



ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
116 E. 169th St.
Bronx, New York 10463

Trustees Present

Sandra Hayes, Gregoria Feliciano, Ivan Lee, Shirley Saunders, and Benjamin Yalow. Michael Rosen participated via Skype. Alec Diacou, Executive Director, Letta Belle, Principal, Collin Raymond (CSBM), along with Eric Felczak, Ellen McBurney, and Lenny Dymond from Civic Builders, were also in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was chaired by Sandra Hayes, and called to order at 6:43 p.m. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of 990

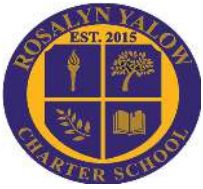
Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Form 990 for 2015 covering the period July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 was unanimously approved.

School Facility Search

Civic Builders reviewed a 14-page school funding and affordability plan outlining the issues the board will need to consider in developing Yalow's new building, including a case study of the costs associated with one of the properties currently under consideration. Several potential properties have been identified—only one located in CSD9. The CSD9 property can be available by June 30, 2018, when Yalow's current lease expires, but it is not financially viable at the landlord's asking price. Other project sites require greater amounts of construction and would not be completed prior to June 30, 2019 or 2020. In all scenarios the board must sign a new lease in June 2017 to begin construction and complete any of the potential projects by either June 30, 2018 or June 30, 2019.

Civic Builders will provide circa 15% seed capital to jump-start the building project, and assist with introductions to banks and foundations to finance the remainder. In addition, Civic Builders will facilitate environmental due diligence, zoning analysis, schematic design, Board of Standards and Appeals variance approvals, design, and construction, if the board chooses.

Sandra Hayes, Ben Yalow, and Gregoria Feliciano volunteered to serve on the board's facility search committee. Civic Builders will continue to source and review potential school locations with Mr. Diacou, and will meet with the facility committee every few weeks to review and weigh the trade-offs among alternative building sites.



Finance Report

9-month net income is \$327,358, \$297,578 ahead of budget. Special ed revenues are forecast over budget by \$14.2k due to newly classified student IEPs by the CSE and a shift in mix of IEP student designations. Employee Benefits is forecast under budget by \$127.9k, due to lower-than-estimated health plan enrollments and low 401(k) enrollments (now 11 staff). Recruitment currently forecast over budget by (\$81.1k) reflecting the \$76.3k expense added to budget at February board meeting to hire two recruiters to assist with hiring 10 of the 15 to 20 new staff for 2017-18. Aggregate expenses forecast under budget by \$105k. Net income for FY16-17 is projected to come in at \$105,496 vs. \$20,960 budgeted.

Principal Report

A math assessment report was distributed to Board members (attached). Discussion followed and board members expressed the view that internal assessments may be better toll for monitoring student progress with Singapore math and requested to know the numbers of students performing below-grade level on Yalow's math unit assessments.

Principal Belle submitted a written report (attached) and noted she will begin leading a small group of students in guided reading. Principal Belled invited the education committee to observe classroom instruction.

Members of the Board were most concerned about the Absentee Report Summary of April 7, 2017, which stated that the number of chronic absentees are a quarter of the student body for grades 1 and 2.

Principal Belle expressed she is aware and has been reaching out to some families to offer them understanding and assistance, if possible. However, she has not and cannot reach the majority of families. These children need assistance. They are falling further behind daily. The only recommendations we can make is a referral to ACS for assistance

Executive Director Report

After 131 school days Yalow's chronic absentee rate is 20.5% (51 students); 12 students have perfect attendance (4.8%) and 46 students have more than 10 late arrivals or early dismissals (18.5%). In descending order of absenteeism: 1st-grade, 25%; 2nd-grade, 22%; K, 9%.

Board members requested a correlation between student absences and academic performance. In addition, the board also requested school leadership to come up with a new strategy to reduce the persistence of student absenteeism and to develop better incentives for parents to bring students to school. Mr. Diacou was also asked to draft an attendance contract for parents of newly admitted students in the 2017 lottery.

Yalow's student enrollment lottery was held April 7. 120 students were selected: 90 K; and 30 1st-grade. Enrollment takes place over the next several weeks. 439 students are on the waiting list.

New Business

Board members requested the following student accountability reports: 1) Yalow's 2nd-grade students who entered Yalow as 1st graders; 2) Saturday Academy progress in promoting student advancement. 3) Saturday Academy attendance report.



In order to reward Yalow's chess team for taking 1st-place at the Start Right tournament on April 2 (under-400 section), the board voted to give students a chess membership in the Internet Chess Club, Inc. (for those students with internet access at home) or a new chess book.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted by
Shirley Saunders, Secretary
Approved by Board of
Trustees on May 16, 2017