



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday June 17, 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)

Trustees Absent

Gregoria Feliciano

Guests Present

Alec Diacou, Kim Smaw

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Approve agenda

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the posted agenda.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

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

II. Chairman updates

A. Monthly Board Meeting Calendar 2025–2026

Board meetings for 2025–2026 are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

B. Chess team visit to NYSED and State Capitol

On June 4, Yalow's chess team and parents traveled to Albany by bus.

- David Frank, NYS Assistant Commissioner of the Education, gave students and their parents a tour of the NYS Education Building and presented students with a recognition award.
- Assemblywoman Amanda Septimo, 84th Assembly District, introduced students to 160 members of the NYS Assembly
- Senator Jose M. Serrano, NYS 29th Senate District, introduced Rosalyn Yalow's chess team to the 63 members of the NYS Senate who rose from their seats to congratulate the students with a standing ovation.

C. Board self-evaluation

As part of the board's oversight duties under Performance Benchmark #6, a self-evaluation survey will be sent to board members.

D. Update on May 20, 2025 school incident

Concerning an allegation reported at the May 20 board meeting, investigations have been concluded with no adverse findings.

E. Update: K. Geosits

NYSED awaiting receipt of final May 20, 2025 board minutes, prior to consideration of K. Geosits's application for board membership.

Dr. McCrary is taking a sabbatical from Columbia Law School, effective July 1, 2025, and will be resigning from Yalow's Board of Trustees, effective June 30, 2025. Dr. McCrary will remain a *"Friend of Yalow."*

III. Items for Board Approval

A. Policy statement

Ben Yalow made a motion to request the Executive Director to draft a formal policy for Board consideration concerning one-on-one meetings between Yalow staff members and students.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.

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

B. May 20, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 05-20-25.

Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.

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

C. Executive session

At 7:18 p.m. Dr. Lyon requested the Board move to Executive Session to discuss bonuses for Yalow's NYS and national championship chess instructors.

Public session resumed at 7:29 p.m. A. Diacou was directed to send a thank you note on behalf of the Board to Grandmaster Irina Krush.

IV. Finance report

A. Finance summary

B. Yalow reported that the school's cash and liquid investment balances totaled \$4,690,000 on June 9, 2025. The budget forecast is being monitored based on weekly enrollment forecasts and the grade-by-grade impact on projected numbers of classrooms & teachers. The school will not run out of cash in 2025–2026.

V. Principal report

A. Attendance August 29, 2024–June 13, 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:	90.0%	90.1%

Chronic absentee rate: 38.9% (6/14/24) 34.9% (6/13/25)

Chronic absenteeism is down by 4% points compared with 2023–2024. 141 of 404 students are chronically absent (34.9%), including 48% of 1st-grade students (35) and 40% of second-grade students (24); decreasing to 27% of 5th-grade students (15) have been chronically absent (missing more than 10% of days in school). 12 of 404 students have perfect attendance (3.0%).

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Dunnage & electric panel schedule

Electric work continues for completion of the HVAC project. Cabling is being pulled from the newly installed basement switches on weekends. Stairs and railings for rooftop dunnage platforms have been delivered and are being installed.
July estimate for completion and operation of all Yalow classroom HVAC units.

B. 2025–2026 enrollment forecast

Current Yalow enrollment is 404 students, including 59 5th graders who will be graduating. A. Diacou is concerned that 6th grade enrollment will be fewer than 25 students. Parents of many 5th graders accepted seats at other school for 6th grade prior to Yalow's expansion to 6th grade being approved.

C. Principal Smaw request for additional classrooms

K. Smaw requested adding two additional classrooms in 2025–2026, one more 2nd grade (for a total of 3) and one more 6th grade (for a total of 2).
Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to approve a request to add two additional classrooms plus additional teachers for 2025–2026.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:47 p.m.
Dr. Justin McCrary seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Finance Committee Meeting

A. Record Attendance

Dr. Lyon, Dr. McCrary, Dr. Dennard, B. Yalow were in attendance.

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. The agenda consists of a recap of the finance report,

B. Yalow reported that the school will have circa \$3.9 million cash available following completion of the HVAC construction and electrical switch upgrade project(s). The school forecasts a loss of \$350,000 without the two additional classes approved during the June Board meeting.

Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Dr. Justin McCrary 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 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sandra Hayes

Documents used during the meeting

- 2025–2026 Board Schedule.pdf
- Attendance Stats as of 2025-6-13 - Graphs.pdf
- Attendance Stats as of 2025-6-13 - Summary.pdf
- 61025_GradeSize.pdf