



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

March Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

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

Trustees Present

John Gutierrez, Khiera Pena, Kim Ramos, Li'Esha Garcia, Miguelina German, Robyn Epps, Timothy Day

Trustees Absent

Amador Centeno, Brad Olsen, Lindsay Marino Long, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Soledad Hiciano

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Clarisse Alvarado, Courtney Wingfield, Jackie Matos, Kirsys Gomez, Rose Castillo, 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 Mar 12, 2025 at 6:17 AM.

C.

Check-In

II. NYC Kids Rise Presentation

A. Updates

- Jackie Matos & Courtney Wingfield from NYC Kids RISE presented the Save for College Program.
 - The program provides public school students with a financial asset for college and career training, starting in Kindergarten.
 - It is universal and community-driven.
 - Tool for college and career readiness & wealth building, family engagement goal, and advances financial education.
 - All students in an eligible grade (K-3) attending a NYC public school can participate.
 - Parents have the option to open a savings account along with the automatic scholarship.
 - Presenters asked us to work with families during our events to activate their child's account.

III. Development Committee

A. Updates

- The venue will be Circo Nightclub in Midtown, NY, with an estimated cost of \$19,600.
- The price includes beverage service and food.
- The estimated guest count is 150.
- The date & time of the event will be Thursday, September 25, 2025.
- Board member suggested that we do drink tickets.
 - Another board member said an open bar would be best.
- We are working on Sponsorship packages for the event.

IV. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- We are applying for the Summer Boost Grant for 3rd - 8th grade.
- We are partnering with About U with our Summer Program to boost enrollment. It includes test prep and sports.
- Inwood Construction Update
 - Co-CEO shared the work that has been completed, what work is ongoing, and new change orders with the board.
 - Areas on the facade need additional work. There is a stone at the East stair that needs repair as well which will require removing the stone.

- The budget has increased to \$2 million with the new change orders, which include the work they do at night.
- Board member asked if we have a warranty yet, Co-CEO said we will follow up soon and find that out.
- Co-CEO shared Black History Month pictures that students from K-8 created and stated they are being used in a competition on social media for a prize.
 - Rules were sent, and we have gained more followers.
 - Board member suggested we add joy back into our schools next year and make it a priority.
 - Finished mock testing
 - We treated the day as if it were a regular day of state testing. We launched the LinkIT platform.
 - On Friday, the teachers will review data.
 - Students need support with track pad and we are thinking of adding mice for them to use. They need mini lessons on scrap paper.
 - 100% of our 8th graders got into their top 4 choices, and 72% got into their first choice.
 - Co-CEO presented the promotional video for Kingsbridge Elementary.

V. Board Chair Report

A. Monthly Report

Review Board Goals

1. We launched boardontrack

- It has been convenient and is working out great.

2. Inwood Plan

- We communicated with staff and Amber families in December that Inwood will remain K-4.

3. Amber's 25th Anniversary Planning

- We have a venue and are currently planning our theme and entertainment.

4. Review the charter renewal process

- Roll over to the next school year.

VI. Closing Items

A. Approve Minutes

John Gutierrez made a motion to approve the minutes from February Board Meeting on 02-12-25.

Kim Ramos seconded the motion.

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

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gutierrez

John Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Miguelina German seconded the motion.

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