



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday September 16, 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. 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 6:36 p.m.

C. Approve agenda

Ben Yalow made a motion to made a motion to approve the agenda.

Krisztina Geosits seconded the motion.

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

II. Chairman updates

A. November Board retreat

Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to approve November 8, 2025 to hold a Board Retreat at the NYAC.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

Kim Smaw and Alec Diacou are invited to attend.

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

B. 2024–2025 Board self-evaluation completed

The board's self-evaluation has been collated and will be discussed at the November board retreat, along with the 2025–2026 goals submitted by the executive director and principal.

C. CSP Expansion Grant

The five CSP Expansion Grant winners have not been announced.

D. Request for prospective board member nominations

Dr. Lyon asked for prospective board candidate recommendations to increase Yalow's board membership from five members to nine members.

III. Executive Session

A. Insurance discussion

The board went into executive session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss litigation. The session ended at 7:29 p.m.

IV. Items for Board Approval

A. Proposal to change date of October 2025 Board Meeting

Ben Yalow made a motion to move the October 21, 2025 board meeting to Thursday, October 16, at 5:00 p.m.

Krisztina Geosits seconded the motion.

Yalow's 2024–2025 audited financial statements will be presented for board review at the October 16 meeting.

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

B. August 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting on 08-19-25.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

C. Proposed Amendment to Employee Handbook Appendix D (Closed Door Meetings with Students)

Language for the proposed resolution to approve an amendment to the 2024 Employee Handbook to add a policy addressing closed door meetings with students was amended to substitute the words "*for a few minutes*" with the single word "*brief.*"

A vote on the proposed resolution was tabled and it is expected to be voted on at the October 16 Board Meeting.

V. Finance report

A. Finance report

B. Yalow reported that on September 8, 2025, the school held cash plus liquid investment balances of \$5,414,267. The school's 5-year budget will be updated in October to reflect the school's current enrollment of approximately 425 students.

Only 18 of the school's 59 fifth graders are returning for 6th grade, resulting in a class of only 21 students, rather than 66. This shortfall of 45 students will ripple through the budget for the next two years, and leaves a cumulative hole of approximately \$2.5 million over the next three years.

Furthermore, we have a kindergarten enrollment of 60 students rather than the projected 90 students, so we will lose an additional \$600,000. The school is financially okay this year, but will be in the red the next two years.

To mitigate losses, the school needs to: 1) avoid unnecessary expenses; and, 2) consider combining the three kindergarten classes into two classrooms.

Dr. Lyon charged the executive director with three tasks: 1) review of all contracts for essential services vs. non-essential services to the school; 2) propose a plan to present Yalow to private companies that match employee employee contributions; and 3) a plan to get parent satisfaction and support messages out to private companies.

VI. Principal report

A. Grade 6 planning

K. Smaw reported that the school is trying to create a middle school culture with the addition of new classroom furniture, a new curriculum, and the addition of a girl scout club.

B. New student testing platform

Implementation of a new student testing platform was tabled for discussion at the October 16 Board Meeting.

VII. Executive Director Report

A. Dunnage & electric panel schedule updates

A. Diacou reported that Con Ed has not scheduled a delivery date for the upgraded transformer necessary to deliver the increased electric capacity required to power the new rooftop HVAC compressors.

Cardinal Hayes HighSchool has asked the Archdiocese of NewYork to intervene with Con Ed.

B. 2025–2026 enrollment forecast

As of September 16, Yalow has gained 121 new students, including 5 new 6th graders and lost 97 students, including 41 of the 59 student 5th grade class from 2024-2025. Excluding 5th graders, this represents a 16% student attrition rate.

Yalow has 426 students registered for 2025–2026, although seven students have not yet returned from trips to Africa.

C. FDNY annual inspection(s)

The school has not been notified by FDNY of the date for its annual inspection. Inspection of the new fire alarm system at Cardinal Hayes is expected in November.

D. Security breach

Steps taken to address the July 2025 security breach include: 1) 72 of 77 Yalow staff and outside consultants (BAE and NYC therapists) have completed their online cyber-security education training; 2) two-factor authentication has been implemented for staff members

to access their Yalow Google accounts; and 3) a color-coded system for all incoming emails to indicate potential system infiltration from unknown sources has been implemented by 3rd-party vendor.

E. Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP)

MHSP's two offices at Yalow have been set up with computers. Secured internet connections for MSHP communications will be installed after the Catholic Archdiocese of NY grants approval for for MSHP to provide student mental health counseling at the school.

VIII. 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 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sandra Hayes

IX. Finance Committee Meeting

A. Record Attendance

B. Yalow, Dr. Dennard, Dr. Hayes, K. Geosits, Dr. Lyon, A. Diacou, K. Smaw.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. The agenda included a a recap of the finance report discussed at the evening's preceding Board Meeting.

C. Adjourn Finance Committee meeting

Dr. Ross Lyon made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 8:04 p.m. Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Appendix D Yalow Handbook 2024.pdf
- 91625_GradeSize.pdf
- Need certificate of inspection .pdf