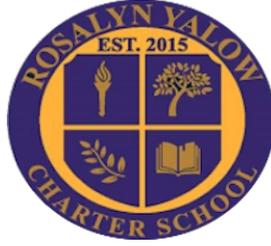


APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday January 20, 2026 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), John Koobatian (remote), Krisztina Geosits (remote), Thomas Pournaras (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

Alec Diacou

I. Opening Items

A. 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 Jan 20, 2026 at 6:40 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

Dr. Lyon noted that Principal Smaw has an excused absence.

C. Approve agenda

Dr. Debra Dennard 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. New York Metro Area Scholastic Chess Championships

Dr. Lyon congratulated Yalow's 39 kindergarten–6th-grade students who competed in the 1st Annual New York Metro Area Scholastic Chess Championships over the January 3–4 weekend, at the Marriott Marquis Times Square in four other sections.

B. Donation outreach

Dr. Lyon reported that our Giving Tuesday campaign raised \$20,100, including \$10,000 from KKR and an anonymous donor to jumpstart a scholarship fund for students.

A 529(c) education savings account will be opened in the name of each 5th grade student who chooses to remain at Yalow and graduates 8th grade.

C. Yalow outreach

A new video describing Yalow student accomplishments and the school's new initiatives, <https://youtu.be/gobfbMZBFo0>.

D. Board expansion

Dr. Lyon would like the board to expand to 10 members.

III. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Public session resumed at 6:59 p.m.

IV. Items for Board Approval

A. December 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sandra Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting on 12-16-25.

Dr. Debra Dennard seconded the motion.

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

Ben Yalow made a motion to request the principal to identify and recommend for hire up to 10 new “Tier I” teachers for the 2026–2027 academic year. A search for replacement teachers should commence immediately, and concerted attempts should be made to have contracts out to prospective new teachers prior to March 1, 2026.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

Thomas Pournaras made a motion to to ask the principal to hire a Literacy Interventionist/Analytics Manager reporting to the Director of Literacy. The Director of Literacy continues to report directly to the principal. At his/her discretion, the Literacy Interventionist may provide subject-relevant literacy prompts to chess, fencing, and chorus instructors to use as part of their daily instruction practices.

Dr. Sandra Hayes seconded the motion.

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

Krisztina Geosits made a motion to ask the principal to notify all teachers whom she is inviting to return to Yalow for 2026–2027 expeditiously so that their offer letters can be prepared and that those teachers have sufficient time to return signed contracts prior to March 1, 2026.

Thomas Pournaras seconded the motion.

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

Krisztina Geosits made a motion to ask the principal to notify all teachers whom she is not inviting to return to Yalow for 2026–2027 prior to March 1, 2026.

Thomas Pournaras seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to have Tutor Corps and Saturday Academy fall under the guidance of the Director of Literacy.

Thomas Pournaras seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Dennard asked the Executive Director to affirm that he will continue to collaborate with the Principal. A. Diacou agreed.

B. Proposed 2026–2027 teacher salary increases

The finance advisory committee is recommending approval of the following teacher salaries for the 2026–2027 year.

	2025-2026	2026–2027	Teachers	Impact
			#	
Tier I:	\$133,000	\$138,500	23	\$ 335,000
Tier II:	\$110,000	\$114,000	0	0
Tier III:	\$ 85,000	\$ 88,000	6	\$ 18,000
Tier III:	\$ 76,000	\$ 78,500	0	

(uncertified teacher-social workers)

John Koobatian made a motion to approve the proposed 2026–2027 teacher salary scale.

Ben Yalow seconded the motion.

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

C. 2025–2026 Working Budget

B. Yalow reported that as part of the Finance Advisory Committee's weekly review of school enrollment and staffing forecasts, an updated 2026–2027 budget is being submitted for Board approval. Subject to changes in school enrollment, a revised budget may be updated for Board review in May/June 2026.

	2025–2026	2026–2027
	<i>411 Students</i>	<i>471 Students</i>
# classrooms:	17	16
Teachers decrease:	NA	32 to 29
(general Ed)		
Profit/loss	(\$1,674,267)	\$(641,624) (before depreciation)

The 2026–2027 budget assumes 471 students dispersed among 16 classrooms—a decrease of 1 classroom from 2025–2026. There will be (2) classrooms in grades kindergarten through 4th grade; (3) classrooms in 5th grade; (2) classrooms 6th grade; and (1) classroom 7th grade. Additional assumptions: 1) grades 6–7 use only 1 teacher/class, for a total of 29 teachers; 2) expenses increase 4–5%; and 3) per pupil funding increases by 4%, from \$19,903 to \$20,699.

