



# The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

## Minutes

### Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday April 15, 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. Ross Lyon (remote), Dr. Sandra Hayes (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

Dr. Justin McCrary, Gregoria Feliciano

#### Guests Present

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Alec Diacou (remote), Kim Smaw

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance and Guests

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Lyon noted that Dr. McCrary and G. Feliciano were excused from the meeting due to subway transportation delays.

Dr. Ross Lyon called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Apr 15, 2025 at 6:46 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. Chairman updates

### A. NYAC chess tournament

Dr. Lyon announced that Yalow's chess team will play Yalow Board members and members of the New York Athletic Club (NYAC) on Friday, April 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

### B. Spring board retreat

In anticipation of NYSED's school site visit on Monday April 28, Yalow's spring Board retreat will take place Saturday, April 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at the NYAC. Discussions will include review of the school's 2024–2025 Action Plan and 2025–2026 plan for expansion to grade 6 in the event that the NYS Board of Regents approves Yalow's charter revision applications.

## III. Items for Board Approval

### A. March 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 03-18-25.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

### B. 2023 form 990

Ben Yalow made a motion to to approve Yalow's 2023 IRS form 990.

Dr. Ross Lyon seconded the motion.

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

#### **IV. Finance report**

##### **A. Finance summary**

B. Yalow informed Board members that the school holds cash plus liquid investment balances: approximately \$4,831,274 (April 9, 2025), sufficient to complete remaining construction expenditures. A 2025–2026 budget is being finalized for Board review.

#### **V. Principal report**

##### **A. Attendance August 29, 2024–April 10, 2025**

K. Smaw reported student attendance and chronic absenteeism for 2024–2025 and presented comparative graphs for the 5-year period 2021–2025.

	<b>2023–2024</b>	<b>2024–2025</b>
Average attendance:	89.6%	90.2%
Chronic absentee rate:	41.6% (4/10/24)	37.9% (4/10/25)

School wide chronic absenteeism is down by 6% points compared with 2023–2024. 142 of 402 students are chronically absent, including 50% of 1st-grade students (34 students) and 45% of second-grade students (30 students); decreasing to 27% of 5th-grade students (16 students).  
15 of 402 students have perfect attendance (3.7%).

##### **B. Congratulatory letter from NYS Commissioner of Education**

K. Smaw informed the Board that NYS Education Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa and Regent Dr. Aramina Ferrer signed a joint letter to the school commending the school's students, parents, and teachers for Rosalyn Yalow's chess team performance at the 57th Annual Scholastic Chess Championships.

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

##### **A. Hayes electric switch panel replacement project**

A. Diacou provided the following updates. The new electric switch panels to upgrade the Cardinal Hayes High School's electric distribution system were delivered Saturday, April 5. Installation will take place during Yalow's spring break, as follows. ConEd shuts off electric power at midnight Wednesday, April 16, which will be restored in sections throughout the Hayes building between Thursday, April 17–Sunday, April 20, as individual switch panels are brought online. Charter Technology Solutions will take Yalow's servers and telephone system offline Wednesday, April 16 and restore connections beginning at 6:30 a.m., Monday, April 21, when school resumes. Electric switch photos were shared with the Board.

##### **B.**

**Installation of rooftop dunnage**

The archdiocese approved the design for the steel dunnage to support the 11 HVAC compressors, and installation of steel "angles" on the parapet walls began on Saturday April 12. A rigging boom will deliver steel I-beams and the HVAC compressors on Saturday, April 26, pending completion of galvanizing process. Installation of I-beams and HVAC units will take place over several Saturdays. Some work will take place school days, working around NYS testing schedule.

Installation photos were shared with the Board.

**C. 2025–2026 lottery applications**

Current Yalow enrollment stands at 402 students, including 59 5th graders, who may move to 6th grade. Yalow received slightly fewer kindergarten applications compared with 2024, but many more lottery applications for grades 3–6.

