



Storefront Academy Charter School
June 2025 Board Meeting
Thursday, June 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Atta Acheampong, Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns, Jewell Stewart

Staff: Anibera Abreu, Rebecca Brunie, Charisse Carter-Lewis, Taleema Chesney, Brian Class, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Aria Glass, Ashley Gonzalez, Robert Keogh, Marie Lucas, Maryleidy Pimentel, Stephanie Reeder, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez

Other: Diondra Young

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- June 2025 board meeting agenda
- June 2025 financial dashboard

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order and adoption of meeting minutes (0:00–2:00)

- a. Peter Low called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. EST.
- b. Motion: Peter Low asked for a motion to approve the May 2025 minutes. Richard Bayles moved, and the motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

2. Board committee vote (2:01–2:44)

- a. Mr. Low proposed two adjustments to board committees:
 - i. Mr. Low appointed Jonathan Stearns to be chairman of the Finance Committee since he has recently become treasurer of the board (see April 2025 minutes). Mr. Stearns will leave his position as Governance Committee chairman but remain on the committee.
 - ii. Mr. Low recommended Atta Acheampong to replace Mr. Stearns as chairman of the Governance Committee.
- b. Motion: Peter Low asked for a motion to approve the nominations of Mr. Stearns as chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr. Acheampong as chairman of the Governance Committee. Richard Bayles moved, and the motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

3. Financial report (2:45–8:50)

- a. Robert Keogh began by noting that a substantial cash security deposit had a significant impact on several of SACS's financial ratios. As a result, the "Current Ratio" (SACS: 0.98 vs. SUNY: >1.50), "Days of Cash" (SACS: 14 vs. SUNY: >30), and "Quick Ratio (Acid Test)" (SACS: 0.76 vs. SUNY: >1.00) are currently below SUNY benchmarks. However, SACS is outperforming SUNY's target for the "Debt-to-Asset Ratio" (SACS: 0.78 vs. SUNY: <1.00). Mr. Keogh assured that SACS would be able to explain the reason for the high cash outflows.
 - i. SACS is also expecting to receive ~\$1.6 million on July 1, 2025, marking the start of the new fiscal year. This, along with anticipated Summer Boost funding and pending grant reimbursements, is expected to strengthen the cash balance in the coming weeks.
- b. Enrollment data (with regard to budgeting and the Dept. of Education) has experienced no changes. The final per-pupil enrollment will be prepared at the beginning of July.
- c. Mr. Bayles inquired whether a drawback in attendance is anticipated. Mr. Keogh responded that there have been no material policy changes, and he does not foresee any additional risk factors.
- d. YTD revenue stands at \$9.6M. There have been no changes to revenue forecasts this year.
- e. ~\$539K in savings has been realized through salaries and benefits, but expenses have increased due to insurance rates and operating costs, primarily at the new Harlem facility,



resulting in a ~\$680K deficit against the nonoperating expenses budget.

- f. The current YTD deficit is ~\$247K, with a projected year-end deficit of ~\$66K. Mr. Keogh noted that, despite the security deposit payment, SACS remains in a strong position.

4. District safety plan (8:51–10:35)

- a. Marie Lucas mentioned that the district safety plan is posted on the SACS website for public comment; the public comment period will be open from June until August.
- b. Changes to the current safety plan were based on NYSED's training.
 - i. Including additional city and state representatives in the event of an emergency.
 - ii. Preventative and intervention strategies will include additional layers of safety measures put in place at each school campus.
- c. The board will approve the final district safety plan at the August board meeting.
- d. Mr. Bayles asked whether leadership has difficulty enacting safety drills regarding student cooperation. Taleema Chesney and Carol Singletary agreed that they have no issues.