Subject to board approval, 2026–2027 teacher salaries will remain among the top 5% in NYC. Yalow will maintain a 12-person RTI team, which includes dual-certified general education teachers; chess and fencing programs consisting of 13 instructors; plus, high-quality violin and visual arts programs contracted through Bronx Arts Ensemble.

The overall student-teacher ratio is 9.6 to 1. This calculation excludes violin and visual art teaching artists supplied through the school's contract with the BAE.

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the 2026–2027 school budget.

Thomas Pournaras seconded the motion.

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

D. Bloomberg Philanthropies Budget

Ben Yalow made a motion to approve the \$300,000 budget for the 1-year expansion grant awarded to the Rosalyn Yalow by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Thomas Pournaras seconded the motion.

Bloomberg grant spending focuses on efforts to increase reading comprehension among Yalow students and partnering with community businesses to increase student enrollment.

1. **Analytics Initiative.** Hiring a *Literacy Interventionist/Analytics Manager* reporting to Yalow's Director of Literacy Curriculum. After identifying 1 student reading deficits, the new Interventionist will scaffold teacher training and work with students (\$125K with benefits). Recruiter has commenced candidate search.
2. **Tier I Teacher Initiative.** Replacing Tier III teachers with Tier I teachers.
3. **Yalow Chorus Initiative.** Hiring a chorus director, plus class aide) to teach singing and create a Yalow chorus (e.g., reading music notes, harmony). Salary notes from John Del Cueto attached (approx. \$72,000).
4. **Student Recruitment Initiative.** Partnering with Princeton's *Project 55* to hire gap-year graduate to recruit new students (\$55,000). Application deadline: Friday, January 16, 2026.

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

V. Finance report

A. Finance report

B. Yalow reported that January 12, 2026, Yalow held cash plus liquid investment balances of \$5,123,380. Many additional expenditures are expected to complete the installation of the school's new HVAC system, as well as expenses related to expansion for grades 6–8.

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Dunnage & electric panel schedule updates

Powering HVAC units has been postponed, pending electrical sign off by the NYC DOB. Subject to NYC DOB approval of the newly installed electric panel in the basement of Cardinal Hayes High School, we will attempt to scheduling Air Tech & Allcom to have the 11 HVAC compressors powered over the February President's Week break.

B. 2025–2026 enrollment as of January 16

As of January 16, 2026, Yalow has 414 K–6 students across 17 classrooms, up from 401 at year-end 2025–2026, but below the schools budgeted forecast of 434 students in May,

2025. The full-time equivalent number of students used for billing is 411 due to student turnover.

C. Lottery applications 2026–2027

	12/15.25	1/16/26	January 19, 2025
kindergarten	54	95	121
1st	1	1	3
2nd	0	2	1
3rd	0	0	2
4th	0	4	5
5th	1	6	9
6th	2	13	5
7th	0	0	0
Total	58	121	146

Outreach continues: in-person parent workshops scheduled at day care and Head Start programs; bi-weekly flyers sent via social media platforms to 1,500+ parents; TikTok, (@yalowcharter), and Instagram (@yalowcharter).

D. Construction updates

CSP Expansion Grant renovations. Architect is preparing drawings for the NYC DOB filing to modify open space on the 4th floor to add walls for (2) classrooms and a library/RTI room.

E. Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP)

No reply from Archdiocese in response to Yalow's request for permission to permit mental health counseling at Rosalyn Yalow.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Debra Dennard made a motion to adjourn the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting.

Krisztina Geosits 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 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sandra Hayes

VIII. Finance Committee Meeting

A.

Record Attendance

B. Yalow, Dr. Hayes, K. Geosits, J. Koobatian, Dr. Lyon, T. Pournaras, A. Diacou.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Yalow called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 7:29 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 7:30 p.m.

John Koobatian seconded the motion.

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Yalow YEAR 2 forecast based on 471 enrollment FYE 6-30-27 - Revision 6 on 12-29-25 for 471 general enrollment.pdf
- Proposal Template_Rosalyn Yalow January 12 2026.pdf
- Budget 2026-26 Bloomer - YR.pdf
- Attendance Graphs as of 2026-1-16 - Day 84.pdf
- Attendance Stats as of 2026-1-16 - Day 84 - Page 1.pdf