



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

April Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

Inwood Elementary Campus: 532 W 215th St, New York, NY 10034

Trustees Present

Amador Centeno, Brad Olsen, John Gutierrez, Kim Ramos, Lindsay Marino Long, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Robyn Epps

Trustees Absent

Khiera Pena, Li'Esha Garcia, Miguelina German, Soledad Hiciano, Timothy Day

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Clarisse Alvarado, Emily Griffin, Enrique Romero, Kirsys Gomez, Philip Ferrara, 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 Apr 9, 2025 at 6:17 PM.

C.

Check-In

II. Development Committee

A. Updates

- Venue: Circo Nightclub, Midtown.
- The board reviewed the logistics of the event.
 - There will be food and beverages provided.
 - Guest count is estimated to be 150 people.
 - Date: September 25, 2025, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.
 - The board members are adding sponsors to the sponsorship list that they will use for outreach.
- Save the dates will be sent soon; the board loved the design. A board member suggested making the font bigger that lists the date.
- A Board member asked what our percentage would be from sponsors? Would it cover the cost for the event and the development committee chair responded that it will be able to cover the cost along with extra funding.

III. Finance Committee

A. Updates

- Co-CEO announced a few changes made to the monthly finance report.
 - KBES has ICT funding.
 - Enrollment numbers are displayed at the top.
- The finance committee chair reviewed savings and current loss revenue.
- The finance committee chair reported enrollment for East Harlem.
 - East Harlem has 57 students below what we budgeted for the year.
- The Co-CEO showed a charter enrollment comparison of 4 different charters in the district. Their Kindergarten classes are also facing a 33%—36% decrease in enrollment, like ours.
 - We are discussing strategies on how to keep a standard and other ways to reduce expenses.
 - Next step: The Co-CEO will meet with the recruitment team to review the five-year plan, using the census report to help create healthy budgets for the coming years.

IV. Student Lottery

A. Update

- The Director of Admissions & Manager of Admissions provided an update on our student lottery. Total eligible applications: 804

- We had 104 eligible applications out of 624 offers. Our current waitlist has 162 families. 209 families have accepted and begun the registration process.
- Enrique reviewed the school-level data by school and grade.
 - Inwood has a 20% conversion rate from offers to accepted.
 - East Harlem has a 26% conversion rate.
 - KBES has a 44% conversion rate
 - KBMS has a 32% conversion rate
- The Director of Admissions shared the various ways our families are hearing about Amber.
 - Digital ads, parents self-applying, and the Common App.
- The recruitment team has made 500 calls to acceptances. 55% of the families answered and were able to have conversations with the team.

V. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- Co-CEO announced dates and times for graduation for 8th grade, and the stepping up ceremonies for KBES & IW.
- BLACC connected us with Mr. G from PIX 11, and he interviewed KBMS STEAM program.
- 90% of our families across the Network came in person for Family Teacher Conferences.
 - Family Teacher Conferences are completed.
 - The board discussed the possible difficulties of seeing so many middle school teachers in one evening for FTC.
 - The parents completed DOE surveys, and we had a raffle for them to complete. We offer conferences on Zoom or in person.
- A board member asked if we could find the percentage of students who are one or more grade levels behind in either subject and who did not have a family-teacher conference.
- CPO reported on the East Harlem principal search. We had 25 candidates and narrowed it down to 8 in-person interview candidates.
 - 100% of candidates felt like it was a place they wanted to work, felt like home, and very interested.
 - Seven of the 8 candidates were competitive. The talent team trained EH's SLT and the interview committee to use questions authentically.
 - We will get 3-4 candidates to interview with the co-CEOs and principals.
- Amber Service Day was conducted on April 4th, and some of our students participated in cleaning a park and making murals.
- The Inwood scaffold in the back will soon be removed, so it will be open for our students to use again soon. Inspections and the project's close-out are estimated by the end of May.

- Stephanie Cobleigh was able to get our budget reduced by \$200,000.

VI. Closing Items

A. Approve Minutes

John Gutierrez made a motion to approve the minutes from March Board Meeting on 03-12-25.

Kim Ramos seconded the motion.

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

John Gutierrez made a motion to close meeting.

Amador Centeno 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 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Gutierrez