

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday September 19, 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, J. McCrary (remote), R. Lyon (remote), S. Hayes (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Diacou, K. Barclay (remote), K. Smaw

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Lyon called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Sep 19, 2023 at 6:33 PM.

C. Approve agenda

Dr. Lyon added three items to the board agenda, a finance committee meeting, an education committee meeting, and board training to be conducted by K. Barclay, general counsel to the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School.

B. Yalow made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

II. Chairman updates

A. Opening comments

Dr. Lyon mentioned his hopes for the board under his leadership: problem solving, transparency, accountability, and professionalism—especially when board members disagree with one another.

III. Items for Board Approval

A. August 22, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

B. Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 08-22-23.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

B. Proposed new Board members

S. Hayes made a motion to to pass the attached Resolution appointing Dr. Debra Dennard to the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School Board of Trustees.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

RESOLVED, the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Dr. Dennard as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on August 31, 2025, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Dr. Dennard is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

The Board of Trustees authorizes Alec Diacou, Executive Director, to submit this resolution to the NYSED Charter School Office on its behalf.

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

S. Hayes made a motion to table the discussion and vote to reappoint L. Howard to the Board of Trustees.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

C. Consulting contract

G. Feliciano made a motion to approve a consulting contract with Simeon Stolzberg to review Yalow's Charter Renewal Application.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

S. Stolzberg taught the Charter School Center's Apply Right course in 2012–2023 when A. Diacou and founding board members submitted their 2013 charter application.

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

D. Pasek Consulting contract

B. Yalow made a motion to retain Pasek Consulting for the upcoming quarter based on the scope of work outlined in D. Pasek's email, dated 5:33 a.m., September 7, 2023.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

E. Board retreat

B. Yalow made a motion to hold the board's in-person board retreat on Saturday, October 28, 2023.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

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

B. Yalow made a motion to to authorize the executive director to reserve space for the board retreat at either the NYAC or Wave Hill, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

G. Feliciano seconded the motion.

Venue selection between NYAC and Wave Hill to be determined based on cost.

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

F. Policy Review of FOIL and Complaint Policies

K. Barclay, general counsel, reviewed Rosalyn Yalow's existing FOIL and Complaint policies with the board and finds these policies to be compliant with NYS law.

IV. Principal report

A. Benchmark #1 standards—educational outcomes 2020–2023

K. Smaw noted that Benchmark # 1 of Yalow's 2023 Charter Renewal Application covers the academic performance of Yalow students over the 2020–2023 period of Yalow's

charter, and modifications to improve student performance outcomes over the 2024–2029 charter term.

Leadership is currently drafting the school's response to Benchmark #1, due October 3, 2023. NYS ELA and math test scores are currently embargoed and cannot be shared with the board until NYSED makes the results available to the public.

V. Finance report

A. Year-end cash flow forecast

B. Yalow reported that the school has very healthy cash balances of \$8,328,599 (September 13, 2023), and finances will remain strong throughout the 2023–2024 year. Projected June 30, 2024 cash balances are forecast to be \$5,372,181 after fully paying for the the replacement of 1940 electrical switches at Cardinal Hayes and completing the installation of rooftop compressors to run Yalow's classroom, cafeteria, and office HVAC air handlers.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Cardinal Hayes administrative changes

Yalow's construction-related requests with the Archdiocese of NY are not being addressed. The Cardinal Hayes High School board chairman stepped down and Hayes administrative officer recently left, so there is no one to intermediate building issues with the Archdiocese. Waiting for new Hayes leadership to address the outstanding issues.

The Archdiocese of NY owns the Hayes building. CHHS is a tenant of the building, and Yalow is a subtenant of Cardinal Hayes High School.

B. Replacement of CHHS electrical switches

Hayes hasn't reviewed the 3 electrical contractor bids received to replace the building's 1940 electric switches. Completion date won't be available until bids are reviewed and Hayes board agrees to a cost-sharing arrangement with Yalow's board.

C. Update: Request for HVAC compressor installation authorization

Continue waiting for Archdiocese engineer to determine next steps for roof replacement.

D. Enrollment projections September 18, 2023

ATS enrollment: 470, with 13 students being pulled by other schools.

About 25 students have withdrawn the last week due to:

- a week of extreme heat >90 degrees outside (c.10)

- NO buses due to individual drivers protesting lack of wage increase (c. 10)
- families moving out of the Bronx (circa 5 families, CT, Dominican Republic, etc.)

Mailchimp recruitment solicitations sent to 2100 Yalow mailing list twice weekly (PDF early each week; video later in the week).

Schola continues social media outreach.

E. Compliance

The school is in compliance with NYSED filings. In coordination with Cardinal Hayes, leadership is updating Yalow's Emergency Response Plan.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

S. Hayes made a motion to adjourn the regularly scheduled board meeting and enter into the finance committee meeting, followed by board education.

B. Yalow 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 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Hayes

Documents used during the meeting

- Dr Debra Dennard Resume July 2023 Sc.pdf
- Board Resolution - Debra Denard.pdf
- Board Resolution - Lakiesha Howard 9.19.23.pdf
- Attachment G Board of Trustees Membership Table Updated 9.1.23.pdf
- Mock Interview Prep for NYSED Site Visit Proposal.pdf
- REVISED Pasek Services October 1.pdf
- Image 9-14-23 at 11.39 AM copy.jpeg
- Re 2023 38 ELA and Math are now available to authorized users in L2RPT.pdf
- Cash Flow Forecast_091323.pdf