



Storefront Academy Charter School
July 2024 Board Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Richard Bayles, Gretchen Pusch, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jewell Stewart, Justin Toliver **Staff:** Marcia Alexander, Tim Brown, Rebecca Brunie, Taleema Chesney, Grace Dinunzi, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Esther Fokuo, Nicole Garcia, Maurissa Hankey, Milly Jimenez, Robert Keogh, Charisse Lewis, Marie Lucas, Patricia Martinez, Maryleidy Pimentel, Stephanie Reeder, Newton Richards, Lorena Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Liza Veto **Other Attendees:** Rachel Adamson, LaTasha B., Preya, Steffanya, Diondre Young

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- July 2024 board meeting agenda
- Storefront Academy Financial Dashboard

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order (0:00-1:59)

- a. Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. EST.

2. Adoption of meeting minutes (2:00-3:12)

- a. Motion: Mr. Bayles called a motion to approve the May 2024 and June 2024 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

3. Financial report (3:13-13:44)

- a. Robert Keogh stated that the June numbers are a representative snapshot of how SACS closed the year. Minor changes are expected.
- b. Storefront is currently exceeding SUNY standards for "Current Ratio," "Quick Ratio," and "Debt-to-Asset Ratio." "Days Cash" ratio was narrowly missed (SACS: 20 days; SUNY: 30 days). "Days Cash" is expected to even out with accounts receivable and federal grants.
- c. SACS ended the year with a 0.5% net margin (~\$50K surplus). This is a marked improvement from previous years, especially considering enrollment difficulties and moving campuses.
- d. Enrollment has remained static (H: 90; SB: 267). A year-end reconciliation per pupil is due next week, and a year-end enrollment review will be distributed before the August board meeting.

4. Board approvals (13:45-16:51)

- a. Motion: Mr. Bayles moved to approve a payment of \$150K to the 501(c)(3) that controls the 129th Street building that SACS once used. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

5. Development update (16:52-27:45)

- a. Nidia Evangelista reported that uniforms were purchased and will be delivered by August 6th. Distribution logistics are being planned. To date, \$3K has been raised for uniforms; non-directed donor funds will pay for the total cost networkwide.
- b. Three grant letters of intent were submitted in June: Pinkerton Foundation (\$230K for SB extended day; updates expected by Sept. 2024); Harman Foundation (\$20K for Harlem extended day; decision expected by Sept. 2024); New York Community Trust Thriving Communities Grants (\$50K for operations for art extended day; decision expected Oct. 2024).
- c. Ms. Evangelista had a prospect call in late June with FundEd Strategies, an organization that helps identify funding opportunities for nonprofits.
- d. Extended day
 - i. SB: Proposed start date is Sept. 3, 2024. Free for all participants. Operated by l'Raise in



SACS facility. In process of finalizing contract, hours of operation, and program design.

- ii. H: Proposed start date, contracted operations partner, and program design are TBD.

6. Public comment (27:46-34:32)

- a. Richard Bayles opened the meeting to public comment.
- b. Latasha B., a Harlem parent, asked about the possibility of changing a bus stop in the interest of her child's safety. SACS principals will reach out about changing the bus stop.
- c. Rachel Adamson, a Harlem parent, asked about support for students who need creative approaches to learning enrichment. Ms. Chesney expressed that a plan is in place, and more information will be shared at the family orientation at the start of the school year.
- d. A parent extended their gratitude to the board and staff's hard work.
- e. Mr. Bayles closed the meeting to public comment.

7. Leadership reports (34:33-55:37)

- a. **(35:03-41:59)** Summer school enrollment
 - i. H (rising 1-5): 52 students; SB (rising 1-5): 108 students; SB (kindergarten): 17.
 1. Mr. Keogh will report on the percentage of students attending summer school at competing institutions.
 2. Ms. Chesney requested summer school busing to increase enrollment.
 - ii. There have been 49 (SB) and 29 (H) registrations for the 2024-5 year. 12 (SB) and 13 (H) recruitment events attended since the last board meeting.
 - iii. Working well: Family referrals, students returning after withdrawal, school tours. Needs improvement: Getting new families to attend events, Schola.
- b. **(42:00-46:06)** SY 2024-2025 staff vacancies
 - i. Four current vacancies at Harlem (1st grade SpEd teacher, ELLs teacher, physical education teacher, music teacher).
 - ii. Three current vacancies at SB (4th grade general education teacher for ICT class, 4th grade SpEd teacher for ICT class, K-5 permanent substitute teacher).
 - iii. Working well: Volume of candidates, staff involvement in the process. Needs improvement: Variable candidate quality.
- c. **(46:07-55:17)** Preparing for SY 2024-2025
 - i. Summer RISE: Daily attendance of 80% exceeds grant requirements. Curriculum enhancements, platforms, and supplies are in place. Summer IEP meetings are in progress. Events calendar is being drafted. Senior operations team will be in place come August. Staff professional development training is in progress.
 - ii. Working well: Pilot Kindergarten Bridge, Collaborative for Inclusive Education membership. Needs improvement: Limited time and resources.
- d. **(55:18-55:37)** August meeting agenda and notable upcoming events
 - i. Bookbag/food distribution (H) (Aug. 12), uniform pickup (H) (Aug. 14-16), SACS family orientation (Aug. 26), uniform pickup (SB) (Aug. 12, 15, and 19), Back-to-School Bash and bookbag distribution (SB) (Aug. 29).

8. Board Committee reports (55:38-56:02)

- a. Nothing to report from the Academic Committee nor the Governance Committee.

9. Closing comments and motion to adjourn (56:02-1:01:13)

- a. Mr. Bayles requested that leadership submit candidates for potential board members.
- b. Mr. Bayles adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m. EST.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Robert Keogh will report on the percentage of students attending summer school at other institutions.
Meeting minutes submitted by Caroline Pace.