



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

February Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

Amber Charter School Kingsbridge Elementary- 3120 Corlear Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

Trustees Present

Brad Olsen, Kim Ramos, Li'Esha Garcia, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Miguelina German, Robyn Epps

Trustees Absent

John Gutierrez, Khiera Pena, Lindsay Marino Long, Soledad Hiciano, Timothy Day

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Clarisse Alvarado, Emily Griffin, Francina Yaw-Costello, Gina Mellusi, Kirsys Gomez, Mia Thomas, Noelani Gabriel-Holt, Rose Castillo, Veronica Almedina

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Miguelina German called a meeting of the board of trustees of Amber Charter Schools to order on Wednesday Feb 11, 2026 at 6:06 PM.

II. Finance Committee

A. Approve Form 990

Kim Ramos made a motion to approve form 990.

Li'Esha Garcia seconded the motion.

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

B. Approve 403B Plan Audit

Li'Esha Garcia made a motion to approve 403B.

Kim Ramos seconded the motion.

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

- The board members discussed the possibility of holding classes to inform our ACS community about what a 403 (b) plan is and how to use it more effectively than placing it in a money market account.

III. Amber i-Ready Results: Winter Diagnostic 2026

A. Update

- The KBES principal presented the Network Results for ELA
 - 44% last year in green, 40% yellow, almost identical to last year.
 - KBES reminded board members that Kinder cannot score in any red areas because there is no tracking of grades below Kinder. 1st grade can't score in the lowest red, 2 grades below.
 - Showed each band for each campus, from K-4th and then 5th-8th.
- The KBMS principal presented the Network Growth
 - Our Network Growth is at 67%, the median goal is 50%, and we've met the median expectation.
- The EH principal presented the Network results for subgroups
 - IEPs: 11% of students total from 2 grades below or more
 - 5% one grade level below
 - 16% mid or above grade level
 - ELL students: discusses the progress of EL students, particularly those who are two grade levels below or more, and the success in moving them through the funnel
- The IW Principal presented the Network Results for Math
 - As a network, we went from 14% on our above grade level at the beginning of the year to 35% currently, signaling a 21% growth so far.
 - The IW principal presented the bands for K-4 and 5-8, 5-7 for EH and KBMS. There is growth and movement of our students moving from the red into the green.
- The KBMS Principal reported the Network Growth for Math

- Our median growth goal is at 66%; we exceeded the 50% medium growth goal.
- The EH Principal reported the Network results by subgroups
 - IEPs-More growth in moving our students out of the red.
 - ELLs- We had 23 students, or 23% of students who are ELLS moved out of two grade levels below, and then an additional 5%, three or more grade levels below.
- Co-CEO discussed our i-Ready stretch goal incentive initiative
 - Stretch goals- ambitious growth goal, met their goal, above grade level, leave grade with all the skills.
 - 265 students are being celebrated.
 - Teachers are also honored as i-Ready champions. They get incentives as well.
 - A board member asked if we could find out the percentage of students who reached their stretch goal by campus vs the number.
- The Managing Director of Academic discussed the Instructional Priority
 - Students are doing the heavy lifting within and across all lessons.
 - The MDA discussed how the students are doing the heavy lifting and how we are coaching teachers.
 - The board member asked if we could use the teachers who are doing a great job with the instructional priority to coach others. Possibly use them to lead a PD.
- The MDA explained that we pay the teachers for the extra work. We currently have some teachers shadowing others at different campuses.
- Co-CEO presented the Increasing proficiency goals
 - We want to create our Math & ELA goals 3-5% more than the city and state-wide goal of 75% proficiency because we want to keep the rigor and outperform the city and state.
 - The Board Secretary asked to present 75% on the slide as a reminder of where we stand.
- The principals of ACS discussed the different strategies to reach these goals.
 - KBES principal presented the spiral review & science test prep will happen later on, and why it hasn't started yet.
 - The board secretary asked principals to name their top 2 favorite strategies. They appreciate novel study, teachley, and robinhood small group work, coaching, and coaching our coaches, seeing a difference week to week. They also mentioned i-Ready instructional planning. Teachers intentionally plan and shift instructional minutes.
 - PD & CBT skills, we are almost complete with all of the strategies and goals.

IV. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- The co-CEO highlighted two staff members who were interviewed by LinkIT. Our Network Director of Data & Systems Strategy and Managing Director of Academic showcased how the search for standardized practices led to an integrated data management system.
- Shared a reminder of the Board Open House for East Harlem and Kingsbridge on March 5th.

V. Principals Report

A. Kingsbridge Elementary

- The KBES principal reported that they held a spelling bee and shared pictures of their champions. The classes make signs for their classmate and families join in as well.
- The KBES I-Ready lunch and munch went well!

B. East Harlem

- The East Harlem Principal highlighted the STEAM classroom hosted by Ms. Aliyah. The students are programming robots, coding, and learning about AI. They had a play trip to the New Victory Theater, every grade at least once, every Thursday. We have Horace Mann High School seniors tutoring math to middle school students.
- EH also held a "Know your rights" workshop.

C. Kingsbridge Middle School

- The KBMS principal shared that the 5th-grade visual arts students selected an artist, learned about the artist, and completed projects. These projects were showcased at school and were called "A Modern Journey." The students attended a trip to MOMA.
- The school hosted its i-Ready lunch and munch. There were games, and celebrated with pizza.

D. Inwood

- The IW principal highlighted their i-Ready lunch and munch. They had a pizza celebration to recognize the stretch goal.
- The school hosted a city harvest food drive; each class had its own box. Partnership with Opera on Tap. Second and third graders gave up their lunch recess time to go and become storytellers. They recorded a puppet show. This ran for 12 weeks twice a week.
- The IW principal announced her resignation and will finish the rest of the school year.

VI. Closing Items

A. Approve Minutes

Robyn Epps made a motion to approve the minutes from January Board Meeting on 01-14-26.

Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce seconded the motion.

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

Robyn Epps made a motion to approve the minutes from January Board Meeting on 01-14-26.

Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce 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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miguelina German