

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday February 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Mission Statement

The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School will strive to 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

Ben Yalow (remote), Dr. Debra Dennard (remote), Dr. Justin McCrary (remote), Dr. Ross Lyon (remote), Dr. Sandra Hayes (remote)

Trustees Absent

Gregoria Feliciano

Guests Present

Alec Diacou, Kim Smaw

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Ross Lyon called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Feb 20, 2024 at 6:38 PM.

C. Approve agenda

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to to approve the agenda as amended by Dr. Lyon.
Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Chairman updates

A. Certificate of achievement for the chess and fencing instructors for their extraordinary accomplishments.

In lieu of a certificate, Dr. Hayes suggested to honor Grandmaster Irina Krush by sponsoring a chess tournament in her honor and presenting her with a professional photograph of her with Yalow's chess team students. The New York Athletic Club (NYAC) was suggested a a venue if we collaborate with the NYAC chess club.

III. Items for Board Approval

A. January 23, 2024 Rescheduled Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from Postponed January Board Meeting on 01-23-24.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Teacher recruitment

A. TNTP proposal to recruit 15 Tier I & II level teachers

Dr. Lyon reiterated the reasons discussed at the January board meeting for hiring TNTP to augment the school's teacher recruitment efforts. The cost of the contract is in line with what the school historically spends on recruitment. The principal and executive director support the proposal to contract with TNTP.

Dr. McCrary asked if TNTP had other competitors. Dr. Lyon replied that the school uses several several recruitment firms, although the TNTP's cost structure is different. TNTP

charges a higher upfront fee, and minimal success fee, while the other competitors have success fees of 15%–25% of a teacher's salary.

Dr. Hayes asked why the school reached out to TNTP. K. Smaw pointed out that TNTP was recommended by Uncommon Schools and that, in the past, Yalow has used TNTP to provide teachers professional development in our CKLA curriculum. TNTP's professional development was successful.

K. Smaw endorsed hiring TNTP for teacher recruitment.

A. Diacou endorsed hiring TNTP for teacher recruitment.

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to approve the TNTP contract to hire 15 Tier I & Tier II teachers for the 2024–2025 school year.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

B. Replacement of CHHS electrical switches

On February 15, 2024, A. Diacou and M. Carey agreed to present the following cost-share arrangement to both school boards:

1. Yalow pays the full cost of replacing the electrical switches at Hayes;
2. Hayes repays half (c.\$600,000 cost) over a 3-year period due to Hayes from increases in Yalow's enrolled student body using an agreed schedule;
3. loan payments will be rolled into the following year if monies due to Hayes are lower than the agreed schedule;
4. at the end of the 3-year year period, any remaining loan balance owed to Yalow by Hayes will be forgiven.

If agreeable to both schools, next steps include: a) receiving written confirmation of the \$1.2 million cost estimate from Allcom Electric; consent of the New York Archdiocese, as building owner); and, c) preparing a timeline for replacement.

V. Executive session

A. Contract matters

At 6:55 p.m. B. Yalow asked the board to enter executive session to discuss negotiations with Cardinal Hayes. Public Session resumed at 6:58 p.m.

VI. Public session resumed

A. Resolution to Authorize Funding of Hayes Electrical Switch Replacement

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to approve the following resolution.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

Resolved that, in order to complete installation of the eleven previously purchased HVAC compressors required to run air handlers previously installed throughout the space

occupied by Rosalyn Yalow Charter School within Cardinal Hayes High School (Hayes), pursuant to Yalow’s Sublease, dated December 18, 2020, and fund the estimated \$1.2 million cost of upgrading the exiting 1940 electrical switches at Hayes, the Board proposes the following cost-sharing agreement:

1. Yalow will fund the \$1.2 million cost of replacing the electrical switches at Hayes;
2. Yalow and Hayes will enter into a loan agreement whereby Hayes will repay half of the cost for replacing the electrical switches (c. \$600,000) over a 3-year period from monies due to Hayes —based on estimated Yalow enrollment of 475 students;
3. in any year over the 3-year repayment period, if monies due to be repaid Yalow under the Sublease fall short of the above schedule, that difference will be rolled into the amount to repaid the following year;
4. at the end of the 3-year year period, any remaining loan balance owed to Yalow by Hayes will be forgiven; and
5. the Executive Director of the Charter School can negotiate the loan agreement as set forth in this Resolution, subject to the further action of approval by the Board.

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

VII. Finance report

A. Year-end cash flow forecast

B. Yalow reported February 13, 2024 cash balances of \$6,932,429. June 30, 2024 cash balances of \$3,841,307 assumes monies reserved for electric switch replacement are expended prior to July 2024.

VIII. Principal report

A. Attendance Sept. 5–Dec.14, 2023

K. Smaw provided the following attendance report, along with comparative graphs covering the 6-year, 2019–2024 time period.

	2022–2023	2023–2024
Average attendance:	90%	89.8%
Chronic absentee rate:	39.7% (6/15/23)	41.9% (1/12/24)

- 19 students have perfect attendance (4.4%)
- 181 of 432 students are chronically absent (41.9%)—chronically absent students only attend 4 out of 5 days weekly (82%)
- 59% of K; 47% of 1st grade; decreasing to 29% of 5th grade

Dean of students continues scheduling meetings with parents of chronic absentees, to speak with parents and ask how the school can support families with regular attendance.

IX. Executive Director Report

A. Enrollment February 15, 2024

Current Yalow enrollment is 432 students, compared with 444 students in February 2023. Parent outreach for the April 2, 2024 lottery continues with weekly visits to 2–3 day care centers, Mailchimp recruitment solicitations sent to 2100 Yalow mailing list twice weekly, plus social media outreach through Schola.

Yalow BEDS Day Enrollment

	Oct. 2022	Oct. 2023
	456	448

Lottery applications comparison:

	Feb. 15, 2023	Feb. 15 2024
kindergarten	55	193
all other	7	12
Total	2	205

Graduating class: 72 52

An increase in student enrollment is expected for the 2024–2025 academic year based on fewer graduating 5th graders and a higher number of new student applications for the 2024–2025 year.

B. Compliance updates

1. Waiting for NYC Dept. of Buildings (DOB) reinstatement of the temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) for the 4th floor.
2. Waiting for FDNY's reinspection.
3. Review of Yalow's employee handbook is in progress.

X. 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,
Dr. Sandra Hayes

Documents used during the meeting

- Cash Flow Forecast_021324.pdf
- Board Feb Stats.docx-2.pdf
- Charter loan re electric switch project.pdf
- Carey letter 2.9.24.pdf