



Storefront Academy Charter School  
January 2026 Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

## ATTENDEES

**Trustees:** Atta Acheampong, Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low (chairman), Jasmine Reed, Jonathan Stearns  
**Staff:** Catherine Brown, Rebecca Brunie, Charisse Carter-Lewis, Taleema Chesney, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Milly Jimenez, Robert Keogh, Marie Lucas, William Pintado, Yubdeley Ricardo, Newton Richards, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Katie Spina, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez  
**Other Attendees:** Phonecia, Lorena Rodriguez, Naja Walker

## RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- January 2026 board meeting agenda
- January 2026 financial dashboard

## MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Call to order and explanation of board meeting purpose (0:00–0:50, 8:20–8:37)**
  - 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 November 2025 and December 2025 minutes. Amanda Low moved, and the motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
- 2. Financial report (0:51–8:20)**
  - 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 there have been no material changes to the forecast. A per-pupil report was submitted to the Department of Education (DOE) earlier in the week. When that is finalized, revenue forecasts will be updated.
  - c. The year-to-date deficit is ~\$331K; the forecasted annual deficit is ~\$82K.
    - i. A ~\$418K surplus is forecasted for the South Bronx. Currently, it has a deficit of ~\$9K.
    - ii. A ~\$499K deficit is forecasted for Harlem. Currently, it has a deficit of ~\$322K.
  - d. December closed with ~\$895K of cash on hand (vs. an average pay cycle of ~\$270K). SACS currently owes ~\$1.9M, a small decrease from the previous years.
  - e. Total enrollment is 319 vs. the budgeted 380, resulting in a \$1.2M loss. Paid SpEd enrollment is 46 vs. the budgeted 67, resulting in a \$310K loss.
  - f. SACS has saved \$260K due to unfilled positions and staff attrition.
- 3. Development report (8:38–20:08)**
  - a. **(8:38–16:10) Grants and funding**
    - i. Ninety-day (January through March 2026) development snapshot on FundEd partnership: \$250K has been allocated to the South Bronx (SB), \$25K to Harlem (H), \$310K to both campuses, and \$100K miscellaneous/not yet applied = \$685K.
      1. \$250K from the Tiger Foundation for education at both campuses.
      2. \$25K from Glenn W. Bailey Foundation for STEM lab/curriculum at H.
      3. \$25K from Glenn W. Bailey Foundation for STEM lab/curriculum at SB.
      4. \$10K from the M&T Foundation for out-of-school programs at both campuses.
      5. \$225K from the Van Ameringen Foundation for a mental health/social-emotional learning (SEL) professional at SB.
      6. \$25K from the Barker Welfare Foundation for out-of-school programs and student wellness at both campuses.

