Board from an established school that is well respected by NYSED.

- the new school board would be responsible for submitting Yalow's charter renewal application.
- B. Yalow should remain, since the school is named after his mother, Dr. Rosalyn Yalow. Ben will maintain continuity of the school's mission and vision.

R. Lyon made a motion to provide a letter of commendation to school leadership for extraordinary efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, and their work in reopening the school in its new location.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

M. Balbuena asked to postpone the vote until a the letter of commendation is drafted and reviewed by Board Members.

The motion did not carry.

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 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Howard

Documents used during the meeting

- By-laws Section 3.3c.pdf
- As enrollment drops and chronic absences plague NYC schools, Chancellor Banks outlines plans.pdf
- PTO Meeting 12.10.22.pdf
- Math Visiting day .pdf
- Yalow Pantry Flyer.pdf
- Rosalyn Yalow Spirit Week Winter 2022 gingerbread .pdf
- December 2022.pdf
- Michael Carey Letter 11.29.22.pdf
- Yalow Programmatic Expenditures Breakdown FY 2022 - 2023.pdf
- Yalow Programmatic Expenditures Breakdown FY 2021–2022.pdf
- Programmatic Costs 2018-2019.pdf
- Copy-Yalow Pages from Regents Charter Renewal 3.2.20.pdf
- Financial Transparency Reports.pdf
- RYCS NYS_ELA MATH_2022 with Comps JP.pdf
- Per Pupil Expenditure Comparison Analysis Summary 11.14.22.pdf
- 2021 | ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL - Financial Transparency Report | NYSED Data Site.pdf
- 2021 | GLOBAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL - Report Card | NYSED Data Site.pdf

- 2021 | SOUTH BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL - Financial Transparency Report | NYSED Data Site.pdf
- Charter School Center Interpretation of Open Meetings Law.pdf