

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Annual Meeting and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Date and Time

Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM

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

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Diacou, Dr. Debra Dennard, prospective Board Member, K. Smaw, Kirsten Barclay, general counsel (remote)

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 Aug 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

II. Items for Board Approval

A. August 14, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes

B. Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 08-14-23.

R. Lyon seconded the motion.

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

B. Election of Trustee

G. Feliciano announced the names of three board members whose terms end August 31, 2023, S. Hayes, R. Lyon, and M. Balbuena.

G. Feliciano made a motion to elect Sandra Hayes to the Board of Trustees.

R. Lyon seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

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

C. Election of Trustee

G. Feliciano made a motion to elect Dr. Ross Lyon to the Board of Trustees.

M. Balbuena seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

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

D. Election of Trustee

G. Feliciano made a motion to to elect Miguel Balbuena to the Board of Trustees.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

The motion did not carry.

Roll Call

G. Feliciano Aye

B. Yalow Abstain

R. Lyon No

M. Balbuena Aye

S. Hayes No

III. Election of Rosalyn Yalow Officers

A. Nominations

R. Lyon made a motion to table the agenda item to elect Board officers, and schedule a Special Meeting.

B. Yalow suggested that a Special Meeting be scheduled the agenda., and asked for a motion to table the agenda.

R. Lyon made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting of the Board for August 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. EST.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

R. Lyon made a motion to table the agenda item to elect Board officers.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

IV. Finance report

A. Forecast year-end FY2023–2024 cash flow

July 26, 2023 cash balances: \$7,783,483

Projected June 30, 2024 cash balances: \$4,879,667

V. Principal Report

A. Rosalyn Yalow IEP and ELL student growth study (2017–2023)- STEP Literacy

K. Smaw presented the Rosalyn Yalow IEP and ELL STEP Literacy student growth study (2017–2023) analysis prepared by the University of Chicago.

The longitudinal student growth study disaggregates STEP Literacy data by sub-groups for general education, ELL, and students with IEPs for 35 of Yalow's 2023 5th-grade graduating class—only those students who were continuously enrolled at Yalow since kindergarten (2017–2023).

Although STEP Literacy data is exclusive to Yalow, when we make comparisons using NYS standardized test data, Yalow's ELL and IEP students continue to outperform comparable populations in CSD9 and CSD7, and the Bronx. Comparing Yalow to 100 schools from across NYS with comparable student demographics, Yalow outperformed 72 of those schools.

Findings:

1. the 6-year average annual STEP Literacy growth for the cohort of 35 graduating students continuously enrolled at Yalow was 2.5 STEPS (.83/year); becoming

proficient readers graduating at an average STEP level of 14.8 (the start of 5th grade);

2. 16 graduating ELL students continuously enrolled at Yalow was 2.375 STEPS; becoming proficient readers graduating at an average STEP level of 13.4 (mid-grade 4 reading level);
3. 13 graduating students with IEPs continuously enrolled at Yalow was 2.16 STEPS; graduating at an average STEP level of 11.2.

Nationally, all students were adversely impacted by the affect of the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2022 period. Student growth was not consistent.

B. Yalow noted that NYC students lost more than a year's worth of reading progress, while Yalow lost two-thirds of a year. We beat NYC. We are not perfect, but students are better off for having been at Yalow.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. New lawsuit filed against Yalow

On July 20, 2023 the school received a summons in the case of a 1st-grade student who slipped in the cafeteria in May, 2022. Child remained enrolled in Yalow during 2022–2023. At the time of the cafeteria incident, Yalow 's school nurse examined the student and filed a written report. Witnesses completed an incident report. The parent came to school to pick up the child. Yalow's insurance carrier, AmTrust was immediately notified. AmTrust has now assigned attorneys to represent the school. On July 31, 2023 AmTrust granted the attorneys permission to file a motion with the court that plaintiff's notice of claim on the City is not valid service on the school. No dollar damages stated.

B. Replacement of CHHS electrical switches

No cost update. Four electrical contractor bids are expected on August 25, 2023. A projected completion date won't be available until bids are received.

C. Update: Request for HVAC compressor installation authorization

No timing update. We continue waiting for Archdiocese engineer to determine next steps for roof replacement. As a result, the timeline for installation of steel dunnage and HVAC compressors on parapet roof remains indeterminate.

D. Update: Long-term expansion at CHHS

A. Diacou spoke with M. Carey, president of Hayes. Hayes board has not approved its own strategic plan, as yet. Hayes hasn't decided how much unused space at Hayes it wants to retain for its own student expansion plans.

E. Enrollment projections August 11, 2023

Guesstimated 2023–2024 enrollment range: 480–503 students. Enrollment estimates based on numbers of complete enrollment packages, partially completed packages, and anticipated k-4 summertime student attrition. Student recruitment continues.

B. Yalow noted that the 2023–2024 budget forecasts breakeven of 510 enrolled students. As reported, the school has a significant cash balance. If enrollment projections are realized Yalow is in fine financial shape for the coming year.

VII. Public session

A. G. Feliciano opened the meeting for comments by members of the public

Debra Denard, a prospective Yalow Board of Trustee recommended by Principal Smaw, introduced herself.

G. Feliciano noted that she and M. Balbuena have spoken with Dr. Denard and recommend her to the Board. A meeting will be scheduled for the remaining Board members to meet with Dr. Denard.

Discussion ensued. B. Yalow requested Principal Smaw schedule a meeting with Board members who have not had the opportunity to meet Dr. Denard.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

S. Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by R. Lyon.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Diacou

Documents used during the meeting

- Attachment G Board of Trustees Membership Table.pdf
- Rosalyn Yalow - Growth Report_V2.pdf
- Enrollment Numbers (2).pdf
- Attachment G Board of Trustees Membership Table.pdf