

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday April 16, 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), Gregoria Feliciano (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

Alec Diacou, Kim Smaw (remote)

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 Apr 16, 2024 at 6:33 PM.

C. Approve agenda

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the agenda, as submitted.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

II. Chairman updates

A. NYSED charter renewal decision will be submitted to NYS Board of Regents at their June meeting.

B. The board sponsored Irina Krush Blitz Chess Tournament takes place at the NYAC on Friday, May 10.

The NYAC chess club is a co-sponsor. Yalow students will compete in their own tournament in the afternoon on May 10. Board members are encouraged to compete against Yalow students, and participate in the evening dinner celebration to honor the outstanding achievements of the school's chess and fencing instructors.

C. Spring board retreat scheduled for Saturday, May 11, at NYAC.

III. Items for Board Approval

A. March 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting on 03-19-24.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

IV. Finance report

A. Year-end cash flow forecast

B. Yalow reported cash balances of \$6,818,738 (April 9, 2024), and that the school projects it will end the year with \$4.5 million after estimated expenditures for the electric switch replacement project at 650 Grand Concourse.

The school has sufficient cash on hand for the 2024–2025 school year at current enrollment. Next year the school benefits from high interest earnings on the school's cash balances.

V. Principal report

A. Attendance September 5–April 12, 2024

K. Smaw reported the following year-to-date student attendance data and comparisons for the 6-year 2019–2024 period.

| | 2022–2023 | 2023–2024 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Average attendance: | 90% | 90.1% |
| Chronic absentee rate: | 39.7% (6/15/23) | 40.8% (4/12/24) |

- 6 students have perfect attendance (1.3%)
- 176 of 431 students are chronically absent (40.8%)—chronically absent students only attend 4 out of 5 days weekly (83%)
- 56% of K; 49% of 1st grade; decreasing to 33% of 5th grade.

Dr. Lyon complimented the school for maintaining a 90% average attendance rate.

B. NYS ELA/Math testing

K. Smaw reported that NYS ELA testing was completed on April 16, noting that 5th graders took computer-based tests for the first time with many students spending six hours each day on the computer—a very exhausting way to take tests.

In preparation, teachers have been working with small groups of 9 students, three periods a day for the past eight weeks—organized by student needs, rather than grade level.

C. Spring 2024 calendar events

Through the school's partnership with Bronx Arts Ensemble (BAE), 35 Yalow students have been invited to a live performance at Carnegie Hall on April 19 to hear the Cecelia Chorus.

The BAE and the Metropolitan Opera have selected Yalow to perform *Mythology & Love* at Rosalyn Yalow on April 29, with counter-tenor and Grammy Award Winner [Anthony Roth Costanzo](#). During regular art classes Yalow students have assisted in creating artwork for the costumes worn by dancers and singers. Following the performance, Student artwork will be displayed at Governor's Island as part of the BAE's collaboration with the MET Opera.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Replacement of CHHS electrical switches

A. Diacou reported the following updates: a) Allcom Electric reopened the electric switch replacement project with Con Ed, and is waiting for ConEd's written review; b) DBI Projects has been hired to support Yalow as the school's owner's representative; c) DBI has spoken with Allcom and is arranging a meeting to walk the existing electric switch room at 650 Grand Concourse and review Allcom's plan for replacement; d) a draft loan agreement has been presented to Cardinal Hayes for review.

Upon receipt of ConEd's written evaluation Allcom will provide a written bid proposal and timeline for project commencement. Once Allcom's bid is accepted, a custom-designed replacement switch will be ordered from an electric switch manufacturer (e.g., Siemens).

B. April 2, 2024 lottery results

2024 lottery applications increased 50% from 2023.

| | Apr. 14, 2023 | Apr. 15, 2024 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| kindergarten: | 180 | 299 |
| 1st grade: | 14 | 5 |
| 2nd grade: | 16 | 15 |
| Total: | 210 | 319 |

Families are called and invited to visit the school for a one-on-one tour. After accounting for 5th-grade graduates (52) and student attrition over the summer (say, 40 students), the goal is to add 183 new students to reach 522 students in 2024–2025..

C. Bronx outreach to new housing developments

The operations team has met with the development agents for four new state-of-the-art housing developments along the Harlem River waterfront to encourage those developers to market the benefits of our school to current and prospective tenants. These developments are large, with almost 1,000 units each. Three are half filled, while the fourth just opened in February. Each of these developments has set aside units for low income and homeless families eligible for housing assistance.

D. Compliance updates

Yalow's 2022-24 Desk Review Monitoring for Education Stabilization Funds was approved on April 8, 2024; the 2021-2022 federal Civil Rights Data Collection form was submitted April 2, 2024; and, Yalow's counsel is completing its review of COVID-19 era changes in all NYS and NYC employment laws to finalize Yalow's employee handbook update.

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 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sandra Hayes

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to adjourn.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Finance Committee Meeting

A. Record Attendance

B. Yalow, Dr. S. Hayes, Dr. R. Lyon, Dr. J. McCrary, Dr. D. Dennard, A. Diacou

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Ben Yalow made a motion to call the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

B. Yalow reviewed the weekly finance advisory committee meeting discussions, and noted the positive financial results from the school's T-Bill investment program.

IX. Closing items for Finance Committee meeting

A. Adjourn Finance Committee meeting

Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 7:29 PM.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Attendance Charts 4.13.24.pdf
- RY.CH Loan Agreement Discussion Draft, 4871-5419-8192.pdf
- Completed Enrollment Packets 4.12.24.pdf
- 2022-24 Desk Review Monitoring for Education Stabilization Funds for Group F Approved.pdf
- Education Stabilization Funds Monitoring Survey Approved.pdf