



ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
116 E. 169th St.
Bronx, New York 10463

Trustees Present

John W. Carr, Gregoria Feliciano, Bill Jackson, Ivan Lee, Sandra Hayes, and Benjamin Yalow. Michael Rosen participated via Skype. Alec Diacou, Executive Director, Letta Belle, Principal, Yvonne Booker-Byers, Collin Raymond (CSBM), and Miguel Balbuena (Board nominee) were also in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was chaired by John Carr, and called to order at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the exception that Mr. Carr requested additional time for the board to review IRS form 990 for 2015 prior to a vote for approval.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the meeting held on February 21, 2017, upon a motion duly made and seconded, were unanimously approved.

Finance Report

8-month net income is \$289,530, \$266,407 ahead of budget. The board reduced revenue budgeted from contributions at the February board meeting to reflect reality. Contributions currently expected to come in under School's initial budget by (\$84.7k). Total revenue is forecast to be under budget by (\$43.2k). Administrative salaries are forecast under budget by \$40.5k but may increase with hiring to fill open staff position. Instructional staff currently forecast over budget by (\$11.3k). Stipends for Saturday Academy and after-school chess are forecast over budget by (\$14.3k). We've eliminated third ESL position, but still hiring to replace two teachers who left, plus one open special ed position. Employee benefits are forecast under budget by \$123.6k, due to lower-than-estimated health plan enrollments and low 401(k) enrollments (only 8 staff). Contracted services currently forecast over budget by (\$37.4k), including \$15k expense added to budget at February board meeting for Civic Builders; Special Education Collaborative over budget by (\$3k); Bronx Arts forecast over budget by (\$3.7k); CSBM forecast over budget by (\$3.1k); and, expense RMHA over budget by (\$12.6k) due to delayed certification of satellite clinic at Yalow. Net income for FY16-17 is projected to come in at \$18.8k vs. \$21k budgeted, including the newly proposed expenses to hire two recruiters and Civic Builders.

Mr. Diacou noted the School could save \$6k by eliminating remaining after-school (Wednesday & Saturday) chess classes plus 3 Sunday tournaments. Board voted to maintain chess programming. The board also voted to maintain the \$50k unused contingency budget.



Student Assessment Report

Yvonne Booker-Byers walked the board through the Winter 2017 Student Assessment Performance Report (attached) covering NWEA and STEP Literacy assessment data.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Rosen and Mr. Yalow requested additional information for discussion at a future board meeting:

- i. The trend of student assessment metrics over time
- ii. School performance against targets we set earlier in the year
- iii. What are comparable NWEA and STEP Literacy scores for:
 - a. Bronx public schools
 - b. NYC public schools
 - c. NYS public schools

Mr. Carr requested an assessment of the efficacy of the Saturday Academy on closing student achievement gaps.

Mr. Jackson requested a comparison between Yalow's internal data student assessment data for math with NWEA math assessment data to determine whether or not there is a correlation in student results. Do School assessments reach the same conclusions about student performance as NWEA assessment results?

Mr. Yalow asked to see year-to-year longitudinal student performance data from NWEA, as well as test item analysis to decipher performance weaknesses. He was particularly concerned about the performance of 2nd graders and why the percentage of students performing at or above grade level appears to be dropping off.

Finally, the observation was made that when students can't read well, they can't correctly answer questions on math tests.

Principal Report

Principal Belle submitted a written report (attached).

Executive Director Report

Mr. Diacou presented a Facility Relocation Milestone Calendar from Civic Builders outlining the March 17-May 31 steps to close out a predevelopment agreement between the School and Civic Builders and engagement with potential lenders. Potential school locations under consideration:

- i. 411 Wales Ave. in CSD7, 52,000 sf (separate enclosure)
- ii. 1980 Jerome Ave. in CSD9, 56,000 sf
- iii. Mount St. Michael's campus (new construction)
- iv. Fordham University campus/adjacent parcel now owned by Univ. (new construction)

Completed 18 student recruitment workshops with parents at Head Start and universal pre-K programs in CSD9, along with CSD7, CSD8, and CSD10 in order to meet NYS *target enrollment* for special education and ELL students. Application deadline is April 1. As of March 19, 2017, we have received 466 student applications for 125 seats, exceeding on-time applications in 2016. Yalow's student enrollment lottery will be held prior to April 15.

To increase employee participation in Yalow's 401(k) plan, 14 staff participated in 10-minute one-to-one meetings with Morgan Stanley at Yalow on 3/20/17.



After 113 school days Yalow's chronic absentee rate is 19.7% (49 students); 17 students have perfect attendance (6.8%) and 38 students have more than 10 late arrivals or early dismissals (15.3%), several with 30+ days.

New, stringent, DASA/VADIR (student and teacher) incident reporting requirements in effect in 2016. Yalow did not win 5-year NYSED 21st Century grant (3/20/17). As such, School will need to provide for internal funding if we want to continue FY17-18 Summer Academy and Chess Camp programming.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Approved by Board of
Trustees on June 20, 2017