



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 20, 2025 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 6:36 p.m.

C. Approve agenda

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the May 20, 2025 Board Agenda.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

II. Chairman updates

A. Working Board Calendar 2025–2026

Dr. Lyon presented a 2025–2026 timeline for board professional development and school oversight benchmarks. The proposed calendar is subject to change, as the Board deems appropriate.

B. Approval of Charter Revision Requests and Grade Expansion

Dr. Lyon reported that the NYS Board of Regents (BOR) voted to approve Yalow's five charter revision requests on May 5, 2025.

- expansion to grades 6–8, beginning with grade 6 in 2025–2026
- enrollment to 600 students in 2027–2028 from 536
- school may now accept students for all grades k-8 (previously restricted to grades k-2)
- newly enrolled students may be reassigned their entry grade within the first couple of months
- Sixth through eighth grade classes will have one subject matter specialist teacher, rather than two generalist teachers.

C. School incident May 20, 2025

Dr. Lyon reported that an accusation of abuse was made by the Aunt of a student against an employee earlier today. NYPD was called when a family acquaintance swung a metal object at an administrator.

III. Executive Session

A.

Salary adjustment of school leadership

At 6:40 p.m. the board went into Executive Session to discuss leadership bonuses for 2024–2025, and set salaries for 2025–2026.

The public session resumed at 6:55 p.m.

IV. Items for Board Approval

A. April 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 04-15-25.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

B. New Board member vote

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to to pass the attached Resolution appointing Krisztina Geosits to the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School Board with a term ending August 31, 2028.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.

Krisztina Geosits has had a distinguished career as a finance risk management and compliance consultant in the United States and globally, and currently works as a Managing Director at Accenture Strategy & Consulting, with operations in 49 countries. K. Geosits requested an unsupressed state and federal criminal history record check via fingerprinting using the IdentoGO center approved by NYSED. Fingerprints were collected on May 6, 2025, and the report was received on May 16.

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

RESOLVED, the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Krisztina M. Geosits as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on August 31, 2028, pending approval by NYSED. This resolution approving Ms. Geosits is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

The Board of Trustees authorizes Alec Diacou, Executive Director, to submit this resolution to the NYSED Charter School Office on its behalf.

C. Vote to approve 2025–2026 Yalow Budget

B. Yalow presented the 2025–2026 budget for discussion and approval. The proposed budget assumes enrollment of 434 students dispersed among 18 classrooms—an increase of 2 classrooms from 2024–2025—with no staffing cuts, and a deficit of **\$(383,956)** before depreciation. The school's cash surplus will continue to be invested in remediation efforts to close student learning gaps.

Significant funding highlights:

- teacher salaries for 32 general education are increased and will remain among the top 5% in NYC;
- a very large RTI team consisting of 3 ESL, 6 reading specialists, and 7 special education teachers (includes dual certified) are maintained;
- chess and fencing programs (11 instructors) directed by Grandmaster- and Olympic-level trainers, respectively, are maintained;
- high-quality violin and visual arts programs contracted through Bronx Arts Ensemble are maintained;

The overall student-teacher ratio is 8.7 to 1, which includes 50 general education, RTI, chess, and fencing instructors. Additional teaching artists for violin and visual arts will be supplied through the school's contract with the BAE, and are not included in the calculations of student-teacher ratios.

Dr. Justin McCrary made a motion to approve the 2025–2026 budget.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Lyon asked the finance committee to continually review and modify the budget based on student enrollment changes, particularly summertime family relocations and new kindergarten student recruiting efforts.

V. Finance report

A. Finance summary

B. Yalow reported that the school had cash plus liquid investment balances were \$5,605,041, as of May 12, 2025.

B. Yalow emphasized that the school won't know the final cost of HVAC project until all units are operational. Final costs may be higher or lower than estimates (+/- \$500k)

VI. Principal report

A. Attendance August 29, 2024–May 16, 2025

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

	2023–2024	2024–2025
Average attendance:	89.6%	90.2%
Chronic absentee rate:	41.6% (4/12/24)	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%).

VII. Executive Director Report

A. Dunnage design & electric panel schedule

A. Diacou reported that the school's 11 Mitsubishi HVAC compressors being kept in storage have been installed on the 4th floor parapet setback. Copper piping connections to the HVAC compressors were completed May 12. Independent pressure testing of the compressors is scheduled for May 20. Electric control wire connections from HVAC compressor to electric panel began Friday, May 16.

After new electric panels are installed in Yalow's space, power can be distributed to individual air handlers in classrooms and offices. Air conditioning expected to be completed by July, 2025.

B. 2025–2026 lottery applications

Yalow current enrollment is 404 students, including 59 5th graders.

There have been slightly fewer kindergarten applications in 2025 compared with 2024, and many more upper grades applications.

	2025	Jan. 17	February 15	March 14	April 15	May 15	II	May 15, 2024
kinder	121	173	227	294	306	II		318
1st	3	10	9	20	22	II		13
2nd	1	7	9	9	9	II		15
3rd	2	5	4	8	9	II		8
4th	5	8	12	14	18	II		6
5th	9	11	13	17	17	II		1
6th	5	5	10	11	12	II		na
Total	146	222	284	358	393	II		361

In-person recruitment continues at day care centers, in addition to social media and bus shelter ads.

To date there have been 63 parent tours, and the school has received 126 verbal acceptances for new 2025–2026 students.

C. Grade Expansion for Grade 6

Intent to return surveys were sent to all student families. A. Diacou will contact parents of the 30 students who are not planning to return for 6th grade.

D. Yalow chess team performance at 2025 SuperNationals VIII Championships

Competing in three separate team sections, the Yalow Tigers took 2nd place in the K-6 Under 1200 section, 4th place in the K-6 Under 800 section, and 30th place in the K-6

Under 600 section over the May 8–11 weekend, in Orlando, FL. 15 of Yalow’s second through 5th-grade students, consisting of 9 girls and six boys, were among 5,000 K–12 competitors from all 50 states.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Gregoria Feliciano made a motion to adjourn the May 20, 2025 Board Meeting.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

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

IX. Finance Committee Meeting

A. Record Attendance

B. Yalow, Dr. S. Hayes, Dr. J. McCrary, Dr. D. Dennard, G. Feliciano, and Dr. R. Lyon were in attendance.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

The Finance Committee agenda consisted of a review of the finance report from the earlier May 20, 2025 Board Meeting.

No additional questions about the finance report were posed by Board members.

X. Closing items for Finance Committee meeting

A. Adjourn Finance Committee meeting

B. Yalow adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sandra Hayes

Documents used during the meeting

- 2025-26 Calendar & Professional Development Plan.pdf
- BOR Recommendation 525p12a1.pdf
- Charter Revision (3) Requests 10.8.24.pdf
- Geosits Board Resolution 5.20.25.pdf
- 20250517 Krisztina M Geosits - Resume (short version).pdf

- Discclosure Stmt Krisztina Geosits.pdf
- bot-background-form.pdf
- Stern-NYU Degree.pdf
- Rosalyn Yalow 25-26 Budget Summary ver 5-18-25 with final Per Pupil rate on \$19,903.pdf
- graphs_may25.pdf
- summary_may25.pdf
- 2025 SuperNationals VIII Chess Results .pdf