

APPROVED



# The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

## Minutes

### Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Monday December 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM

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#### **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.

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#### **Trustees Present**

Ben Yalow (remote), Dr. Debra Dennard (remote), Dr. Justin McCrary (remote), Dr. Ross Lyon (remote), Gregoria Feliciano (remote)

#### **Trustees Absent**

Dr. Sandra Hayes

#### **Guests Present**

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Alec Diacou, Kim Smaw

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance and Guests

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

### C. Approve agenda

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to approve the agenda.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

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

## II. Items for Board Approval

### A. November 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 11-19-24.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.

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

## III. Finance report

### A. Finance summary

B. Yalow reviewed Yalow's USTreasury Bill portfolio. As T-Bills mature, the school reinvests proceeds while maintaining cash balances sufficient to meet monthly operating expenses (approximately \$1.2 million). Interest income will decrease as interest rates decrease. Since the school is filling two classes of kindergarten in 2024–2025, rather than the four we anticipated, the school expects to lose \$1 million this year.

As of December 10, 2024, the school held cash plus liquid investments of \$5.5 million.

## IV. Principal report

### A. Fall 2024 STEP Literacy student growth student data

Compared with 2023–2024:

- 52.4% of students are meeting or exceeding grade-level benchmarks—(2) kindergarten; (3) 1st grade; (3) 2nd grade; (1) 4th grade; and (1) 5th grade
- 47.5% of the students in the school are performing below grade level benchmarks —(3) 3rd grade; (2) 4th grade; and (1) 5th grade.

Those 3rd-grade students performing below target are struggling with oral and silent reading comprehension and developmental spelling. 50% of 3rd graders are struggling with rate, and need more fluency instruction and daily read aloud and silent rereading practice.

Fourth Grade students at STEPs 6-8 need extra support to improve reading rate, accuracy, and developmental spelling.

Fourth and Fifth Grade students who are below grade level at STEPs 9-12 need more focus on reading rate, developmental spelling, silent/written comprehension, and practice with narrative texts that have multiple characters and subplots and opportunities to respond in writing with prompt feedback. Developmental Spelling can be improved through word work and word sorting.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade students in the **Strengthen and Expand** series are working on inferring nonfiction texts and understanding key concepts. They need to read texts with compare and contrast and cause and effect structures, and should also be working on improving their vocabulary strategies and knowledge.

**B. Attendance August 29, 2024–December 12, 2024**

2021–2025 comparison graphs were presented.

	<b>2023–2024</b>	<b>2024–2025</b>
Average attendance:	90.3%	90.3%
Chronic absentee rate:	41% (12/14/23)	34.3% (12/12/24)

- 51 of 402 students have perfect attendance (12.7%)
- 138 of 402 students are chronically absent (34.3%)
- 47% of 1st-grade students have been chronically absent (missing more than 10% of days in school), decreasing to 22% of 5th grade students.

**V. Executive Director Report**

**A. Installation of rooftop dunnage**

GGA Studios has been hired by Yalow to be the architect for completion of the dunnage project to support the 11 HVAC compressors to be placed on the Cardinal Hayes roof. An additional 6 inches of roofing insulation is required when the Archdiocese replaces Cardinal Hayes parapet roof. February 2022 shop drawings of dunnage were sent to J. Schwedfegger for review by Archdiocese engineers (Zubatkin). GGA Studios and Kel-Mar conducted site visit on Friday, December 13, to confirm the appropriate height that the dunnage should be raised to accommodate added insulation and verify how dunnage design is supported visa-vis pre-existing height of window sills. The raised height of

dunnage—which will be 30"-32" above the roof—precludes the original dunnage support design, and GGA Studios has begun preparing revised dunnage drawing options for Kel-Mar to price before finalizing which design will be used. Stairs will need to be designed to facilitate workers to move from one side of the dunnage to the other side while installing the HVAC compressors. Stairs cannot touch the roof and must be supported by the dunnage structure. Two possible stair and railing designs will be designed and priced. In addition, railings will be a requirement to prevent workers from falling over *the existing parapet wall*. *Yalow will be responsible for these design and construction costs.*

Working timeline:

- GGA Studio hand sketches by January 17, 2025;
- final approval and PAA filing with NYC Dept. of Buildings by January 27;
- pricing by mid-February;
- steel dunnage delivery to Cardinal Hayes mid- to late-March (hoisted with boom);
- rigger (crane and 153rd street closure) to be scheduled for Thursday, April 17 (first day of Cardinal Hayes Easter break) for hoisting 11 HVAC compressors onto Cardinal Hayes roof.

