

APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday April 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Location

116 E. 169th St., Bronx, NY 10452. Certain members of the board may attend via GoToMeeting or Skype from other locations, which locations will also be open to the public.

Mission Statement

The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School will 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

B. Yalow, D. Friedman (remote), I. Lee, L. Howard, M. Balbuena, M. Rosen (remote), R. Lyon (remote), S. Hayes

Trustees Absent

G. Feliciano

Guests Present

A. Diacou, M. Danisch, Ms. Smaw, S. Burton

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Balbuena called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School to order on Tuesday Apr 16, 2019 @ 6:34 PM at 116 E. 169th St., Bronx, NY 10452. Certain members of the board may attend via GoToMeeting or Skype from other locations, which locations will also be open to the public..

C. Approve Minutes

M. Balbuena made a motion to approve minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting on 03-19-19.

B. Yalow seconded the motion.

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

II. Education

A. April 9, 2019 Ed Committee Meeting

The committee recommends revamping summer school so that it reflects academic enrichment. The committee is looking at Project Base and recommends that it starts July 8th-August 2nd.

B. Student assessment data update

Ms. Smaw reported that Kindergarten classes have improved in their STEP scores due to the intervention plan. 2nd grade classes have also showed improvement. However, 1st and 3rd grade STEP scores are decreasing. The Saturday academy students are not reading on grade level and retained students are stagnant. Dr. Burton stated that teachers need continuous training in STEP.

C. Chronic Absenteeism September 4, 2018-April 5, 2019

As of April 5th 39% of students were at 89% attendance. For students who have chronic absenteeism, the academic team has committed to working with at least five students everyday to make sure they attend school regularly. Dr. Burton stated he also has expressed to parents taking children on vacation during the school year can have a negative impact.

III. Finance

A. FY2019-20 Budget

The committee reported the proposed budget includes overhauling of teachers, up to 110%. The committee also stated, administratively the school is top heavy. Mr. Rosen stated as a board, we need to ask ourselves do we need more leadership or teachers.

Mr. Yalow agreed that funding raising is a good idea. He also stated if the Board hired a fundraiser at the start of this fiscal year, we would also incur the expense this year.

M. Balbuena made a motion to approve the FY2019-20 Budget with amendments as necessary.

M. Rosen seconded the motion.

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

B. March 31, 2019 Finance Report

The trends that the Board has seen all year are continuing. There remains a surplus of about \$500K. The cash balance continues to be high and has the potential to be used for a new building.

IV. Personnel

A. FY2019-20 School Calendar

The committee is evaluating teacher salaries. Currently their salaries are almost equivalent to teachers employed by the DOE. The committee is also reviewing the holiday time-off and sick leave policy.

In reference to holidays, the committee discussed being uniformed with the DOE on holiday time off in addition to other options. The pro's and con's are being weighed for both. However, the committee is considering the school to start the week before the Labor Day Holiday.

V. Social-Emotional Program and Development Committee

A. Review Draft Social-Emotional Student Assessment

The committee reviewed the draft of the monthly assessment tool and discussed the seven points. The hope is that the assessment will help to correlate academic performance with extra curriculum activities children may be participating in. In addition, the committee believes the assessment will help to identify areas students may be struggling in. The committee would like to pilot this initiative in May. If all goes well, the committee recommends a full roll out in September.

B. Vote to Implement Social-Emotional Survey

D. Friedman made a motion to Implement social-emotional student survey.

R. Lyon seconded the motion.

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

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Facility Search

Mr. Diacou stated no negotiations for the new building have taken place. Mr. Rosen suggested talking to the State before considering working with the developer to build a new mixed-use building. In addition, Mr. Balbuena stated it's best to discuss this matter in June when the school has more year-end data.

B. Chess program

Mr. Diacou proposed that for the summer students attend the chess at the Marshall Club in the city. Currently the club is run by the schools two new chess instructors. There is a fee of \$650 a week for students. However, Success Academy will receive a discount bringing the fee to \$450 of which parents will have to pay half of the \$450 which is \$225 weekly. Mr. Balbuena asked that this be revisited in a month.

C. Charter renewal application process

D. Student enrollment lottery results (FY18-19)

Mr. Diacou reported that last week 120 kindergarten students were accepted for FY19-20, along with 10 second graders.

VII. Executive Session

A. Personnel

Mr. Balbuena stated the board needs to do a full assessment of all current contracts to make sure those services rendered, are the services needed in addition to administrative salaries.

The paid-time-off roll over was approved.

B. CEO Evaluation

The committee will amend the CEO evaluation assessment that will need to be modified.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

M. Balbuena made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

I. Lee 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 9:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Howard