7. \$100K from the Pinkerton Foundation (details TBD).
  8. \$25K from the FJ Brotherton Charitable Trust for the Harmony Program at both campuses.
- ii. Ms. Evangelista will review the Summer Boost programming and discretionary funding at the next meeting.
  - iii. A parent asked for clarification about Mark Levine, NYC Comptroller. Atta Acheampong about borough president funding. Ms. Evangelista stated that SACS is applying for funding with Vanessa Gibson to enhance SACS's literacy lab.
- b. **(16:10–19:00) Enrollment**
- i. SB: As of Jan. 16, enrollment sits at 229, 41 students under budget. Two students have enrolled since the last board meeting; zero are in the enrollment process.
  - ii. H: As of Jan. 16, enrollment sits at 89, 26 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.
  - v. William Pintado explained that they are establishing a playbook complete with weekly goals, forming partnerships with preschools to increase lottery applications, collaborating with Enroll(Ed) on digital marketing initiatives, and forming an Enrollment Committee.
- c. **(19:01–20:08) Staff vacancies**
- i. There are currently no vacancies in Harlem.
  - ii. There are currently three vacancies in the South Bronx: Kindergarten teacher (ICT classroom), 4th grade teacher (ICT classroom), 5th grade teacher (ICT classroom).
  - 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 (20:09–1:06:23)**
- a. **(20:09–50:11) Academic highlight: Action plans for winter NWEA MAP**
- i. Overview: Network areas of focus
    1. Staff investment and continuous improvement; growth mindset, goal-setting, and progress monitoring; consistent assessment and data-analysis protocols; celebrations of academics and culture; family/community learning partnerships; shared accountability.
    2. H: Increase pace of reading growth and math; continue to target proficiency gaps for English-language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities (SWDs).
    3. SB: Continue closing the gaps in growth and achievement for ELLs and SWDs; continue to improve 5th-grade growth and achievement to avoid historic dips.
  - ii. Harlem fall 2025 NWEA MAP (fall '24/fall '25)
    1. Math: K: 31/79; 1: 42/69; 2: 43/55; 3: 44/35; 4: 47/24; 5: 35/47; school: 42/47.
      - a. Schoolwide increase of 5 points.
    2. Reading: K: 26/77; 1: 39/49; 2: 48/34; 3: 45/51; 4: 52/41; 5: 56/58; school: 41/54.
      - a. Schoolwide increase of 13 points.
    3. Winter 2026 proficiency goals: 57th percentile in math; 64th percentile in reading; 70% of students meet their projected growth.
  - iii. South Bronx fall 2025 NWEA MAP
    1. Math: K: N/A; 1: 41/58; 2: 31/68; 3: 45/55; 4: 48/62; 5: 42/64; school: 38/55.
      - a. Schoolwide increase of 20 points.

2. Reading: K: 38/22; 1: 32/40; 2: 36/57; 3: 47/39; 4: 56/52; 5: 59/62; school: 44/46.
  - a. Schoolwide increase of 24 points.
3. Winter 2026 proficiency goals: 65th percentile in math; 61st percentile in reading.
4. SB will have a meeting about the NWEA MAP data on February 18.
- iv. The NWEA MAP administration window runs from January 26 through February 13; the state tests will begin at Harlem on April 15 and in the South Bronx on April 21.
- v. Amanda Low asked about computer skills, and Carol Singletary explained that the progress is slow because students have to learn to type. SACS would need to invest at least \$25K (\$250 each) in new Chromebooks to provide one for every student. This is a possible fundraising opportunity.
- b. **(50:12–1:06:23) Culture highlights**
  - i. Harlem leadership presented a highlight video featuring photos of an author visit, the NWEA MAP testing, the Winter Wonderland kindergarten application extravaganza, and other upcoming academic and cultural opportunities.
  - ii. South Bronx leadership presented about goal-setting and midyear expectations for families, students, and staff. They also shouted out Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Tejada, and Ms. Franco for their contributions to school culture. They also discussed community-building opportunities through the Storefront Chronicle, the school newspaper, and a podcast.
  - iii. Upcoming events: NWEA MAP window begins, National School Choice Week, ESL cycle 2 classes for adults (SB, 2/3), 3–5 NWEA MAP (H, 2/3 and 2/5), PAWS meeting (H, 2/4), half day for students (SB), field trip Career Day (SB, 2/9), 4–5 New Chambers unit 2 (H, 2/9), K–2 NWEA MAP (H, 2/10 and 2/12), 3–5 Academic Challenge (H, 2/10 and 2/12), midwinter break (H, 2/16–2/18), Principal’s Love and Learning (H, 2/19), Community Expo (H, 2/20), Mastery Phase 1 (SB, 2/23), Black History Month celebration (SB, 2/26)
5. **Public comment (1:06:24–1:06:41)**
  - a. Mr. Low opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing nothing, he closed the meeting to public comment.
6. **Board committee reports (1:06:42–1:08:01)**
  - a. Atta Acheamong stated that the Governance Committee has nothing to report.
  - b. Amanda Low reported that the Academic Committee is working to reassure staff that the board is focused on financial processes and transparency. The principals also shared data and will receive feedback tomorrow.
7. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (1:08:02–1:08:33)**
  - a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. EST.