



Storefront Academy Charter School
October 2025 Board Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Atta Acheampong (secretary), Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low (chairman), Jasmine Reed
Staff: Aniberca Abreu, Rebecca Brunie, Charisse Carter-Lewis, Taleema Chesney, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Esther Fokuo, Aariah Glass, Milly Jimenez, Marie Lucas, Maryleidy Pimentel, Newton Richards, Carol Singletary, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez
Other Attendees: Ms. Delgado, Shelley Jallow, Steve, Yevien's mother

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- October 2025 board meeting agenda

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to order and adoption of meeting minutes (0:00–0:30)**
 - a. Peter Low called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. EST.
 - b. September meeting minutes will be reviewed at the November board meeting.
2. **Development report (0:31–6:49)**
 - a. **(0:31–1:53) Grants**
 - i. Nidia Evangelista gave an update about SACS's partnership with FundEd, a fundraising and strategy consultant firm. The scope of work is occurring in three phases:
 1. Phase 1 (completed): Onboarding and discovery (July 31 to September 1, 2025). School mission and goals, data collection, and project plan development.
 2. Phase 2 (completed): Fundraising action plan (September 1 to October 1, 2025). Create an outreach strategy and implementation plan for 10 to 15 high-priority prospects.
 3. Phase 3 (in progress): Comprehensive grants management (October 1, 2025, to June 26, 2026). Up to 20 concept papers, LOIs, proposals, and reports.
 - a. Achelis and Bodman Foundation LOI (submitted; \$50K for Harmony Program).
 - b. General concept note (projected deadline Oct. 31).
 - c. Glenn W. Bailey Foundation (two proposals in progress; projected deadline 11/2025; \$25K for STEM-related funding at each campus).
 - d. Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation Inc. LOI (projected deadline 12/2025; \$20K for Harmony Program).
 - e. Hyde and Watson Foundation (projected deadline 12/2025; \$20K for capital funding).
 - f. Charles Hayden Foundation (projected deadline 12/2025; \$20K for OST programming).
 - g. Harmony concept note (projected deadline 12/2025).
 - b. **(1:54–6:49) Enrollment**
 - i. SB: As of Oct. 21, enrollment sits at 235, 31 students under budget. Three students have enrolled since the last board meeting; zero are in the enrollment process.
 - ii. H: As of Oct. 21, enrollment sits at 87, 28 students under budget. One student has enrolled since the last board meeting; zero are in the enrollment process.

- iii. Working well: Winter enrollment plan and systems, strengthening enrollment systems and winter goals; mission-aligned partnerships; community presence, persistent tablings, consistent follow-up; creation and launch of network digital media plan.
- iv. Needs improvement: Heightened student attrition due to family relocations and preference for schools that provide longer academic pathways and extracurriculars.

3. Staff vacancies (6:50–7:30)

- a. SY 2025–2026
 - i. There are currently no vacancies in Harlem or the South Bronx.
 - ii. Working well: Volume of candidates and partnerships with three local universities.

4. Academic and culture highlights (7:31–45:50)

- a. **(7:31–33:31)** Academic highlight: RedThread Foundations and Knowledge
 - i. RedThread is a Lavinia product. Knowledge is the humanities curriculum; Foundations extends the literacy curriculum to be more comprehensive, focusing on the science of reading (phonics, decoding, etc.). The two curricula complement each other.
 - ii. Students participate in direct instruction on concept/skill, practice via structured routines, and apply in decodables or grade-level texts.
 - iii. (SB) SACS is now using RedThread in all grade levels.
 - 1. Year 2 (K-2nd): Improved lesson pacing, established routines, teachers are applying coaching strategies and tracking student progress.
 - 2. Year 1 (3rd-5th): Prepared lesson plans using best practices, phonics and morphology routines and Day 2 fluency lessons need improvement. Goals: 80% of teachers follow routines and clearly communicate teaching points.
 - iv. (H) Taleema Chesney shared a video highlighting the components of RedThread Foundations and Knowledge (phonics, writing, read aloud, project, exploring mood).
 - 1. Working well: Committed teachers; monthly Lavinia coaching; regular classroom observation/feedback from leadership; engaged students.
 - 2. Needs improvement: 95% of teachers are new and need time to adjust to curriculum; supporting students with special needs; teacher time constraints.
 - v. Peter Low asked how the students are responding to RedThread. Ms. Chesney described students' engagement and investment in the curriculum. Carol Singletary added that students' reading abilities have improved overall. A question was raised about metrics for measuring development. Ms. Chesney stated that some testing metrics are in place. Ms. Singletary mentioned that the results show up in MAP scores. Amia Fisher added that the curriculum makes it easy to identify students' weak points.
- b. **(33:32–45:50)** Culture highlights and introduction of Jasmine Reed
 - i. South Bronx: Yoselyn Fernandez presented a video highlighting events (5th-grade retreat, town hall meeting, Celebrating Fathers at SACS, Hispanic Heritage Potluck and Hispanic Heroes Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, new ID cards for staff, etc.).
 - ii. Harlem: Ms. Chesney presented a highlight video featuring Pink Out Fridays for breast cancer awareness, the Harmony Program, grades 3–5 data dives, and PAWS parent leaders. Daily emotion check-ins through the Goodness Platform (a social-emotional learning tool for wellness check-ins and checkouts) give students strategies for self-regulation and allow teachers to monitor students and cross-check their mood with their test scores.
 - iii. Jasmine Reed, the newest member of the board and a former student of Storefront, introduced herself and her professional and educational history.
 - iv. Upcoming events: 4th and 5th grade field trip (H, 10/23); Health Kids Parent Workshop (SB); PAWS meeting (H, 10/24); 5th grade middle school visit (H, 10/24); Fall into Fun:



Family Activities (SB, 10/24); S-W fall harvest trip (SB, 10/27); October Spirit Week (H, 10/27–31); ELA Challenge Week (SB, 10/28–30); 5th grade middle school tour (H, 10/30); Class of 2026 celebration (SB, 10/30); Character Day (SB, 10/31); middle school fair (SB, 11/2); pre-school tour (H, 11/14)

5. Public comment (45:51–50:00)

- a. Mr. Low opened the meeting to public comment.
- b. Ms. Delgado, a parent of a 5th-grade student at the South Bronx, commended Ms. Singletary and the SACS staff for helping her and her child blossom. She asked if SACS will offer sixth grade for the following academic year. Mr. Low thanked her for sharing and said that, while the current consensus is that SACS ought to offer sixth grade, the board is still in the decision-making phase and has no concrete plans to add a sixth-grade class.

6. Board committee reports (50:01–51:30)

- a. Governance Committee
 - i. Atta Acheampong reported that he has received additional resumes for potential board members. He is in the process of conducting initial interviews.

7. Closing comments and motion to adjourn (51:31–51:47)

- a. Motion: Mr. Low asked for a motion to adjourn the October 2025 meeting. Amanda Low moved, and the motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. EST.