



Storefront Academy Charter School  
April 2024 Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

## ATTENDEES

**Trustees:** Richard Bayles, Nicole Brown, Gretchen Pusch, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns, Justin Tolliver **Staff:** Aniberca Abreu, Amina Begum, Tim Brown, Rebecca Brunie, Taleema Chesney, Brian Class, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Esther Fokuo, Nicole Garcia, Maurissa Hankey, Milly Jimenez, Robert Keogh, Debbie Khelewan, Charisse Lewis, Marie Lucas, Rachel Marshall, Patricia Martinez, Maryleidy Pimentel, Madeline Poweriet, Yubdeley Ricardo, Carol Singletary, Mercedes Soto, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez **Other Attendees:** Angela Applewhite, Sansa Brown, Shelley Jallow, Elva Lorenzo, Liza Veto

## RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- April 2024 board meeting agenda
- Storefront Academy Financial Dashboard FY24 (March)

## MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Call to order and adoption of meeting minutes (00:00-01:10)**
  - a. Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. EST.
  - b. Due to a lack of a quorum, March meeting minutes will be reviewed at the May meeting.
- 2. Financial report (01:11-13:07)**
  - a. Robert Keogh expressed that Storefront is in good financial health. There's been an uptick in assets and a decrease in liabilities from the last reporting cycle. Currently exceeding SUNY standards for "Current Ratio," "Days of Cash," "Quick Ratio," and "Debt-to-Asset Ratio."
  - b. Storefront submitted its 6th and final per-pupil invoice to the DoE, reporting an annualized total of 357 students and 77 SpEd students. This represents a networkwide uptick of 2 and 1.5 students, respectively, and approximately \$45K of revenue from the prior reporting cycle. Numbers will be reconciled in August.
  - c. Networkwide, Storefront is at a ~\$246K surplus YTD, forecasting a YE surplus of >\$300K.
  - d. Mr. Keogh and Marie Lucas will report back to the board details about whether Storefront is subject to penalties due to low attendance.
- 3. Development update (13:08-33:19)**
  - a. **(13:47-18:43) Grants**
    - i. Nidia Evangelista reported that she is seeking funding for extended day and chess programming through the Robin Hood and Seventh District foundations, respectively.
    - ii. Storefront received two grants: Bloomberg Philanthropies/Summer Boost (~\$216K, enough to cover the cost of summer school) and Connect Kids field trip grant (enough to cover busing for the 5th graders' field trip).
    - iii. Partnerships are in progress with the Nike Wellness Sports Initiative and I'Raise Girls and Boys International.
  - b. **(18:44-20:48) Uniforms**
    - i. Ms. Evangelista identified potential donors who would provide each student with a short- and long-sleeve shirt and pants at no cost. This is in progress.
  - c. **(20:49-23:36) Food services**
    - i. Marie Lucas reported that a School Food Authority application was submitted, and



vendor taste tests are scheduled. Final approval of the contract will occur in June.

- d. **(23:37-33:19)** Community garden at St. Ann's and "Friends of" organization
    - i. This project needs a new funding source. Coordinating is happening with Fr. Matthew.
    - ii. In its entirety, the project costs approximately \$600 plus any materials/tools. The board agreed to fund the project.
    - iii. Jonathan Stearns reported that the "Friends of" organization is not currently operating. The lease has been signed, but there are legal questions that need answering.
      1. Ms. Lucas will communicate with legal to determine what legal liabilities "Friends of" has regarding the lease and the qualifications group members must have to be involved. Jonathan Stearns will reach out to the current members of the "Friends of" organization to ask if they are still interested in being involved.
      2. Mr. Stearns will circulate a summary of the role of "Friends of" organization members. The remaining members of the board will consider prospects.
4. **Public comment (33:19-36:04)**
    - a. Richard Bayles opened the meeting to public comment.
    - b. Sansa Brown, a parent of two Storefront students, asked about whether the food vendor that Storefront has lined up is the same as the public school vendor. The board stated that Storefront is using a different vendor. The form of service is yet to be decided.
    - c. Hearing no additional input from the public, Mr. Bayles closed the meeting to public comment.
  5. **Leadership reports (36:05-1:03:26)**
    - a. **(36:05-46:10)** Enrollment
      - i. South Bronx enrollment sits at 272 students, 2 more than in March but 3 below budget.
      - ii. Harlem enrollment sits at 94 students, 2 more than in March but 26 below budget.
      - iii. Prior to the April 4th lottery, Bronx and Harlem had 138 and 92 completed and vetted applications in PowerSchool, respectively. The lottery added 44 (SB) and 32 (H) seats.
      - iv. Working well: Daily school tours, attending community events, real-time tracking of seat acceptances post-lottery. Needs improvement: Enrollment numbers are not as high as what was promised by Schola.
    - b. **(46:11-49:41)** Staff vacancies
      - i. Zero current vacancies at Harlem (four fewer than last month).
      - ii. Two current vacancies at South Bronx (same number as last month; seeking one maternity leave replacement and one permanent building substitute).
      - iii. Working well: Applicant management. Needs improvement: Candidate qualifications.
    - c. **(49:42-1:03:26)** Academic and culture highlights: Strategies to support math goal on state test
      - i. Math testing window: April 8-May 17, 2024 (computer), May 7-9, 2024 (paper)
      - ii. Goal-setting techniques are in place for staff and students to support math goals.
      - iii. Working well: Balancing expectations and joy for learning, monitoring student goals/data, 5th graders' positive response to recent Motivational Meeting with teachers. Needs improvement: 4th and 5th graders' content learning gaps. 3rd graders' multiplication fluency and application to problems involving area of irregular shapes.
      - iv. A "day in the life" video highlighted the special events at the Harlem campus.
  6. **Academic Committee report (1:03:27-1:04:45)**
    - a. The committee is in the process of reevaluating Storefront's partnership with Juilliard.
    - b. An upcoming professional development opportunity is in progress.
    - c. An IT situation is in progress.
  7. **Governance Committee report (1:04:46-1:05:48)**
    - a. One candidate is in the process of becoming a board member. Mr. Stearns asked if the board wants the Community Advisory Board to relate to each school or to the Storefront collective.



More on this next month.

8. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (1:05:49-1:10:20)**
  - a. Richard Bayles took a moment to appreciate the leadership team's efforts.
  - b. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. EST.

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

1. Robert Keogh and Marie Lucas will report back to the board details about whether Storefront is subject to penalties due to low attendance.
2. Marie Lucas and Jonathan Stearns will communicate with legal to determine what legal liabilities "Friends of" has regarding the lease and the qualifications group members must have to be involved. They will report back at the May board meeting.
3. Jonathan Stearns will reach out to the current members of the "Friends of" organization to ask if they are still interested in being involved. Mr. Stearns will circulate a summary of the role of "Friends of" organization members. The remaining members of the board will consider prospective members.