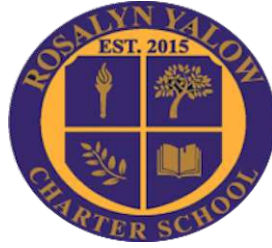


APPROVED



The Rosalyn Yalow Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday January 21, 2020 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, G. Feliciano, I. Lee (remote), M. Balbuena, M. Rosen (remote), R. Lyon, S. Hayes

Trustees Absent

L. Howard

Guests Present

A. Diacou, K. Smaw

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 Jan 21, 2020 @ 7:00 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

B. Yalow made a motion to approve the minutes from. Board of Trustees Meeting on 12-17-19
R. Lyon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Finance

A. July-December budget review

M. Rosen reviewed the 6-month finance report. Gross revenue is expected to be down by \$129k, primarily due to student attrition in grades 2-5 (decrease of \$394k). Discussion regarding student attrition ensued. Upper-grade attrition is partially explainable by parents not knowing where their children will be enrolled when our present charter expires. If we are granted a renewal, it is expected that this problem will disappear. Expenses are \$717K below budget, and the 2019-2020 fiscal year is expected to end with about \$\$4.2 million in cash.

B. Yalow emphasized that the 6-month surplus is largely attributed to under-hiring of teaching staff.

B. Proposal: New Salary Structure for Teachers

A three-tier pay scale plan for teachers was considered which will be discussed in detail by the Education Committee on February 6. The highest level will be for so-called, *Master Teachers*. A vote on objective criteria for placing teachers in one or another salary tier is expected to be taken at the next board meeting.

III. Education Committee

A. Internal student testing data

Principal Smaw presented the internal summative student testing data along with external STEP Literacy and NWEA math and reading assessments measuring student achievement gaps. Reporting of summative assessment data for CKLA units by teachers is lagging Yalow's CKLA curriculum pacing.

Saturday Academy will begin February 1 with 25-30 students who have the most severe literacy gaps.

M. Balbuena asked that action plans be put in place to support neediest learners in Saturday Academy. He further suggested that, Monday-Friday, the RTI-team be assigned to support bridging the achievement gaps.

IV. Principal Report

A. Teacher hire update as of December 11, 2019

9 open positions: 1-2 teacher-social workers; 6 lead teachers; and 1 RTI team member. Only one NYS certified teacher was found at the January 11 job fair in midtown. 3 budgeted "extra" teaching positions remain open.

B. Chronic Absentee Report

As of January 3, 2020, the school-wide chronic absentee rate was 17.4% (89 students); 14.1% at the main campus (grades 2-5); 22.4% at Third Ave. campus (grades k-1). Perfect attendance is 16.2%.

Discussion ensued. It was suggested that the deans of students and parent coordinator visit the homes of chronic absentees to impress on parents the importance of attendance.

V. Executive Director Report

A. Update: Facility Search Process

- NYSED responded to Yalow's Charter Revision Application to relocate the school to 650 Grand Concourse (CSD7)—Cardinal Hayes High School (CHHS)—with a 2-page list of questions.
- a survey has been mailed to 400+ families asking their opinions on relocation to submit to the NYSED by Monday, January 27
- CHHS board member John Fontana visited Yalow on January 8, 2020 and met with Yalow students
- CHHS is completing CAD drawings of school to present to Catholic Archdiocese in support of agreed rent.

B. Student enrollment

- As of January 7, student enrollment is down to 507 due to continued 3rd-5th-grade attrition.
- Recruiting visits to 25 early childhood and Headstart programs for 2020-2021 lottery have begun.

C. Student Attrition Report for 2015-2020

The board reviewed the 4-year, 2015-2019 summative student attrition report. Cumulatively, 36% of admitted students transferred out of Yalow: 50% to DOE schools, 26% out-of-state, 16% to charter schools, and 8% to private/parochial schools.

The executive director was asked to fine-tune and present additional data at the January 25 board retreat, including school district to which students relocated (e.g., CSD 10, CSD7, etc.), and grades from which students transferred (e.g., 1st-, 4th-, etc).

D. 403 (b) Enrollment Update

403 (b) enrollment among teachers lags budgeted expectations. In order to increase tax-free savings among employees at a young age, the board will consider enrolling new employees at a small, 1%-2% rate at next board meeting.

VI. Executive Session

A. Personnel

Principal Smaw gave a detailed report about her investigation of the teacher schedules and progress teachers are making obtaining NYS teacher certification, the role of deans of students, professional development calendar, Yalow's daily school schedule, student data, and school curricula, including the findings concerning increased scheduling of Bronx Arts Ensemble classes.

B. January Board retreat

Pasek Consulting will assist facilitating the January 25, 2020 board retreat at the NYAC.

VII. Other Business

A. 5th grade graduation

M. Balbuena suggested the school consider holding Yalow's 1st graduation ceremony on a weekend, possibly Saturday June 27. Administration will confirm availability of church sanctuary with Walker Memorial Baptist Church office.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

M. Balbuena made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

S. Hayes seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** 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 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Hayes

Documents used during the meeting

- RYCS Monthly Report - Dec 2019.pdf
- Data Progress Monitoring #3 1.17.20.pdf
- Yalow 2019-2020 presentation_GeneralAnalysis2.pdf
- Board Attendance Charts 2018 vs 2019.pdf
- Board Meeting Attendance 2019-2020 - Aug-Jan.pdf
- Attrition Charts.pdf
- Roster Breakdown.xlsx - Roster Tally 2019-2020 (5).pdf
- 403(b) Executive Summary_2019.pdf