5. Leadership reports (10:36–33:03)

a. (10:36–13:22) Enrollment

- i. SB: As of June 9, actual enrollment sits at 263, 11 students under budget. No students have enrolled since the last board meeting; one has withdrawn.
- ii. H: As of June 9, actual enrollment sits at 100, right on budget. No students have enrolled since the last board meeting; one SpEd student has withdrawn.
- iii. Working well: Community partnerships and events; persistent follow-up on accepted seats and new applications.
 - 1. Harlem will host a Kindergarten Signing Day in July to formally welcome students entering SACS via the two preschool partnership programs.
 - 2. South Bronx will participate in the Hunts Point Fish Parade and Summer Festival to expand its presence and secure enrollments.
 - 3. The enrollment team continues to secure registrations.
- iv. Needs improvement: Lack of robust media presence.
 - 1. SACS and Aengus are finalizing bus ads for each school.

b. (13:22–19:39) Staff vacancies

- i. SY 2024–2025
 - 1. Three current vacancies at Harlem (SpEd teacher, 3rd grade general education teacher, 2nd grade teacher). No SB vacancies.
 - 2. SACS is currently working with Swing Education, which provides long-term substitutes with teaching experience and coaching.
- ii. SY 2025–2026
 - 1. H: Three current vacancies (1st and 3rd grade general education teachers and 4th grade SpEd teacher).
 - 2. SB: Five current vacancies (kindergarten, 1st, 4th, and 5th grade general education teachers and science/media lab teacher).
 - a. The kindergarten and 4th grade positions are open due to internal role changes, two vacancies resulted from teachers' misalignment with SACS values, and one is due to a teacher's personal circumstances.
 - b. Interviews and demos are scheduled.
 - 3. Working well: Volume of candidates and partnership with Teach for America.
Needs improvement: Candidate quality. SACS has begun posting on LinkedIn, at the NYC Charter School Center, and at local colleges.

c. (19:40–25:16) Academic highlight

- i. South Bronx

1. SB shared a video highlighting end-of-year project-based learning.
 2. Working well: Completion of spring NWEA MAP and RedThread end-of-year exams; end-of-year MAP data dives to help set instructional priorities for SY 25–26; math vertical articulation; Science Fair and cross-curricular capstones.
 3. Needs improvement: Planning for more math-focused experiential learning and professional development in alignment with the network’s strategic plan.
- ii. Harlem
1. Taleema Chesney highlighted that Harlem students went to the First in Math statewide championship tournament for the third year in a row.
 2. Working well: NWEA MAP test, with students on track to meet or exceed projected growth targets; end-of-year data dive at June 11 Harlem Huddle to help set instructional priorities for SY 25–26; Savvas science curriculum review. Needs improvement: Staffing and hiring.
- d. **(25:17–33:03)** Culture highlights
- i. SB: Shared a video highlighting Field Day. Ms. Singletary thanked SACS staff—namely Mr. Class—and parents for their involvement in organizing and making this day special.
 - ii. H: Shared a video highlighting an adventure-filled day at Area 53 Adventure Park, a tea party, kindergarten playdates, and other special events. Ms. Chesney mentioned a conversation she had with the director of the Union Settlement campus about setting up specific events to recruit students from there.
 - iii. Upcoming events: NWEA MAP science test (SB + H), Heroes for Heroes (SB, 6/13), Kindergarten Step Up (H, 6/17; SB, 6/20), fifth grade graduation (H, 6/17; SB, 6/20), Science Fair (SB, 6/18 and 6/24), Showtime in Harlem final dance showcase (H, 6/23), Champions’ Celebration (H, 6/24), staff end-of-year celebration (SB, 6/25).
6. **Public comment (33:04–33:18)**
- a. Mr. Low opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing nothing, he closed the meeting to public comment.
7. **Board committee reports (33:19–34:32)**
- a. The Academic Committee is working on building a more comprehensive management structure to acquire reliable data regarding student performance and help school leadership anticipate changes in scholastic performance while improving the school environment. The committee is expecting to finalize this plan later this summer.
 - b. The Governance Committee had nothing to report.
8. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (34:33-35:00)**
- a. Motion: Mr. Low asked for a motion to adjourn the June 2025 meeting. Amanda Low moved, and the motion was seconded and carried without dissent.
 - b. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. EST.