



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday August 19, 2025 at 5:00 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. Ross Lyon (remote), Dr. Sandra Hayes (remote), Krisztina Geosits (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 5:03 p.m.

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. Thoughts regarding Yalow 2025–2026 school year

Dr. Lyon outlined four priorities:

1. grade expansion;
2. managing budget deficit/expenses;
3. curriculum;
4. expanded fundraising.

Dr. Lyon thanked K. Geosits for providing written guidance for Yalow's new financial literacy and AI initiatives.

Cardinal Hayes High School shared insights from their own financial empowerment lab, which Yalow will consider using as a curriculum template.

Dr. Lyon would like to have a fuller discussion of these topics with administrators at the November 2025 Board retreat.

B. 2025-2026 Board issues

Several Board related topics to prioritize include:

1. Board composition and recruitment of two new members;
2. Careful allocation of budget funding for 2025-2026, prioritizing which expenses can be modified, including a review of all outside contracts;
3. Schedule board retreat and education.

Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to schedule a Board retreat November 7-8, 2025 at the New York Athletic Club.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

C. 2025–2026 goals for school leadership

Dr. Lyon noted that the Board is waiting for additional documentation from leadership.

III. Items for Board Approval

A. July 15 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from the Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 07-15-25.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

B. 2025–2026 general liability and excess liability insurance

United Educators, Yalow's current carrier, carries an "A" rating from AMBest.

- Current coverage expires August 21, 2025.

2025–2026 Premium: \$153,872 increased from \$148,388 (3.7% increase)

- most industry policies have increased 10%
- UE gave Yalow a credit of \$9,822

\$101,331 General liability policy: \$3 million annual, with \$1 million per occurrence.

\$52,541 Excess liability policy: \$5 million annual

Crime policy with Great American Insurance Co., Yalow's current carrier.

- \$500,000 limit
- covers employee dishonesty, forgery, loss of cash, computer fraud

2025–2026 crime premium: \$2,568.

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the general liability and excess liability policy premium quotes from United Educators.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

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

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the crime policy premium from Great American Insurance.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

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

The Board reviewed the school's 2025–2026 schedule of insurance coverage and policy expiration dates.

C. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) 2025–2026

Krisztina Geosits made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Emergency Response Plan.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.
Yalow's ERP is based on the building-wide ERP for Cardinal Hayes High School.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Finance report

A. Finance report

B. Yalow reported that the school holds cash plus liquid investment balances of \$4,314,052.

As part of the CSP Expansion Grant submitted to NYSED on August 7, 2025 the school prepared a 5-year budget. The grant application requests \$1,418,141 to cover renovations, curriculum, as well as student and teacher recruitment to support the school's grades 6–8 expansion and growth to 600 students. Projections follow:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Students	466	534	600
Net income before depreciation	(\$843K)	\$582K	\$1,692K

V. Principal report

A. Preliminary 2024–2025 NYSED ELA/Math results

K. Smaw reported on the 2024–2025 NYS ELA and math tests results, including data available on grade level student sub-groups.

Math

- Yalow beat scores for New York City, New York State, and our local school districts CSD7 and CSD9, where the majority of our students reside, with passing rates of 66%, 90%, and 59% for grades 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

ELA

Yalow beat ELA scores for NYC, NYS in grades 4 and 5 by wide margins, scoring 79% in 4th grade and 71% in 5th grade.

- At 49% in 3rd-grade ELA, Yalow topped scores for CSD7 and CSD9, but fell below scores for NYC and NYS.

Sub-group comparisons are only available with respect to CSD7 and CSD9.

- 4th and 5th grade students outperformed both CSD7 and CSD9 in all subgroups, particularly ELL students, where Yalow beat the local district five-fold in ELA (55% v. 11%) and three-fold in math (83% v. 28%).
- 3rd grade ELL students performed below scores for CSD7 only in ELA.
- 3rd grade ELL students performed equivalent to scores for CSD9 in both ELA and math.

- 3rd grade former ELL students (FELLs) topped scores for CSD9 in ELA by 27% and in math by 18%.
- 3rd grade former ELL students (FELLs) topped scores in CSD7 in ELA by 105% and in math by 62%.

