



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday November 18, 2025 at 6:45 PM

Location

Zoom link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81432510333?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81432510333?pwd=0O567Ou6M6BZ7NY25E66jk98UkB81Q)
[pwd=0O567Ou6M6BZ7NY25E66jk98UkB81Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81432510333?pwd=0O567Ou6M6BZ7NY25E66jk98UkB81Q)

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, Colin Smith, Bond Schoeneck & King, Kim Smaw

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Ross Lyon called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Nov 18, 2025 at 6:39 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. Recap November 8, 2025 Board retreat

Dr. Lyon delineated key topics covered at the November 8, 2025 Board retreat: expanding the number Board members; grades 6–8 expansion; expanding curriculum to include character, financial literacy, and responsible artificial intelligence; Yalow's Tutor Corps partnership with Cardinal Hayes; and, the Linkit! software requested by K. Smaw.

B. Fundraising updates

As part of the school's effort to attract corporate and philanthropic donors, the school is putting together a video for corporate donors and preparing a new Rosalyn Yalow Charter School brochure for distribution to donors as well as parents of prospective new students.

C. Regent Ferrer & Assemblymember Septimo visit

Regent Aramina Ferrer and Assemblymember Amanda Septimo, AD84, will attend Yalow's violin concert on Monday, December 8, 2025. Board members were encouraged to attend.

III. Items for Board Approval

A. November 18, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 11-18-25.

Krisztina Geosits seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Linkit! database aggregator

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to approve the purchase of a Linkit! database aggregator license at a cost of \$13,989.
Ben Yalow seconded the motion.
K. Smaw emphasized that the Linkit! software will help with student testing.
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 \$5,363,607, as of November 12, 2025.

As discussed at the board retreat, the 5-year budget approved October 16 was updated to reflect forecasted electrical expenses for the newly installed HVAC units and lower student enrollment, now 416 students.

	2025–2030 budget forecast				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Students	416	476	536	596	600

Profit/(Loss) **\$(1,544,898)** **(384,568)** 773,054 1,812,215 1,855,358

B. Yalow reminded the board that the revised budget has imbedded uncertainty. Every student the school loses reduces revenue by approximately \$28,000. For example, the loss of only three students reduces revenues by about \$80,000.

Bottom line: the school needs 60 net new students annually to meet budget forecasts, which is a high bar.

V. Principal report

A. Cardinal Hayes Tutor Corp

K. Smaw confirmed that the Tutor Corps program utilizing Cardinal Hayes students would commence the following week, and that she will be reviewing protocols with CHHS students.

B. Middle school curriculum

K. Smaw updated the Board on the new 6th-grade initiatives: 1) financial literacy; 2) responsible artificial intelligence; 3) character development; and 4) Girl Scout Troop #1557.

The first three curriculum initiatives have not begun because 1) curriculum hasn't been purchased; 2) she didn't know who would train Yalow teachers in these subjects; and 3) there is no time-block within the school day to provide additional subject matter instruction.

K. Smaw has met with Girl Scout Troop leaders two weeks ago.

Dr. Lyon stated that there is no reason to delay financial literacy instruction for the 6th grade class. Class should begin with definitions of common financial terms and usage.

Dr. Hayes asked how teachers will be trained for the new subject matter?

Dr. Lyon replied that training should be incorporated in weekly Wednesday afternoon professional development sessions that teachers participate in.

K. Geosits added that in corporate America, it's good practice to challenge the intellectual capacity employees, and this should also be true for high-performing teachers.

Dr. Lyon expressed the urgency of implementing the new subject matter curriculum approved by the Board, and asked leadership to inquire of teachers and administrators whether any of them would be interested in taking the lead teaching financial literacy or responsible artificial intelligence to Yalow's 6th-grade students.

C. Attendance September 2, 2025–November 14, 2025

K. Smaw reported student attendance and chronic absenteeism for the September 2, 2025–November 14, 2025 period, and presented comparative graphs for the 5-year period 2021–2025.

	2024–2025	2025–2026
Average attendance:	90.1%	91.3%
Chronic absentee rate:	34.9% (6/13/25)	29.4% (11/14/25)

88 of 415 students are chronically absent. 32% of kindergarten students (23) and 40% of second-grade students (27) are missing more than 2 days of school per month.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Dunnage & electric panel schedule updates

Two exterior outlets near the HVAC units were installed November 4, 2025 to satisfy additional DOB inspector's electric objections made on October 31.

Contractors are attempting to schedule Air Tech & Allcom to have 6 of the 11 HVAC compressors powered Friday, November 28, followed by remaining 5 HVAC units. After successful startup of compressors, Allcom will notify Con Ed and push for transformer installation.

Best guess is that ConEd installs new transformers in early 2026.

B. 2025–2026 enrollment forecast

As of November 14, 2025:

classrooms Enrollment

Kinder	3	60
1st	2	62
2nd	3	68
3rd	2	63
4th	3	78
5th	2	63
6th	2	21

Total 17 415

We expect to lose two kindergarteners with new IEP evaluations stipulating a more restrictive setting, reducing kindergarten enrollment to 58 students. Total enrollment will drop to 413 students, reducing revenue and increasing forecast losses.

C. NYC inspection report updates

Exterior HVAC electric service outlets were installed on November 4, pursuant to DOB inspector's request. FDNY inspection report of new building-wide fire alarm system is pending. Yalow's Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) will not be issued until new fire alarm system inspection is complete.

D. NYC DOE 2024–2025 School Quality Report

Yalow's overall school rating is strong. Results include surveys of parents, teachers, and year-to-year academic performance. The only negative cited in the School Quality Reports/ Student Workbook is "ELL Progress."

E. Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP)

MSHP is donating 65 locally-grown produce bags to Yalow's homeless students for Thanksgiving celebrations.

There is no update from the Archdiocese on the status of Yalow's request to open a mental health clinic at Rosalyn Yalow operated by MSHP.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Krisztina Geosits made a motion to adjourn the November Board Meeting.
Dr. Sandra Hayes 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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sandra Hayes

VIII. 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 Finance Committee Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Yalow mentioned that the Finance Committee Agenda includes a recap of the finance discussion during the preceding board meeting.

IX. Closing items for Finance Committee meeting

A. Adjourn Finance Committee meeting

Ben Yalow made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:23 PM.

Krisztina Geosits seconded the motion.

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Linkit! purpose for purchase.pdf
- Revised Linkit! Invoice 10.29.25.pdf
- Attendance Stats November 11 2025.pdf
- Attendance Graphs as of 2025-11-14 - Day 50.docx - Graphs.pdf
- 84X486:EMS - 2024-25 School Quality Snapshot - New York City Public Schools.pdf
- School Quality Reports: Student Workbooks.pdf
- School Quality Reports: Dashboard - New York City Public Schools.pdf