



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

## ATTENDEES

**Trustees:** Atta Acheampong, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns, Jewell Stewart **Staff:** Rebecca Brunie, Taleema Chesney, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Aariah Glass, Tiana Guzman, Robert Keogh, Charisse Lewis, Marie Lucas, Rachel Marshall, Patricia Martinez, Nereida Morales, Maryleidy Pimentel, Stephanie Reeder, Yubdeley Ricardo, Newton Richard, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez **Other:** Annica, Shelly Jallow

## RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- February 2025 board meeting agenda
- February 2025 financial dashboard

## MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Call to order and adoption of meeting minutes (0:00-1:15)**
  - a. Peter Low called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. EST.
  - b. Motion: Mr. Low moved to approve the January 2025 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
- 2. Financial report (1:16-8:45)**
  - a. Robert Keogh said there has not been much movement since the January board meeting.
  - b. Storefront is currently exceeding SUNY standards for "Current Ratio," "Days of Cash," "Quick Ratio," and "Debt-to-Asset Ratio."
  - c. Enrollment has improved. There is currently a 14-student difference between budgeted enrollment (375, 275 at SB + 100 at H) and actuals (361), resulting in a bottom-line hit of ~\$265K and an improvement of three students and ~\$60K since the January meeting.
    - i. SACS is exceeding its budget of 81 SpEd students by one. SACS gets paid extra for students in the 20%-60% and 60%+ tiers. Budgeting predicted 62 students in these tiers (4 and 58, respectively). Actuals currently sit at 65 (20 and 45, respectively). The financial impact of this change is -\$93K, an improvement of ~\$26K since the January meeting.
  - d. The current revenue shortfall sits at ~\$351K. This is due in part to enrollment shortfalls, an unbudgeted \$150K rent payment to Children's Storefront, and \$30K in unexpected insurance costs, and it is partially offset by ~\$145K savings on salaries and benefits and the release of a \$210K contingency payment.
  - e. Now forecasting a slight end-of-year surplus of \$7K versus budgeted \$183K (-\$176K difference).
  - f. January closed with total assets of \$8.69M. Liabilities total \$1M due in part to \$764K in deferred revenue paid by the DOE at the end of Dec. and designated for Feb. Total equity sits at \$2.16M.
- 3. Development update (8:46-10:49)**
  - a. Grants submitted
    - i. FY 26 Reso A (H): Requested \$349K to add mobile STEM lab carts to all classrooms. Decision expected July 2025.
    - ii. FY 26 Discretionary (H + SB): Requests were submitted to Councilwoman Ayala's office for \$50K in music funding for each school in collaboration with the Harmony Program. Decision expected July 2025.
    - iii. DCU for Kids Grants (H): Submitted letter of intent for Harlem SpEd initiative. Grant invite

expected May 2025.

b. About eight other initiatives are in progress.

**4. Leadership reports (10:50-44:38)**

**a. (10:50-15:35) Enrollment**

- i. SB: As of Feb. 18, actual enrollment sits at 263, 12 students under budget. Four students enrolled this month; one student withdrew.
- ii. H: As of Feb. 18, actual enrollment sits at 102, two students over budget. No students enrolled this month; one student withdrew.
- iii. Working well: Community partnerships and events; enrollment team. Needs improvement: Lack of robust paid media presence (solutions in progress); incorporating key supporters (i.e., staff and parents) in enrollment campaigns.

**b. (15:36-18:03) SY 2024-2025 staff vacancies**

- i. Three current vacancies at Harlem (SpEd 3rd through 5th grade 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. (18:04-37:34) Academic highlight: Social-emotional learning, Mastery Season, data analysis**

- i. Social-emotional learning (SEL) can help students (all grades) thrive personally and academically, develop and maintain positive relationships, and become lifelong learners in a supportive atmosphere that encourages healthy coping mechanisms.
- ii. During Mastery Season, students flex the strategies and skills they've learned in preparation for state exams. This includes stamina, max effort, and continuous growth.
- iii. SEL and Mastery Season work in tandem to support test-taking success.
- iv. Working well (SB): Whole-school investment in Mastery Season; SEL class/Mastery Season topics; 5th grade Advisory; empowering families to support students. Needs improvement (SB): Securing consistent investment in 5th graders. Advisory, SEL, Student Council, counseling, teacher modeling, parent outreach, and incentives are in place to motivate them.
- v. Weekly, Harlem students analyze their progress, set goals, and master their learning.
- vi. Working well (H): Scholar investment and ownership; data analysis; targeted support and differentiation. Needs improvement (H): Inconsistent implementation of strategies; challenges with a single-teacher model.

**d. (37:35-44:38) Culture highlights**

- i. H: Black History Month, First in Math Player of the Day, Valentine's Day, community service, reading buddies, School Counseling Week.
- ii. SB: Black History Month, chess, 100th Day of School, parent workshops, bake sale, Art Expo, School Counseling Week
- iii. Upcoming events: Mastery Moment—Unlocking Your Child's Best (H, 3/10), Black History Showcase (H, 3/11), Educator Meet and Greet (H, 3/12), Spring Tiki Dance (H, 3/28).

**5. Public comment (44:39-46:22)**

- a. Mr. Low opened the meeting to public comment.
- b. Ms. Tiana Guzman, SACS SB teacher, asked for updates about health insurance. Mr. Low answered that it is currently in progress, with one additional step to go before completion. He mentioned that updates will be announced within the next two weeks.
- c. Hearing nothing more, Mr. Low closed the meeting to public comment.

**6. Board committee reports (46:23-48:36)**



- a. The Governance Committee reported that one person has been recruited for the “Friends Of” organization, with another candidate in the running. It is on track to be set up in the next week.
  - b. The Academic Committee reported that it has been working primarily on health insurance, with the goal of increasing teacher satisfaction and retention. It is also working on other initiatives, such as grant writing, budgeting for next year, and increasing talent and student retention.
7. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (48:37-49:06)**
- a. Mr. Low adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. EST.