Homeless students

- 21.5% of Yalow students are categorized as homeless.
- homeless students had passing rates of 64%, 75%, and 57%, in grades 3, 4, and 5, respectfully.
- These passing rates exceeded scores for *ALL* 3rd and 4th graders across NYC and NYS, and matched scores for 5th graders across NYC and NYS.

B. Grade 6 planning

6th-grade curriculum and furniture have been ordered. Middle school systems are being developed.

C. Bloomberg Philanthropies

A representative from Bloomberg Philanthropies contacted the school to inform leadership that they are interested in providing the school with a grant. Bloomberg plans to schedule a September visit to Yalow Charter.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Dunnage & electric panel schedule updates

A. Diacou reported that ConEd inspector will visit Cardinal Hayes on Monday, August 18 to survey replacement area for the upgraded electrical transformer, prior to scheduling installation. Timing for transformer installation is unclear.

- HVAC connections to classrooms and offices will be completed within 10 days following completion of electric.

B. FDNY annual inspection

Two FDNY inspections will take place the week of August 18, 2025 to certify the Cardinal Hayes's new fire alarm system and o check for any building violations.

If the new fire alarm system at CHHS passes inspection, Yalow will be able to convert our Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) to a permanent CofO. Quarterly renewals of the TCO will no longer be required. The quarterly renewals cost \$1,500, 50% of which is split with CHHS.

C. 2025–2026 enrollment forecast

As of Friday, August 15, 2025 Yalow has 111 completed new student registration packets, resulting in an enrollment forecast of 444 students.

D. 2024–2025 Annual report

The non-financial portion of Yalow's Annual Report was submitted to NYSED on July 27, 2025.

E. CSP Expansion Grant application

The school's 3-year **CSP Expansion Grant** was submitted **August 7, in the amount of \$1,418,141. The Board reviewed a test fit of minor 3rd and 4th floor renovations to be financed with the CSP Expansion Grant. The grant expenditure cycle begins on October 1, 2026 and ends September 30, 2028.**

Yalow's objective for grant proceeds is **empowering future-ready scholars through expanded curriculum. Highlights:** 1) 30% of grant proceeds will be paid to a M/WBE recruiter for teacher recruitment; 2) renovating a classroom to provide a **financial empowerment lab** to foster early financial literacy and life-readiness; 3) renovating a classroom to provide an **artificial intelligence (AI) instruction room** to introduce students to next-generation technologies, critical thinking, and responsible innovation; and 4) renovating a portion of the cafeteria to provide a dedicated response to intervention room and small library.

The **financial empowerment lab and AI instruction** classrooms will serve as dynamic, hands-on learning hubs to close opportunity gaps for students and equip them with the tools to navigate and lead in a rapidly evolving world.

F. Security breach

A nefarious actor breached Yalow's administrative systems on July 18. Pursuant to discussions with the Finance Advisory Committee, A. Diacou engaged Charter Technology Solutions to undertake a forensic analysis of the security breach. Ben Yalow made a motion to ratify the engagement of Charter Technology Solutions at a cost of \$17,400 to determine where outside incursions may have entered Yalow and identify any potential footprints remaining in the admin system.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

Additional on-going Managed Cyber Protection Services will be used to monitor future emails at a monthly **cost of \$1,670.**

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

Dr. Lyon requested a 15-minute presentation on cyber security measures be added to the Board agenda at the November retreat.

G. Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP)

A. Diacou is in discussions with the Archdiocese of NY to secure their consent for student mental health counseling. MSHP's two offices at Yalow are being set up with computers and secured internet connections.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sandra Hayes

VIII. Finance Committee Meeting

A. Record Attendance

B. Yalow, Dr. Dennard, Dr. Hayes, K. Geosits, and Dr. Lyon.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the finance committee meeting to order at 6:27 p.m., and announced that the agenda would consist of a recap of the earlier finance report.

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 6:28 p.m.
Ben Yalow seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Documents used during the meeting

- Rosalyn Yalow Charter School General:Excess Liability Renewal quote.pdf
- Rosalyn Yalow Insurance Schedule PDF.pdf
- District-Wide Safety-Plan_FY2025.pdf
- Preliminary 2024–2025 NYS Test Comparisons.pdf
- FDNY- 2024 Public Request Approval Confirmation.pdf
- 3.1FS-10 3-Years.pdf
- CSP Expansion Grant RYCS - TEST FIT Ph2.2 R0.0.0.pdf
- IMG-0388.jpg