



Storefront Academy Charter School
August 2024 Board Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns, Jewell Stewart **Staff:** Marcia Alexander, Tim Brown, Taleema Chesney, Grace Dinunzi, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Esther Fokuo, Maurissa Hankey, Milly Jimenez, Charisse Lewis, Marie Lucas, Maryleidy Pimentel, Lorena Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Liza Veto

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- August 2024 board meeting agenda

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order (0:00-1:52)

- a. Peter Low called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. EST.

2. Development update (1:53-6:30)

a. (2:35-3:00) Uniforms:

- i. Nidia Evangelista reported that uniforms arrived on Aug. 6. Distribution will occur on Aug. 20, 22, and 26 (SB) and on Aug. 14 and 19 (H). \$3K has been raised specifically for uniforms. Nondirected donor funds have paid the difference.

b. (3:01-4:00) Grants:

- i. Two grant applications were submitted in July: Gordon J. Barnett Memorial Foundation education grant (\$20K for Harlem general operations) and Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund grant (\$25K [H] and \$36,500 [SB] for after-school programs; decision expected Dec. 2024). Summer Boost grant data and compliance requirements are in progress; due on Aug. 30, 2024, to receive the second payment. Pinkerton Foundation grant (submitted in July) was denied.
- ii. Ms. Evangelista to meet with an l'Raise development representative on Sept. 2nd.

c. (4:01-5:33) Partnerships:

- i. Chase: H and SB to offer financial workshops for students, staff, and the community.
- ii. Chess in Schools: H and SB on waitlist to offer chess during school at a flat fee.
- iii. DonorsChoose: Created an ambassador program; teachers to fundraise for classroom items within predetermined guidelines set by DonorsChoose and Storefront.
- iv. Our Kids Read: Coordinating with executive director on events and book giveaways.

d. (5:34-6:30) Extended day

- i. SB: Enrollment is open for Sept. 3, 2024, start date. Free for all participants Mon. to Fri., 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Operated by l'Raise in SACS facility. Fundraising efforts to continue; school budget used as stopgap in the interim.
- ii. H: Enrollment will open Sept. 3, 2024, for Sept. 16, 2024, start date. Free for all participants Mon. to Fri. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Operated by Harmony Program (music-based program) at SACS facility. Fundraising efforts to have program fully funded continue.

3. Districtwide safety plan update (6:31-7:35)

- a. Marie Lucas reported that the district safety plan was posted on SACS website for public comment following the June board meeting. No comments were submitted by Aug. 16 deadline.
- b. Changes made were based on Altaris feedback and NYS proposed amendment to



commissioner's regulations. Motion to approve the plan will occur at the Sept. board meeting.

4. **Public comment (7:32-8:09)**

- a. Mr. Low opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing nothing, he closed the meeting to public comment.

5. **Leadership reports (8:10-20:31)**

a. **(8:10-13:22) Enrollment**

- i. There have been 62 (SB) and 32 (H) registrations for the 2024-5 year. 14 (SB) and 10+ (H) recruitment events attended since the last board meeting (as of Aug. 16).
 1. Official class rosters through ATS system report 106 students officially enrolled at the Harlem campus and 266 students at South Bronx.
- ii. Working well: follow-ups + outreach, publicizing events more widely, sharing enrollment goals with families and staff. Needs improvement: Schola (ending in Jan.), marketing.

b. **(13:23-19:44) SY 2024-2025 staff vacancies and culture highlights**

- i. Three current vacancies at Harlem (5th grade SpEd teacher, part-time ELL teacher, additional SpEd teacher).
- ii. One current vacancy at SB (4th grade ICT teacher).
- iii. Working well: Volume of candidates. Needs improvement: Variable candidate quality.

c. **(19:45-20:31) September meeting agenda and notable upcoming events**

- i. Community meeting (SB) (Sept. 11); PAWS meeting/enrollment support, SY 24-25 parent-sponsored calendar (H) (Sept. 12); Back-to-School Night (SB) (Sept. 17); Community Huddle (H) (Sept. 18); PAWS meeting/pantry (SB) (Sept. 26); Every Student Counts! (SB) (Sept 27); PAWS Back-to-School Extravaganza (H) (Sept. 27).

6. **Board committee reports (20:32-23:53)**

- a. **(20:32-21:40)** The Academic Committee had nothing to report.
- b. **(21:41-23:53)** Representing the Governance Committee, Jonathan Stearns reported that a candidate-tracking system has been established for committee recruitment. The committee is also in the process of recruiting people for the Friends of Storefront group. Board leadership is to meet with two potential board candidates who have already met with the Governance Committee and school leadership.

7. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (23:54-24:46)**

- a. Mr. Low requested that leadership submit candidates for potential board members.
- b. Mr. Low adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. EST.