2025 Jan. 17 February 15 March 14 April 10 II April 15, 2024

kinder	121	173	227	286	II	305
1st	3	10	9	15	II	10
2nd	1	7	9	9	II	12
3rd	2	5	4	7	II	4
4th	5	8	12	13	II	3
5th	9	11	13	17	II	1
6th	5	5	10	11	II	na
Total	146	222	284	358	II	335

To date, 34 parents have toured the school. In-person recruitment continues at day care centers, in addition to social media announcements and advertising on bus shelters.

**D. NYSED mid-year site visit**

The Board reviewed the school's progress on the 2024–2025 Action Plan previously submitted to NYSED, and a working draft of an operational plan for grade expansion.

**E. Donations for chess team and tutor corps**

To date, Yalow has received \$20,000 of donations, \$5,000 to support Yalow's outside Tutor Corp initiative to help struggling students, and \$15,000 to support chess team travel expenses.

**F. Statistical analysis of Yalow 2024–2025 lottery enrollees**

NYSED released final 2024–2025 student enrollment data for all NYS k-12 schools on March 12, 2025. The school prepared a statistical hypothesis and graphic analysis to evaluate whether or not Rosalyn Yalow Charter Schools's 2024–2025 enrollment trends significantly differed from other charter schools. There are several conclusions derived from the 17-page statistical analysis.

First, Yalow's **-6.9%** overall enrollment declines are not significantly different from enrollment at network charters or "Mom & Pop" charters.

Second, mean enrollment of *Mom & Pop* charter schools, **-0.94%**, is not significantly different from enrollment changes at *Network Charter* schools, **-2.23%**.

Third, K-5 charters had lower enrollment, **-3.2%**, than K-8/K-12 charters, **+2.3%**. One K-12 charter had enrollment increase of almost 20% due to grade expansion.

Fourth, Yalow's decline in kindergarten enrollment, **-24.36%**, is not statistically different from other Bronx charters, **-3.8%**.

Finally, grade expansion at some charter schools appears to be the most significant factor affecting differences among charter school enrollment increases/decreases, as parents demonstrate a preference for k-8 or k-12 schools when selecting a school.

## VII. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to adjourn the April Board meeting at 7.27 p.m.

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 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sandra Hayes

## VIII. Finance Committee Meeting

### A. Record Attendance

In attendance: B.Yalow, Dr. Dennard, Dr. Hayes, Dr. Lyon.

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. The agenda would be a review of Yalow's finance report.

IRS form 990 was approved for submission to the IRS by the May 15 deadline.

The school's budget includes \$750,000 to complete the air conditioning project. Actual costs may be plus or minus \$500,000.

## IX. Closing items for Finance Committee meeting

### A. Adjourn Finance Committee meeting

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

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## Documents used during the meeting

- 2023 Rosalyn Yalow Charter School 990 Draft V2.pdf
- Attendance Graphs April 2025.pdf
- 2024-2025\_Board\_Stats\_April.10 1 2.pdf
- Commissioner Recognition Letter 4.7.25.pdf
- New Electric Switches #1.pdf
- New Electric Switches #2.pdf
- New Electric Switches #3.pdf
- New Electric Switches #4.pdf
- New Electric Switches #5.pdf
- Steel Angle Delivery 4.12.25.pdf
- Steel Angles #1.pdf
- Steel Angles #2.pdf
- Steel Angles #3.pdf
- Steel Angles #4.pdf
- Steel Angles #5.pdf
- 2024-25 Rosalyn Yalow Action Plan - FINAL.pdf
- DRAFT 2025-26 Action Plan v.1(21503994.1).pdf
- Operational Plan for Expanding to 6th Grade at Rosalyn Yalow Charter School-2.pdf
- Hypothesis Testing 1-Pager 2024–2025.pdf
- Full Analysis 2024–2025 Lottery Comparison to NYC Public and Charters.pdf
- RE Public release of 2020 Cohort 2024 Total Cohort High School Graduation Rate 2024 High School Pathways to Graduation and 2024 School Report Card Group 2 Staff Qualifications Graduation Rate and CRDC data.pdf