Steel dunnage can be installed late-March/early-April while Yalow is in session.

Yalow spring break begins April 14, 2025. ***Above timeline contingent on Archdiocese engineering approval.***

## **B. Charter revision updates**

Dr. Aramina Ferrer, NYS Regent for The Bronx, visited Yalow on December 3, 2024, and met with school leadership plus 10 parents. Dr. Ferrer was provided with a package of parent and teacher support letters, including 119 letters of support from the parents of 174 Yalow students—44% of Yalow's 400 students—and, letters of support signed by 38 teachers—79% of Yalow's teaching staff.

## **C. 2025–2026 lottery applictaions**

**As of December 16, 2024, Yalow has received 60 kindergarten lottery applications, compared with none in December, 2023.**

# **VI. Cardinal Hayes proposal to lease additional space within CHHS**

## **A. Available CHHS space**

Dr. Carey, president of Cardinal Hayes, has authorization to raise additional revenue for the school by subleasing 4th and 5th floor space to additional tenants with small-scale construction expense. Although the proposal is attractive, GCA Studio advised the school that ADA elevator access requirements is required when residential space is repurposed as classrooms, significantly increasing potential project costs.

Dr. Lyon discussed the need to raise additional funds for school expansion, and reminded the board that G. Feliciano had offered to assist with fundraising.

## **VII. Yalow "tutor corps" update**

### **A. CHHS students**

Cardinal Hayes principal, William Lessa, has invited Principal Smaw to select 10 tutors from among a pool of 20 national honor society students to assist needy students, afternoons, beginning at 2:15 p.m., when classes for Hayes students end.

## **VIII. New NYS Classroom Temperature Law**

### **A. 88 degrees maximum classroom temperature**

**Legislation S3397-A/A9011-A** establishes 88 degrees as the maximum temperature in classrooms and support services spaces. It requires a plan for the removal of students and staff from these spaces where it is practical for the school district to do so. Yalow's plans to upgrade electric switches at CHHS and install 11 rooftop HVAC compressors are timely.

## **IX. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ben 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 7:13 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alec Diacou

## **X. Finance Committee Meeting**

### **A. Record Attendance**

B. Yalow, Dr. Lyon, Dr. Dennard, Dr. McCrary, G. Feliciano.

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

B. Yalow reported that the agenda consisted of reviewing the finance report presented in the December Board meeting.

## **XI. Closing items for Finance Committee meeting**

### **A.**

### **Adjourn Finance Committee meeting**

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to adjourned the Finance Committee meeting.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

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

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### **Documents used during the meeting**

- Rosalyn Yalow STEP Data Summary Report\_Cycle 1.pdf
- 2024-2024\_Board\_Stats\_December.pdf
- BAE Letter of Support\_ Rosalyn Yalow School Expansion, NYS Regent (1).pdf
- Multi-Student Family Letters of Support.pdf
- 6th Grade Parent Reservation Forms.pdf
- Single-Student Parent Letters of Support.pdf
- Teacher Advocacy Letter 11.29.24.pdf
- ENL Teacher Advocacy Letter 12.1.24.pdf
- Vianca Batista Advocacy Letter 12.1.24.pdf
- Karina Rivera Advocacy Letter 12.1.24.pdf
- Adiaratou Kaba Advocacy Letter 12.2.24.pdf
- Emuejevoke Ofuyah:A. Parker Advocacy Letter 12.2.24.pdf
- IMG\_7649.pdf
- RYCS Tutor Ad (Yellow).pdf

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V. A.

It is not clear what "(2) kindergarten" etc. refers to

V. B. What % of all teachers signed the letter of support?

X.A. eliminate "Dr. Hayes"

X.B. eliminate "received"