



Storefront Academy Charter School  
May 2024 Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

## ATTENDEES

**Trustees:** Richard Bayles, Nicole Brown, Gretchen Pusch, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns, Jewell Stewart, Justin Tolliver **Staff:** Rebecca Brunie, Taleema Chesney, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Nicole Garcia, Maurissa Hankey, Milly Jimenez, Robert Keogh, Charisse Lewis, LaShawn Lewis, Marie Lucas, Patricia Martinez, Stephanie Reeder, Yubdeley Ricardo, Lorena Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Madeley Sanchez, Carol Singletary, Mercedes Soto, Desiree Soulet, Darlene Tejada, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez **Other Attendees:** Latasha B., Sansa Brown, Shalayah Ford, Angel Rodriguez, Liza Veto

## RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- May 2024 board meeting agenda
- Storefront Academy Financial Dashboard
- Proposed SY 2024-5 school calendar

## MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Call to order and adoption of meeting minutes (00:00-00:27)**
  - a. Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. EST.
- 2. Adoption of meeting minutes (0:28-2:10)**
  - a. Motion: Mr. Bayles moved to approve the March 2024 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
  - b. Motion: Mr. Bayles moved to approve the April 2024 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
- 3. Nomination of new board member (2:11-6:03)**
  - a. Jonathan Stearns, Governance Committee chairman, introduced Jewell Stewart as a potential board member. Mr. Stewart, whose legal background makes him particularly qualified to join the board, has met with current board members and reviewed his prospective responsibilities. The Governance Committee unanimously recommends him to the board.
  - b. On behalf of the Governance Committee, Mr. Stearns moved to approve Jewell Stewart as a new member of the board of directors. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
- 4. Financial report (06:04-12:40)**
  - a. Robert Keogh expressed that Storefront is in good financial health.
  - b. YTD, the balance sheet (assets, liabilities, equity) remains relatively flat compared to prior years.
    - i. Closed April with a cash balance of \$1.25M.
    - ii. Accounts receivable balance of \$433K in April, down \$300K due to federal grant payments received in March.
    - iii. \$1.56M in deferred revenue to be released in May.
    - iv. Storefront's equity balance sits at \$1.85M.
  - c. Compared to prior years, revenue and expenses have decreased YTD due to one-time stimulus funds Storefront received between 2021 and 2023.
    - i. Networkwide, Storefront's YTD revenue is \$187K. The expected YE surplus is \$330K, up \$29K from the prior month.
    - ii. \$873K revenue shortfall is directly offset by \$890K in salary and tax savings.
  - d. Storefront is currently exceeding SUNY standards for "Current Ratio," "Days of Cash" (which



finished especially strongly due to receipt of the latest per-pupil distribution at the end of April), "Quick Ratio," and "Debt-to-Asset Ratio."

e. Enrollment numbers have not been updated this month. They will be reconciled in August.

**5. Development update (12:41-18:33)**

**a. (12:41-14:44) Partnership updates**

- i. Nidia Evangelista reported that Storefront's garden partnership with St. Ann's kicked off on May 13th. No school funds were used. A summertime extension of the project is under discussion.
- ii. Ms. Evangelista and Gretchen Pusch met with Julliard to discuss funding and next steps.
- iii. Orrick Cares will donate 140 bookbags and school supplies for SY 2024-5.
- iv. Friends Seminary will donate furniture that is due to arrive in the coming days.

**b. (14:45-15:53) Uniforms**

- i. The uniforms initiative has been communicated to families via ClassDojo. Currently collecting sizes (which also indicates an intent to return to Storefront).
- ii. Currently awaiting response from proposal submitted to Blumenfeld Development Group.
- iii. Two donors have contributed \$3K. More than \$16K is still needed.

**c. (15:54-18:33) Food services**

- i. School Food Authority application submitted to cover breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- ii. Vendor taste tests occurred at both campuses.
- iii. Board approval of the food services contract will occur at the June 2024 meeting.

**6. Board approvals (18:34-22:01)**

- a. Mr. Bayles moved to approve the proposed SY 2024-5 school calendar. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

**7. Public comment (22:03-25:49)**

- a. Richard Bayles opened the meeting to public comment.
- b. Sansa Brown, a parent of two Storefront students, suggested that students be provided books to read during the time between dismissal and boarding busses. Taleema Chesney, Harlem campus principal, responded that during this intricate process, students can talk quietly, read, or sketch. This helps ensure that students are going where they're supposed to go.
- c. Ms. Brown recommended that the suggestions box should be placed outside the glass doors.
- d. Hearing no additional input from the public, Mr. Bayles closed the meeting to public comment.

**8. Leadership reports (25:50-59:42)**

**a. (25:50-29:40) Enrollment**

- i. South Bronx (SB) enrollment sits at 274 students; 2 more than in April, 1 below budget.
- ii. Harlem (H) enrollment sits at 94 students; same as in April, 26 below budget.
- iii. Prior to the April 4th lottery, SB and H had 138 and 93 completed and vetted applications in PowerSchool, respectively. The lottery added 58 (SB) and 40 (H) seats. There have been 37 (SB) and 16 (H) registrations for the 2024-5 year, 11 (SB) and 4 (H) of which came through Schola.
- iv. Working well: Outreach events, staff participation in outreach, recruitment of potential kindergarten families. Needs improvement: Lack of Schola applications.

**b. (29:41-33:57) Summer school staff vacancies**

- i. Two current vacancies at Harlem (rising second-grade teacher and assistant teacher).
- ii. No current vacancies at South Bronx.
- iii. Working well: Staff referrals, summer postings. Needs improvement: Tracking system.

**c. (33:58-39:30) SACS Extended Day after-school program**

- i. An application was submitted in late April for a very competitive three- to five-year NYS LEAPS grant, which will be awarded in the summer.



- ii. Working with I'Raise Girls and Boys International to secure funding for Harlem.
- iii. Our Jazz Empowers application denied; Peter Low may have contacts who can help.
- iv. Funding updates will be provided by Ms. Evangelista in June.
- d. **(39:31-59:42) Academic and culture highlights**
  - i. SUNY benchmark: 75% of 3rd-5th graders in at least their second year at Storefront test as proficient in ELA. Test results will be available in September or October.
    - 1. Focus on spelling in SB and H. Strategy: Spelling bees.
    - 2. Focus on reading in SB and H. Strategy: K-5 Readers' Theater (SB & H); second grade close reading (SB).
    - 3. Working well: Student excitement, dividing by grade bands, "owning" literature. Needs improvement: Inconsistent tracking, ensuring inclusivity/reducing student stress, below-optimal participation in Readers' Theater.
  - ii. Photos and videos highlighted the special events across the two campuses. Multiple events are scheduled for June.
  - iii. Amanda Low suggested tracking where rising sixth graders will go to middle school.
- 9. **Academic Committee report (59:42-1:01:35)**
  - a. Gretchen Pusch is in contact with a qualified individual regarding the development of a performing arts curriculum at Storefront.
- 10. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (1:01:36-1:02:18)**
  - a. Mr. Bayles opened the meeting to comment from the board. Hearing nothing, he moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and carried.
  - b. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. EST.