



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

January Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

Amber Charter School, Kingsbridge Elementary- 3120 Corlear Ave, Bronx, New York 10463.

Trustees Present

Kim Ramos, Li'Esha Garcia, Lindsay Marino Long, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Miguelina German, Robyn Epps

Trustees Absent

Brad Olsen, John Gutierrez, Khiera Pena, Soledad Hiciano, Timothy Day

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Clarisse Alvarado, Emily Griffin, Kirsys Gomez, Rose Castillo, Sashemani Elliott, 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 Jan 14, 2026 at 6:09 PM.

II. Development Committee

A. Update

- Development Committee Updates
 - The development chair announced that we have surpassed the give/get and are almost at \$80,000, when our goal was \$60,000.
 - Suggested hosting a casual fundraiser at our Inwood campus. Some details include:
 - Mocktail style event
 - light bites
 - May or June event
 - Use the patio space
- The Chief Communications Officer went to a fundraising event that hosted two companies/programs at once, so maybe working with a community partner with Amber.
- The board discussed the positive outcome of hosting a shared event, which can lead to the opportunity for our sponsors and donors from both organizations to visit our school.
- The Board Secretary questioned how much it would cost to put the event together.
 - The co-CEO responded with about \$7,500, which is around the price they had for the last patio event.
- If we move forward with this joint event, the profits would be split between the organizations. This includes sharing the cost of food and making a program with them.
- The board settled on the idea of keeping it an Amber-only event and honoring a person from one of the organizations. Tell their story, and extend an invitation to anyone on their list.
- The co-CEO suggested the Board open house to bring donors and continue engagement with them.
- The board determined that early fall would be the best time for our organization to host the fundraiser.
- The board secretary discussed the idea of Alumni engagement. This can be a way to keep relationships with Alumni, informing them of what events have happened since they were here, building momentum, and then asking for funds.

III. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- The co-CEO shared that our Kingbridge Middle School seniors received their senior sweaters.

- 7th graders collectively re-created Van Gogh's scary night portrait, and it is framed and displayed at our Inwood Campus.
 - The Board Secretary asked if we could upload it to our Instagram page.
- The co-CEO shared the KBES & East Harlem winter celebration, where families created gingerbread houses with their children.
- Family Teacher Conferences.
 - 95% network wide for parent participation.
- The co-CEOs will be attending the NYC Charter Advocacy group at the end of the month through the Charter School Growth Foundation, and we will be meeting with the Buck Foundation. We are hoping to discuss ways that we can collaborate with philanthropists and talk about any shifts in charter funding.
- The co-CEO reported that EFF has finally approved the refinancing of our Inwood loan. She thanked the whole team for participating in the initiative and discussed next steps. The second phase is to receive a tax-exempt bond from Build NYC.
- The co-CEO shared that Powerschool parent portal can be accessed by all grades from K-8 to view their child's academic progress.
- Budget meetings for the SY 26-27 have already started.
- Board open house is scheduled for March 5th, 2026, at East Harlem and Kingsbridge Elementary.

IV. Board Chair report

A. Updates

- The interview committee has a potential board candidate. The next step is scheduling an in-person meeting with the co-CEOs and the Board chair at one of our schools.
- The board secretary announced that the executive committee is exploring the option of having fewer board meetings for the upcoming school year. More updates to come at the next board meeting.

V. Closing Items

A. Approve December Board Minutes

Kim Ramos made a motion to approve the minutes from December Board Meeting on 12-11-25.

Miguelina German 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 6:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Miguelina German