



Storefront Academy Charter School
February 2026 Board Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Atta Acheampong, Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low (chairman), Jonathan Stearns **Staff:** Aniberca Abreu, Catherine Brown, Rebecca Brunie, Charisse Carter-Lewis, Taleema Chesney, Nyla Diaz, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Hannah Fitsum, Esther Fokuo, Damaris Hernandez, Robert Keogh, Caroline Lopes, Andrea Pascasio, Maryleidy Pimentel, William Pintado, Mr. Ramos, Yubdeley Ricardo, Newton Richards, Carol Singletary, Mercedes Soto, Desiree Soulet, Katie Spina, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez **Other Attendees:** Shanell

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- February 2026 board meeting agenda
- February 2026 financial dashboard

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order (0:00–0:31)

- a. Peter Low called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. EST.
- b. Motion: Peter Low asked for a motion to approve the January 2026 minutes. Richard Bayles moved, and the motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

2. Financial report (0:32–11:55)

- a. Jonathan Stearns, treasurer and head of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee is continually reviewing financials to ensure processes are transparent and optimized.
- b. Robert Keogh, vice president of 4th Sector Solutions, explained that the financial dashboard looks much the same as it did in January 2026. The per-pupil report that was submitted to the Department of Education (DOE) was accepted and paid out (\$1.3M) at the end of February.
- c. Total enrollment is 319 vs. the budgeted 380, resulting in a \$1.2M loss. Paid SpEd enrollment is 45 vs. the budgeted 67, resulting in a \$309K loss.
- d. The year-to-date deficit is ~\$507K. Assuming SACS receives its tax credit funds, Mr. Keogh projects nearly a break-even result for the end of this year.
 - i. Richard Bayles asked whether any of the money coming back from taxes is involved in the current administration's claims to freeze blue-state money. Mr. Keogh said he doesn't expect these funds to be frozen, but he noted that the administration's attempts to defund the IRS may affect the timing of their receipt.
 - ii. A ~\$437K surplus is forecasted for the South Bronx. Currently, it has a deficit of ~\$100K.
 - iii. A ~\$455K deficit is forecasted for Harlem. Currently, it has a deficit of ~\$407K.
- e. Nidia Evangelista secured the McKinney-Vento grant (~\$500K over three years) from the state, which will offset some losses.
- f. January closed with ~\$114K of cash on hand, and February closed with ~\$1M.

3. Leadership report (11:56–30:53)

- a. (11:56–28:51) Enrollment
 - i. SB: As of Feb. 23, enrollment sits at 228, 42 students under budget. Four students have enrolled since the last board meeting (three with a Feb. 27 start date).
 - ii. H: As of Feb. 23, enrollment sits at 91, 24 students under budget. Two students have enrolled since the last board meeting.
 - 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.
 - v. It was noted that the enrollment team has been focusing on New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, as some other charter schools do, as well as other organizations and shelters. SACS needs permission to post at NYCHA developments. Atta Acheampong noted that he's in charge of the Forest Community Center and the McKinley Community Center and is involved with Community Board 3.
 - vi. Other ideas for enrollment: Distinguish the open enrollment flyers from the lottery flyers; invest in a large "Enrolling Now" banner to drape across the front of each school; billboard advertising; sticker campaigns; improved signage.
- b. **(28:52–30:53)** Staff vacancies
- i. There is currently one vacancy in Harlem (5th-grade teacher).
 - ii. There is currently one vacancy in the South Bronx (4th-grade ICT teacher).
 - iii. Working well: Volume of candidates and partnerships with three local universities.
 - iv. Needs improvement: High percentage of unqualified candidates.

