

APPROVED



# The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

## Minutes

### Monthly Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Tuesday July 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM

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#### 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.

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#### **Trustees Present**

B. Yalow (remote), G. Feliciano (remote), M. Balbuena (remote), R. Lyon (remote), S. Hayes (remote)

#### **Trustees Absent**

*None*

#### **Guests Present**

A. Diacou, K. Smaw (remote), Kirsten Barclay, Bond Schoeneck & King (remote)

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#### **I. Opening Items**

**A. Record Attendance and Guests**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

R. Lyon made a motion to call the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

**II. Items for Board Approval**

**A. July 10, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**

B. Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 07-10-23.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

**III. Charter renewal discussion**

**A. Drafting of Performance Benchmarks #2-5, 7-9**

The Board reviewed Yalow's 11 Key Design Elements, Mission, and Vision Statements, and received a copy of the Final 2023 Charter Renewal Application. Yalow's renewal application is subject to the 2019 Performance Benchmark standards.

**B. New charter revision recommendation: modification of key design elements**

A. Diacou reminded the board that they had reviewed the March 21, 2022 report stating, "100% of Yalow's teacher-social workers (TSWs) leave the school prior to or immediately after receiving their Initial NYS Teaching Certificate." At that date, 35 TSWs had been hired and 28 had resigned while the remaining 7 TSWs were still enrolled in Relay Graduate School of Education.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic there remains an acute shortage of licensed clinicians, which has been confirmed by Yalow's current partner, Montefiore School Health Program, and former partner, Mosaic Mental Health. Both are unable to fully staff clinicians for in-person therapy. Although Yalow offers aggressive salaries for TSWs \$74,000 who do not have their Initial New York State teaching certificate, and and \$80,000 for TSWs with an Initial NYS certificate, very few TSW candidates apply for in-person teaching.

As such, the principal and executive director recommend a charter revision to change the wording of the of the first key design element, *Qualified Staff Focused on At Risk Students*, specifically the last sentence, which reads: "...Yalow Charter School will provide master social workers in each of the initial seven K-1 classes and 2nd grade."

R. Lyon made a motion to change the wording of Yalow's first Key Design Element to state, "Yalow will strive to provide master social workers...", inserting the words "strive to."

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

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

R. Lyon noted that Yalow's Mission Statement has always been aspirational: "*The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School will eliminate the learning achievement gap for urban children—including special needs students and English language learners—by using an engaging and demanding curriculum to graduate students at or above grade level in literacy and math.*" Recognizing the fact that 100% of Yalow students have not achieved a level 3 or 4 on NYS ELA and math exams, he asked the board approve a resolution to insert the words "strive to" in Yalow's Mission Statement: "*The Rosalyn Yalow charter School will stive to eliminate...*"

R. Lyon made a motion to change the wording of Yalow's Mission Statement to state, "The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School will strive to eliminate...", inserting the words "strive to."

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

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

#### **C. Drafting of Performance Benchmarks #6 and 10**

Performance benchmarks 6 and 10 were distributed to board, along with the the Bylaws approved on June 25, 2019.

#### **D. Bylaws and policies review, Board training, and schedule**

The board discussed the need to update and submit Bylaw revisions with the August 15, 2023 Charter School Renewal Application, and create a 12-month calendar for annual review of school polices and procedures.

B. Yalow requested that Kirsten Barclay, Bond Schoeneck & King, general counsel, assist the board schedule a retreat and lead the board through a discussion of board governance trainings and prepare a 12-month calendar for training and review of all school policies. As part of board training, K. Barclay is invited to attend all 2023 board meetings.

B. Yalow made a motion to coordinate scheduling a board retreat to: 1) discuss preparation of a 12-month calendar for board members to be trained in proper board governance under the NYS education law and board review of all school policies during the 2023–2024 school year; and, 2) prepare a draft schedule for the board to review at a Special Board Meeting.

M. Balbuena seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

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

#### **IV. Finance report**

##### **A. June 30, 2024 cash forecast**

B. Yalow reported that Yalow's **July 12, 2024 cash balances were \$8,147,670, and projects that the school will end the 2023–2024 school year with \$5,200,010 after reserving \$2 million for replacement of the CHHS electric switch panel and installation of 11 rooftop HVAC compressors. Student recruitment—the biggest driver of school revenue—continues.**

#### **V. Executive Director Report**

##### **A. October 12, 2021 NYSED Notice of Deficiency**

A. Diacou reminded the board that the school had not received a progress report from the Charter School Office on the November 12, 2021 Corrective Action Plan.

##### **B. Update: Replacement of CHHS electrical switches and installation of rooftop HVAC compressors**

CHHS board member John Fontana is the new point person for CHHS construction discussions with the Archdiocese.

- Archdiocese asked for some minor modifications to the electrical contractor bid package
- J. Fontana states that Archdiocese engineer is making minor modifications (typical insurance provisions, etc.)
- bid package expected to be distributed to electrical contractors on Monday, July 17
- bids due within 10 business days (c. August 1)

Yalow working cost estimate remains \$1.5 million.

##### **C. Update: Request for HVAC compressor installation authorization ("RFA") letter from Archdioceses**

No update available. CHHS is waiting for the engineer for the Archdiocese to determine next steps. J. Fontana is aware of the roof engineering inspections that have been performed to date, but hasn't discussed the project with the Archdiocese.

##### **D. Update: Future expansion of Yalow within CHHS**

Michael Carey, president of Cardinal Hayes, has discussed Yalow's desire to expand into middle school within CHHS with the CHHS board, but CHHS cannot make a firm commitment until CHHS determines its own space requirements and finalizes its long-term strategic plan.

## VI. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

R. Lyon made a motion to end the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Diacou

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### Documents used during the meeting

- Grotto Key Design tablets v5.pdf
- Grotto mission statement.pdf
- Grotto Vision.pdf
- final-draft-ren-app-23-24.pdf
- BM6-2019 Charter School Performance Framework.pdf
- BM10-2019 Charter School Performance Framework.pdf
- NYCNY1-#125945-v4-NYCNY1-#114089-v5-2\_Approved Bylaws\_\_November\_2018.pdf
- Cash Flow Forecast\_071223.pdf
- Rosalyn Yalow CS Notices-Moscinski 7.13.23.pdf
- RE Draft Yalows CAP.pdf
- RYCS NoD for BM 6 .pdf
- CAP template -Yalow.docx
- DRAFT CAP template -Yalow-November 12, 2021.pdf