



Storefront Academy Charter School  
November 2024 Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

## ATTENDEES

**Trustees:** Atta Acheampong, Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Jonathan Stearns, Jewell Stewart  
**Staff:** Taleema Chesney, Nidia Evangelista, Julissa Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Esther Fokuo, Milly Jimenez, Robert Keogh, Charisse Lewis, Marie Lucas, Maryleidy Pimentel, Stephanie Reeder, Yubdeley Ricardo, Newton Richards, Carol Singletary, Desiree Soulet, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez  
**Other:** Angela Applewhite, Annica, Stephanie

## RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- November 2024 board meeting agenda
- Storefront Academy Financial Dashboard

## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Call to order and adoption of meeting minutes (0:00-2:19)

- a. Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. EST.
- b. Mr. Bayles introduced and welcomed Atta Acheampong, the newest board member.
- c. Motion: Mr. Bayles moved to approve the October 2024 minutes. Motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

### 2. Financial report (2:20-11:22)

- a. Robert Keogh expressed that SACS is experiencing good financial health.
- b. Storefront is currently exceeding SUNY standards for "Current Ratio," "Days of Cash," "Quick Ratio," and "Debt-to-Asset Ratio."
- c. SACS submitted its fourth invoice to the Dept. of Education. There is currently a 16-student difference between budgeted enrollment (375, 275 at SB + 100 at H). SACS will be paid for its current 359-student enrollment for the full year, a six-student improvement from Sept. numbers (three at each campus), resulting in an additional ~\$75K in each school's per-pupil funding.
- d. SACS is exceeding its budget of 81 SpEd students by two. SACS gets paid extra for students in the 20%-60% and 60%+ tiers. Budgeting predicted 62 students in these tiers (4 and 58, respectively). Actuals currently sit at 65 (21 and 44, respectively). Mr. Keogh highlighted the financial impact of this change, which is a ~\$101K deficit.
- e. FY24 forecast is a \$91K deficit networkwide (\$11.91M revenue; \$11.99M expenses), a \$270K improvement from Sept., with a \$31K deficit YTD. This is due in part to an unbudgeted \$150K payment to Children's Storefront.
- f. October closed with a cash balance of \$1.3M. Currently at a \$613K A/R balance with ~\$500K of funding anticipated imminently.

### 3. Leadership reports (11:23-45:03)

- a. (11:23-17:07, 18:50-20:20) Enrollment
  - i. SB: As of Nov. 21, actual enrollment sits at 260, 15 students under budget. Three students enrolled this month; two students withdrew.
  - ii. H: As of Nov. 15, actual enrollment sits at 102, two students over budget. Two students enrolled this month; one student withdrew.
  - iii. Working well: Community partnerships and events; enrollment team. Needs improvement: Lack of robust paid media presence.
- b. (17:08-18:49) SY 2024-2025 staff vacancies
  - i. Two current vacancies at Harlem (3rd grade general education teacher, 1st grade

- bilingual teacher assistant). No vacancies at SB.
- ii. Working well: Volume of candidates, amplifying job postings and inviting candidates directly through Indeed. Needs improvement: Candidate quality.
- c. **(20:21-39:42)** NWEA MAP data
- i. SB spring 2024 ELA exam (grades 3-5) proficiency rate (avg. 53%) outpaced those of both District 7 (avg. 30%) and NYC overall (avg. 49%).
    - 1. Gains attributable to veteran 4th-grade teaching team and invested team leads; losses attributable to staffing challenges in 3rd- and 5th-grade teams.
    - 2. Returning students performed better than new students by an average of 2%.
  - ii. SB spring 2024 math exam (grades 3-5) proficiency rate (avg. 66%) outpaced those of both District 7 (avg. 36%) and NYC overall (avg. 55%).
    - 1. Gains over ELA exam attributable to students' preference for the math program and implementation of First in Math.
    - 2. Returning students performed better than new students by an average of 3%.
  - iii. Working well (SB): Invested 3rd- and 4th-grade team leads; informal math mentoring; data use (goal-setting, progress monitoring). Needs improvement (SB): 5th-grade confidence levels in computer-based testing; teacher recruitment
  - iv. Harlem spring 2024 ELA exam (grades 3-5) proficiency rate (avg. 35%) was below those of District 4 (avg. 43%) and NYC overall (avg. 47%).
    - 1. Losses attributable in part to staffing challenges.
  - v. Harlem spring 2024 math exam (grades 3-5) proficiency rate (avg. 33%) was below those of District 4 (avg. 44%) and NYC overall (avg. 55%).
    - 1. Losses attributable in part to confidence levels in computer-based testing.
  - vi. Working well (Harlem): 3rd-grade ICT models; attendance and Sat. sessions for 4th and 5th graders. Needs improvement (Harlem): Staffing inconsistencies; adjusting to CBT
- d. **(39:43-45:03)** Culture highlights and notable events
- i. Photos and videos highlighted special events across the two campuses.
4. **Board committee reports (45:04-48:11)**
- a. Amanda Low reported that the Academic and Student Support Committee (previously the Academic Committee) is up and running again, with Jewell Stewart as the new committee chair.
  - b. Nidia Evangelista reported that she secured \$1,400 to throw a Thanksgiving celebration in which every student will receive a gift.
5. **Public comment (48:12-49:27)**
- a. Mr. Bayles opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing nothing, he closed the meeting to public comment.
6. **Closing comments and motion to adjourn (49:28-49:47)**
- a. Mr. Bayles adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. EST.