4. Academic and culture highlights (30:54–1:07:34)

a. **(30:54–53:12)** Academic highlight: NWEA MAP results and responsive actions

- i. South Bronx winter 2026 NWEA MAP (fall '25/winter '26)
 - 1. Math: K: 28/99; 1: 58/76; 2: 68/71; 3: 55/65; 4: 62/73; 5: 64/57; school: 55/74.
 - a. Schoolwide increase of 19 points.
 - b. The dip in 5th grade is likely due to high teacher turnover.
 - 2. Reading: K: 22/99; 1: 40/73; 2: 57/69; 3: 39/46; 4: 52/59; 5: 62/65; school: 46/73.
 - a. Schoolwide increase of 27 points.
 - 3. 65th percentile (goal)/74th percentile (actual) in math; 61st percentile (goal)/73rd percentile (actual) in reading.
 - 4. Goal: 80% of students meet projected growth. Actual (math): 70% overall; 69% SpEd; 75% MLLs. Actual (reading): 73% overall; 69% SpEd; 71% MLLs.
 - 5. Action plan: Network data dive to analyze trends; targeted small groups with clear goals and progress monitoring; workshops for parents and new teachers; IP meetings; consistent IXL implementation; additional practice resources.
- ii. Amanda Low asked how this data is being used to promote SACS to families; William Pintado answered that there are some advertisements running featuring this data.
- iii. Harlem winter 2026 NWEA MAP (fall '25/winter '26)
 - 1. Math: K: 79/87; 1: 69/87; 2: 55/69; 3: 35/59; 4: 24/33; 5: 47/50; school: 47/60.
 - a. Schoolwide increase of 13 points.
 - 2. Reading: K: 77/91; 1: 49/81; 2: 34/41; 3: 51/55; 4: 41/40; 5: 58/69; school: 54/58.
 - a. Schoolwide increase of 4 points.
 - 3. 57th percentile (goal)/60th percentile (actual) in math; 64th percentile (goal)/58th percentile (actual) in reading.
 - 4. Goal: 70% of students meet projected growth. Actual (math): 72% overall; 62% SpEd; 67% MLLs. Actual (reading): 70% overall; 77% SpEd; 50% MLLs.
 - 5. Action plan: Small-group instruction; increased collaboration with MLL/ELL teachers and classroom teachers; differentiated homework for SpEd and MLL/ELL populations; increasing support for SpEd and 4th and 5th grades.

b. **(53:13–1:07:34)** Culture highlights

- i. South Bronx leadership presented about celebrating Black History Month, 100 Days of

School, National School Counseling Week, and student growth awards.

- ii. Harlem leadership presented a highlight video featuring photos of an author visit, a data dive on NWEA MAP data, a PAWS-sponsored attendance event, and student awards.
- iii. Upcoming events: Black History Month read-alouds (SB, 2/27), Charter School Fair (SB, 2/28), 3–5 ELA dress rehearsal (H, 3/4), 3–5 ELA dress rehearsal (SB, 3/4–5), 1–3 field trip: New Victory Theater (H, 3/5), the Great Growth Dive Slime Incentive for K–2 (H, 3/6), the Great Growth Dive Glow-in-the-Dark Incentive for 3–5 (H, 3/6), state test Honor Roll Brunch (SB, 3/6), Mastery Zoom for families (SB, 3/6), Raising a Healthy Child workshop (SB, 3/11), Black History Show (H, 3/12), K–2 Super Author Lunch (H, 3/16), March into Learning with CAO Singletary (SB, 3/18), Women’s Herstory panel (SB, 3/27)

5. Public comment (1:07:35–1:16:44)

- a. Mr. Low opened the meeting to public comment.
- b. Catherine Brown, first-grade team lead in the South Bronx, asked about best practices for advertising with NYS testing data. What is being used to determine how SACS attracts families? Also, how does SACS compare with other schools in the district datawise? Ms. Brown clarified that these questions likely won’t be answered now, but at the next board meeting.
 - i. Peter Low answered that several things should happen: Look at the different kinds of ads that are running and rank them by success; utilize the enrollment recruiter consultant’s and EnrollEd’s professional advice about advertising.
 - ii. William Pintado added that she would share the information that Angus created regarding the wording and data points to be used on flyers.
- c. Katie Spina, a Harlem teacher, asked how many pay cycles would be covered by the current cash on hand at SACS. Mr. Keogh responded that payroll will be covered through year-end.
- d. Mr. Low closed the meeting to public comment.

6. Board committee reports (1:16:44–1:17:20)

- a. Atta Acheamong stated that the Governance Committee had nothing to report.
- b. Amanda Low commended the school leadership for their extraordinary results.

7. Closing comments and motion to adjourn (1:17:21–1:18:59)

- a. The school leadership commended the staff and took a moment to appreciate the team’s continuous hard work that results in SACS students’ successes.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. EST.