



Storefront Academy Charter School
March 2025 Board Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns **Staff:** Aniberca Abreu, Amina Begum, Rebecca Brunie, Taleema Chesney, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Robert Keogh, Charisse Carter-Lewis, Marie Lucas, Rachel Marshall, Stephanie Reeder, Yubdeley Ricardo, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary **Other:** Maria Angulo, Annica

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- March 2025 board meeting agenda
- March 2025 financial dashboard

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to order (0:00-0:26)**
 - a. Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. EST.
2. **Financial report (0:27-19:45)**
 - a. Robert Keogh said that Storefront is currently exceeding SUNY standards for "Current Ratio," "Days of Cash," "Quick Ratio," and "Debt-to-Asset Ratio."
 - b. There has been no change to reported enrollment this month.
 - c. Currently project an annual deficit of \$195K due to low enrollment (-14 students), high operating expenses and insurance premiums, and a \$150K rent payment to Children's Storefront. Even so, Mr. Keogh expressed that there should still be a cash surplus for the year.
 - d. Mr. Keogh noted the potential future instability of SACS's funding based on the president's push to dissolve the Department of Education.
 - e. February closed with a cash balance of \$1.67M. YTD equity balance sits at \$2.1M.
 - f. Mr. Keogh also compared SACS's expenditures per student at each campus (~\$34K at H; ~\$29K at SB) versus the average 25-student class (~\$31K).
3. **Development update (19:46-26:34)**
 - a. Grants submitted
 - i. Summer Boost 2025 (H + SB): Requested \$211,200 to fund summer programs. Decision expected May 2025.
 - ii. Charles Hayden Foundation (H): Requested \$200,000 for early intervention funding in kindergarten and 1st grade. Decision expected June 2025.
 - iii. The Taft Foundation (H): Submitted letter of inquiry to request an invitation for SpEd initiative grant. Decision expected May 2025.
 - b. Tuition reimbursement
 - i. SACS reimburses teaching certification exams, averaging ~\$1K/year. The board will review these costs at a later time.
4. **Board committee reports (26:35-28:31)**
 - a. The Academic Committee is working on name recognition for SACS to improve teacher recruitment and enrollment. It is also discussing hiring a speech therapist in Harlem.
5. **Leadership reports (28:32-1:15:19)**
 - a. **(28:32-35:16) Enrollment**
 - i. SB: As of March 14, actual enrollment sits at 263, 12 students under budget.
 - ii. H: As of March 14, actual enrollment sits at 102, two students over budget.

- iii. Working well: Community partnerships and events; enrollment team; incorporating staff and parents in enrollment campaigns. Needs improvement: Lack of robust paid media presence (solutions in progress).
 - b. **(35:16-36:44)** SY 2024-2025 staff vacancies
 - i. Three current vacancies at Harlem (SpEd teacher, 3rd grade general education teacher, 2nd grade teacher). No SB vacancies.
 - ii. Working well: Volume of candidates. Needs improvement: Candidate quality.
 - iii. In the interim, SACS is currently working with Swing Education, which provides long-term substitutes with teaching experience and coaching.
 - c. **(36:45-1:05:38)** Academic highlight: Winter NWEA MAP achievement
 - i. South Bronx
 - 1. Between fall and winter, schoolwide achievement medians increased 18 points for ELA and 26 points for math.
 - 2. Overall ELA achievement median sits at 62% (55% SpEd; 41% ELLs). Overall math achievement median sits at 64% (55% SpEd; 56% ELLs). Investments in RedThread (ELA) and IXL (math) may contribute to these increases.
 - 3. 76% of students (78% SpEd; 79% ELLs) met or exceeded projected growth in ELA. 74% of students (64% SpEd; 62% ELLs) met or exceeded projected growth in math.
 - 4. Working well: Whole-school investment in Mastery Season; student conferencing; SEL class; empowering families to support children. Needs improvement: Consistent 5th-grade student investment; increasing learner independence in 3rd grade.
 - ii. Harlem
 - 1. Overall ELA achievement median sits at 43% (35% SpEd; 17% ELLs). Overall math achievement median sits at 45% (23% SpEd; 25% ELLs).
 - 2. Overall ELA achievement stayed at 43rd percentile between fall and winter testing. Overall math achievement grew from 35th to 41st percentile.
 - 3. 53% of students (48% SpEd; 33% ELLs) met or exceeded projected growth in ELA. 54% of students (40% SpEd; 67% ELLs) met or exceeded projected growth in math.
 - 4. Working well: Scholar investment and ownership; data analysis; Edmentum Exact Path. Needs improvement: SpEd, ELL, and MLL support; challenges with a single-teacher model.
 - d. **(1:05:39-1:15:19)** Culture highlights
 - i. H: I Feel Good! Black History Show, Women’s History Month, community service, social-emotional learning skills. SB: Internalizing mastery learning.
 - ii. Upcoming events: Assistant Principals Week (SB, 4/7-4/11), Chat and Chew: Current and Potential Families (H, 3/27), Current and Potential Kindergarten Playdate (H, 4/25), Go for the Gold Parent Meeting: Understanding the NYSESLAT and Achieving Language Success (H, 4/21), Poetry Slam (H, 4/21), Intro to Differentiation for MLLs/ELLs (SB, 4/2), NYS exams (SB, 4/24-2/26 and 4/29-5/1; H, 4/8-4/10), Open House (H, 4/10 and 4/24), PAWS parent meeting (SB, 4/24), Spirit Week (SB, 3/31-4/4), SY 25-26 lottery (H, 4/2).
6. **Public comment (1:15:20-1:15:40)**
- a. Mr. Bayles opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing nothing, he closed the meeting to public comment.
7. **Board committee reports (1:15:41-1:16:54)**
- a. The Governance Committee reported that the inaugural meeting of the “Friends Of”



organization occurred to outline the group's duties and responsibilities.

8. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (1:16:55-1:17:23)**

- a. Mr. Bayles adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. EST.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Marie Lucas will send a copy of SACS's liability insurance policies to Peter Low.
2. Robert Keogh and Nidia Evangelista will allocate funds to cover the costs of providing one or more sets of free uniforms for all students in next year's budget.