

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday November 19, 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

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

C. Approve agenda

Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to approve the agenda.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

II. Chairman updates

A. November 16, 2024 Board retreat recap

Board members were introduced to a prospective board member who volunteers with NY Cares and works in finance.

Discussion items included: middle school expansion planning, a presentation by Impact Charter on partnering with charter schools, Yalow school culture ideas for school leadership to consider, formation of a "tutor corp" to provide additional reading support for ELL students, board leadership planning, a request to provide numeric summaries of parent or teacher complaints and procedural resolutions, and supporting the school's support for the family of a deceased student.

III. Items for Board Approval

A. October 8, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting on 10-08-24.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

IV. Finance report

A. Finance summary

B. Yalow reported November 12, 2024 cash plus liquid investment balances of \$6,460,987. Although 2024–2025 enrollment is down 45 students from last year, we expect to end the year with approximately \$4 million on June 30, 2025, after expenditures

related to replacement of the electrical switches at CHHS and connecting the 11 HVAC compressors.

Cashflow will be in the black if the school expands to grades k–8, which allows the school to retain an additional 50 students a year for the next three years as we add grades 6–8. Without grade expansion the school needs to enroll 4 classes of kindergarten to sustain strong finances.

V. Principal report

A. Final 2023–2024 ELA/Math test results

Math test results: 63% passed the 2024 grades 3–5 NYS exam, exceeding NYC (55%), NYS (54%), CSD7 (36%) and CSD9 (35%).

All student subgroups beat NYC, NYS, CSD7, and CSD9:

- ELL student pass rate (56%) exceeded NYC (29%), NYS (26%), CSD7 (23%) and CSD9 (23%).
- ED students pass rate (62%) exceeded NYC (48%), NYS (43%), CSD7 (36%), CSD9 (35%).
- SPED student pass rate (30%) is comparable to NYC (31%), and exceeds NYS (26%), CSD 7 (26%), and CSD 9 (20%).

ELA test results: Yalow’s passing rate (37%) underperformed NYC (47%) and NYS (44%) but exceeded CSD7 (30%) and CSD9 (26%). However, ELA scores by grade increased every year, with RYCS 5th graders surpassing NYS and NYC scores.

All student subgroups beat NYC, NYS, CSD7, and CSD9:

- ED student ELA passing rate (37%) is comparable to NYC (39%), and exceeds NYS (34%), CSD7 (30%) and CSD9 (25%).
- SPED student ELA passing rate (26%) exceeds NYC (21%), NYS (17%), CSD9 (12%) and CSD 7 (15%).
- ELL student passing rate (16%) exceeds NYC (11%), NYS (10%), CSD7 (8%), and CSD9 (9%).

B. Grief counselors

Following the death of a second grade student, grief counselors from Cardinal Hayes High School and Calvary Hospital began meeting with students and teachers. Calvary Hospital is scheduling weekly counselor visits for the next five weeks.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Replacement of CHHS parapet roof

A. Diacou continues to work with Jane Schwedfeger, director of property management for the Archdiocese, to revise engineering drawings for the steel dunnage to be installed on

the rooftop at Hayes. The dunnage will support the 11 HVAC compressors to be loaded onto the roof of CHHS . Dunnage is currently being stored in Deer Park, Long Island.

B. Charter revision updates

1. Four charter revision applications were submitted to NYSED on October 9, 2024:
a) Grade Level Expansion; b) KDE-Benchmark 8-Team Teaching; c) Enrollment Policy and Procedures; and d) Promotion and Retention Policy.
2. Parent support letters are being collected to submit to NYSED in conjunction with Yalow's application(s).
3. Regent Ferrer will visit the school on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

C. Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP) food baskets

MSHP is providing Yalow with 25 food baskets to distribute to Yalow's neediest families prior to Thanksgiving.

D. Replacement Chromebooks for testing

Chromebooks are used for interim student testing in core subjects (ELA and Singapore math). Only 67 Chromebooks are in working condition, and 90 additional student testing Chromebooks have been ordered at a discounted price via Techsoup, a non-profit organization set up by tech companies.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Debra Dennard 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 7:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sandra Hayes

VIII. Finance Committee Meeting

A. Record Attendance

Roll call: B. Yalow, Dr. Lyon, Dr. Hayes, Dr. Dennard, G. Feliciano, and Dr. McCrary.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

B. Yalow referred Board members to the earlier finance report, which he provided at the beginning of the preceding Board Meeting.

IX. Closing items for Finance Committee meeting

A. Adjourn Finance Committee meeting

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Final Yalow_ELA Comparisons 2023-2024.pdf
- Final Yalow_MATH Comparisons 2023-2024.pdf