



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

February Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

Kingsbridge Elementary Campus: 3120 Corlear Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

Trustees Present

Amador Centeno, Brad Olsen, John Gutierrez, Lindsay Marino Long, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Miguelina German, Timothy Day

Trustees Absent

Khiera Pena, Kim Ramos, Li'Esha Garcia, Robyn Epps, Soledad Hiciano

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Clarisse Alvarado, Emily Griffin, Francina Yaw-Costello, Gina Mellusi, Kirsys Gomez, Mei Ruiz, Mia Thomas, Sashemani Elliott, Veronica Almedina

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

John Gutierrez called a meeting of the board of trustees of Amber Charter Schools to order on Wednesday Feb 12, 2025 at 6:07 PM.

C.

Check-In

II. Development Committee

A. Updates

- We have confirmed September 25, 2025.
- Time: TBD
- Two possible Venue options: Circo Nightclub in Midtown or Radio Hotel
- We are starting to fill the sponsorship list and contacts.
- The development committee chair is asking board members to fill out a list so they can add their contacts, and if they are comfortable with reaching out.

III. Amber i-Ready Results: Winter Diagnostic 2025

A. Update

- ACS Winter i-Ready Results 2025
 - Network Results: 19% overall mid or above grade level.
 - 25% Early on grade level.
 - Scores include all students, IEPs.
 - KBES Principal presented the results by school for reading K-8.
 - A board member suggested if we have any services to help students after school.
 - KBES principal explained we have academic tutors and interventionists.
 - Median vs. Average Growth
 - MDA explained what median percentage is as it is reported because it is not reported as average percentage in i-Ready.
 - Network Growth 69% Annual typical growth.
 - KBMS academic tutors, Robinhood groups are helping with the student groups. We are being intentional with hiring teachers who are specialized in a subject in middle school.
- MDA reported the Network Results by Subgroups. Presented results for students with IEPs and ELL students.
- EH Principal presented the Annual Typical Growth for the Network that is currently at 69%.
 - IW: 62%
 - KBES: 69%
 - EH: 70%
 - KBMS: 63%
- Network Results- Math, K-8
 - IW Principal presented the results.
 - 20% growth for all campuses.

- Interventions are more accessible to our students because they teach our students based on their needs, and our students get that small group work.
- KBMS principal reported Network Growth
 - As a network for math, we are above our growth goal at 69%.
- Network Results by subgroups presented by Co-CEO
 - IEPs & ELL- significant growth with our ELL students.
- i-Ready stretch goal incentive initiative
 - Lunch & Munch was school-based celebrations where students ate pizza and received certificates to celebrate their amazing growth.
 - In-class, students have prizes that they select as they complete lessons.
 - Two teachers and their tutor, teacher assistant, and SSAs received prizes as well.
 - Board member asked if we identified students who went from red to green quickly and asked if the families can share if they are doing anything academic with their students after school.
 - Other board member said that KBMS is meeting kids where they are to help them grow and it takes time.

IV. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- We receive federal funding, but we are not having any issues with the funding as of right now.
 - The money comes from the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture.
 - Administration is pro-charter, but no news on what it means.
 - We are hosting budget meetings with school leaders to discuss the next year's budget.
 - At the finance committee, we reviewed our 990 and enrollment history. Will provide more information next month.
 - At Inwood, the construction will be completed at the end of the school year.
- Co-CEO reported
 - launch of new Amber Charter Schools website.
 - Thanked the board for attending the board open house.
 - EH principal will be leaving by June.
- CPO stated we have started looking for a principal for next year. Attended a workshop and met with the EH community to talk about it.
 - Interview committee training February 24th and 28th. There are 9 applicants already and more on LinkedIn.
 - We are hosting parent sessions the first week of March. We want to get our families' perspective.

B. Amber Charter Schools ICE Board Resolution

- We created an ICE protocol for our school and trained our school leaders. A code has been created as well for staff to approach ICE if they appear in school.
- Every family has to have more than two emergency contacts.
- Partnered with the Leadership school down the street for a PD.
- FERPA- not releasing student records. We learned what a judicial warrant is, and that is how they can get that info.
- A board member asked, what do we do if ICE is outside?
 - We told teachers to use the code and alert leaders.
 - If they have a warrant, reach out to legal counsel. Reach out to Rose or Co-CEOs to make sure they are valid.
 - A board member suggested an afterplan for if it happens.

John Gutierrez made a motion to ICE Board resolution.

Timothy Day seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Principals Report

A. Kingsbridge Elementary

- School leadership club held the Board Open House. The club teaches them etiquette and they enjoy the community meal together. Each child did a speech to practice public speaking.
- Choir performance tomorrow.

B. East Harlem

- Board Open House- Leadership team and members of our student council joined. The kids loved it and want the board members to return for next year.

C. Kingsbridge Middle School

- School held a recent assembly, amber leader awards.
- Book fair was a success.
- We are receiving high school acceptances already. Two scholarships already.
- Board member asked if we could promote our acceptances on the website and if we are incorporating our alumni.
- Teaching our parents how to advocate for their 8th graders.

D. Inwood

- Kindergarten went to their first trip to Museum of Natural History.
- Celebrating school week.
 - Cultural day EH, Sports day KBES, Twin day KBMS, IW Pajama day.

VI. Board Chair Report

A. Monthly Report

- Next month, review board goals.

VII. Closing Items

A. Approve Minutes

John Gutierrez made a motion to approve the minutes from January Board Meeting on 01-08-25.

Brad Olsen seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Adjourn Meeting

John Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Amador Centeno seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Gutierrez