



# The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

## Minutes

### Monthly Board Meeting, Finance Committee Meeting, & Education Committee Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday February 18, 2025 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), Dr. Sandra Hayes (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

Gregoria Feliciano

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#### Guests Present

Alec Diacou, Kim Smaw

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## 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 18, 2025 at 6:36 PM.

### C. Approve agenda

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the agenda.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

## II. Items for Board Approval

### A. January 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from the Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 01-21-25.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.

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

## III. Finance report

### A. Finance summary

B. Yalow reported February 11, 2025 cash plus liquid investment balances totaling \$5,128,846. Budgets are monitored weekly.

If the Regents approve the school's expansion to 6th grade in 2025 the school will lose about \$100,000; without expansion in 2025, enrollment will remain low and the school anticipates losing \$1.5 million.

## IV. Principal report

### A. Attendance August 29, 2024–February 14, 2025

K. Smaw reported student attendance and chronic absenteeism for 2024–2025 and presented comparative graphs for the 5-year period 2021–2025. 148 of 396 students are chronically absent.

	2023–2024	2024–2025
Average attendance:	89.6%	89.7%
Chronic absentee rate:	41.6% (2/14/24)	37.4% (2/14/25)

24 of 396 students have perfect attendance (6%).

The rate of chronic absenteeism has improved from last year, but remains quite high among 1st- and 2nd-grade students at 48% and 46%, respectively; decreasing to 27% of 5th grade have been chronically absent.

#### **B. Core subject unit assessment proficiency reports**

Unit assessment proficiency test results for core subjects of CKLA, math, and phonics were presented.

B. Yalow noted that upper-grade students have been with the school since kindergarten and 1st grade and inquired why their performance results fall off from lower grade outcomes. K. Smaw responded that math results of 5th-grade students are better than during the COVID-19 era.

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

#### **A. CHHS students**

On February 14, 2025, 11 Cardinal Hayes national honor society students commenced tutoring Yalow students. 20% of the low-performing students will receive one hour of tutoring through the remainder of the year. Students are receiving a double-dose of reading during our reading emergency.

Dr. Lyon suggested that the school provide limited opportunity for more advanced students to receive advanced placement work.

### **VI. Executive Director Report**

#### **A. Installation of rooftop dunnage**

The Archdiocese engineer hasn't provided feedback on new GGA Studio dunnage design submitted on January 27, 2025. Following approval of the CAD drawings, the steel fabricator will begin production of the dunnage supports.

#### **B. Charter revision updates**

*NYSED sent a formal notice on February 10, 2025 stating, "we are still engaged in discussions with NYSED senior management, the Commissioner, and the Board of Regents regarding the approval recommendations that will be presented. At this time, these recommendations have not been finalized, and as a result, your requests will not appear on the agenda for the March Board of Regents meeting."*

#### **C. Charter Revision Application(s) public hearing scheduled for February 24, 2025**

The public hearing is being held via Zoom link. The school will be given 10 minutes to present about the charter revision requests, followed by parents and teachers, each of whom will have the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes.

#### **D. 2025–2026 lottery applications**

The number of lottery applications received through February 15, 2025 are about the same as February 15 2024, although we have fewer kindergarten applications and greater numbers of applications for grades 1–5.

Recruitment continues to parents on the sidewalk outside of two Catholic elementary schools scheduled for closure—early mornings during student drop-off and evenings for student pick-up, as well as to parents of Choice Charter School (formerly the Montessori Charter School), which NYSED is closing February 28, 2025.

Other recruitment efforts include in-person parent workshops, which are scheduled at day care and Head Start programs, bi-weekly flyers sent via social media platforms to 2,000+ parents and former parents, plus bus shelter ads in CSD7 and CSD9.

### **VII. Finance Committee Meeting**

#### **A. Record Attendance**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sandra Hayes

B. Yalow, Dr. Dennard, Dr. Lyon, Dr. Hayes, and Dr. McCrary attended.

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

B. Yalow called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

B. Yalow reported that the agenda remains as reported in the full Board meeting. The school has approximately \$5 million in cash, which includes \$750,000 being reserved for installation of the 11 rooftop HVAC compressors.

### **VIII. Education Committee Meeting**

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

Dr. Dennard called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

K. Smaw updated the committee on about the young student coping with the loss of his sister. Calvary Hospital grief counseling support continues, and the family has been offered family therapy. Parents have requested that he participate in the chess club.

K. Smaw reported that one family kept their child home from school because of deportation concerns.

## **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 7:28 p.m.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

## **X. Closing Items for Education Committee meeting**

### **A. Adjourn Education Committee meeting**

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to Adjourn the Education Committee meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

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## **Documents used during the meeting**

- Attendance Graphs 2.14.25.pdf
- Attendance Board Summary 2.14.25.pdf
- CKLA Assessment Proficiency 2024-2025 .docx.pdf
- Math Unit Assessment Board Report 2024 (1).pdf
- Phonics Data K-2.pdf
- February Activities 2025.pdf
- Tutor Corp 0105.pdf
- Tutor Corp 0110.pdf
- Tutor Corp 0107.pdf
- Tutor Corp 0108.pdf
- Tutor Corp 0106.pdf
- Checking back re Revised Dunnage Design Approval.pdf