



Storefront Academy Charter School
August 2026 Board Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Atta Acheampong (secretary of the board), Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low (chairman), Jasmine Reed, Jonathan Stearns (treasurer) **Staff:** Aniberca Abreu, Catherine Brown, Charisse Carter-Lewis, Yoselyn Fernandez, Milly Jimenez, Robert Keogh, Tanyshia Phillip, Yubdeley Ricardo, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez, Liza Veto **Other Attendees:** Taleema Chesney, Keisha, Ivelisse Martinez, William Pintado, Sam

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- August 2026 board meeting agenda
- June 2026 board meeting minutes
- 2026–2027 District-Level Safety Plan

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to order (0:00–0:35)**
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. A motion to open the meeting was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.
2. **Approval of June 2026 board meeting minutes (0:36–0:58)**
 - a. Motion: A motion to approve the June 2026 board meeting minutes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.
3. **Renewal of Amanda Low's board term (0:59–1:27)**
 - a. Motion: A motion to renew Amanda Low's term as a trustee was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.
4. **Approval of the 2026–2027 District-Level Safety Plan (1:28–1:53)**
 - a. Motion: A motion to approve the 2026–2027 District-Level Safety Plan was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.
5. **Financial report (1:54–4:55)**
 - a. Robert Keogh, vice president of 4th Sector Solutions, reported that no customary monthly financial report was presented because the school was closed in July and fall enrollment remained in development.
 - b. The annual financial audit began ahead of Labor Day. Approximately 40 accounting schedules have been submitted, with no open items at the time of the meeting. Draft year-end financial statements may be available for the Finance Committee and board by the next meeting.
 - i. The annual audit is being conducted by the same firm and team used in prior years.
 - c. Mr. Keogh reported that the organization had received a cash-flow infusion from FCNY and had paid more than \$300K in outstanding payables.
 - d. The organization expected approximately \$1.7M in per-pupil funding imminently. Mr. Keogh stated that the funding would support payroll obligations for the next two months and allow the organization to reduce additional vendor balances.
6. **Development report (4:56–5:28)**
 - a. Leadership reported that it would meet with FundEd, the organization's grant-writing consultant, to establish priorities and a grant-development trajectory for the 2026–2027 school year. Further details will be reported once finalized.
7. **Leadership report (5:29–26:59)**

- a. **(5:29–7:00)** Staff vacancies and hiring
 - i. Harlem had vacancies for first- and third-grade teachers, with 10 interviews completed. South Bronx had vacancies for an ELL/MLL teacher and a food service coordinator, with five interviews completed. Leadership expected to have a full complement of staff by the opening of school.
 - ii. Recruitment continued to benefit from a strong applicant pool and partnerships with colleges, universities, and Teach For America.
- b. **(7:00–8:30)** Harlem campus leadership transition
 - i. Leadership announced that Catherine Brown is now principal of the Harlem campus, succeeding Taleema Chesney. The board welcomed Ms. Brown and recognized her exemplary track record with Storefront Academy.
- c. **(8:30–21:17)** Summer programming and student outcomes
 - i. South Bronx operated a three-week summer program for rising kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Programming included daily ELA/phonics and mathematics blocks, novel studies for grades 3–5, and hands-on enrichment clubs in STEM, anime, dance, and board games.
 - ii. Teachers used oral dictation, writing samples, and reading passages to monitor progress. Leadership reported gains in decoding, writing, text-based evidence, classroom discourse, and student engagement, supported by small-group and differentiated instruction.
 - iii. Summer attendance fell below the 90% goal during the first week but improved following direct outreach to families by email, telephone, and text. Attendance ended slightly above 90%. Leadership noted that earlier promotion and continued communication should support future participation.
 - iv. The program included family and enrichment partnerships, including Art in the Park, yoga, and Afro-kickboxing. A closing picnic was held at St. Mary's Park.
 - v. Students and staff donated baskets of books to local organizations and businesses and prepared 250 sandwiches for distribution to people experiencing homelessness. Leadership highlighted the projects as an expression of the school's core values.
- d. **(21:17–26:59)** Community engagement and school opening preparations
 - i. The engagement team, classroom teachers, and families participated in community tabling and outreach events to build awareness, partnerships, tours, and enrollment. Thomas Henry was introduced as a new community engagement staff member who will support growth and outreach efforts.
 - ii. The organization received a substantial delivery from the Hispanic Federation to support a monthly pantry in the South Bronx and is exploring a similar initiative in Harlem.
 - iii. Seven new staff members began orientation on the day of the meeting. Leadership was also conducting orientations for incoming families and preparing joint professional learning and collaboration opportunities for new and returning staff.
 - iv. South Bronx family orientation is set to begin on August 20. Harlem family orientation is scheduled to begin August 27, with in-person daytime and evening sessions and a Saturday virtual option. Staff convenings were planned for the following week, and classes were expected to begin on both campuses with a half day on August 31.
8. **Public comment (27:00–27:18)**
 - a. No individuals registered to comment before the meeting. Attendees were advised that comments could be submitted after the meeting by email to info@storefrontacademy.org.
9. **Board committee reports (27:19–28:57)**
 - a. The Finance Committee had no additional report beyond the financial update presented earlier.
 - b. Amanda Low resumed her role as chair of the Academic Committee following Jewell Stewart's departure. Ms. Low invited trustees and nontrustees to participate and reported that she and the



leadership would consider ways to make committee meetings more useful and accessible.

10. **Closing comments, adjournment, and executive session (28:58–29:37)**

- a. Motion: A motion to adjourn the public meeting was made, seconded, and carried unanimously. The public meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.
- b. The board then entered executive session. Marie Lucas, Catherine Brown, and Carol Singletary were asked to remain. No confidential discussion is recorded in these minutes.

Meeting minutes submitted by Caroline Pace at Epimelia Editorial and Content Services.