



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

April Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday April 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

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

Trustees Present

Brad Olsen, John Gutierrez, Kim Ramos, Li'Esha Garcia, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Robyn Epps, Timothy Day

Trustees Absent

Khiera Pena, Lindsay Marino Long, Miguelina German, Soledad Hiciano

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Emily Griffin, Kirsys Gomez, Rose Castillo, Sashemani Elliott

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 15, 2026 at 6:23 PM.

C. Check-In

II. New Board Member

A. Vote New Board Member Carlos Gomez Marquez

John Gutierrez made a motion to Approve Carlos Gomez Marquez as a new board member.

Kim Ramos seconded the motion.

- Carlos introduced himself and shared his experience and education below.
 - After college, a tutor at Amber, then a TA (5 years)
 - Grad school then went into higher ed, mostly admissions
 - Crucial time in admissions, and a lot of international students are impacted by the current situations
 - Carlos expressed wanting to bring focus and energy to working at Amber in this capacity, knows the school well, recognizes many of the people here, and is looking forward to learning more about the locations (familiar with EH).

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

Roll Call

Li'Esha Garcia	Aye
Robyn Epps	Aye
Soledad Hiciano	Absent
John Gutierrez	Aye
Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce	Aye
Khiera Pena	Absent
Kim Ramos	Aye
Timothy Day	Aye
Brad Olsen	Aye
Miguelina German	Absent
Lindsay Marino Long	Absent

III. Student Lottery

A. Update

CCO shared a slide deck presentation with an update on the student lottery.

- There were 649 offers, and 255 were accepted. We made all eligible offers.
- In 2025, the accepted number of students in April was 209 for comparison.
- The admissions team made over 600 calls and moved families to get registration verified, doing individual tours (trying to cater to families as best as they could).
- Engagement events coming in May and over the summer.

- Might not see as much back-filling this year compared to last year, but will still keep recruiting, canvassing, etc

IV. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- Co-CEO updated the board on refinancing
 - We submitted two applications to Build NYC
 - We continue with the Build NYC due diligence process. We began due diligence calls with NYC Build staff and their attorneys last September, and this continues. If all goes well, we will be brought to their board at their May 2026 meeting.
 - Every week since last summer, we have had a team working with us on refinancing: (Eric Seltzer (AEF counsel), EFF, PNC & their counsel, ACS & their counsel (Lisa Holtzmuller).
 - We received extensions with Civic and LISC for current loans until May 30, 2026 (will need to extend again). We are likely to close by Fall 2026.
 - The interest rate due to the extension increased from 4.71 to 6.25.
 - Azimuth approached AEF about purchasing its leasehold interest in the IW building, potentially resulting in about 13 million in savings over time by becoming the direct leaseholder. The Co-CEO and the Finance Committee chair will connect to discuss some specifics.
- Co-CEO provided updates on state testing
 - Launching state testing this Monday.
- Family Teacher Conferences
 - 97% of families attended teacher conferences
- Updates on SUNY CSI Renewal
 - We received a 5-year renewal with a condition. The condition is to ensure we meet the teacher certification act requirements by the end of the charter term.
 - We need to submit a corrective action plan to CSI by July 1, 2026.
 - We've already made progress on the threshold and are now just 3 teachers away from the certification percentage we need.
 - We are also facing the challenge of the hours required for "student teaching" to get staff certified. Our CPO is working with partners to find flexible programs as a workaround.

V. Board Chair Report

A. Proposed Board Meeting Schedule

- The board chair proposed a schedule for next year's board meetings. Since Amber was incorporated prior to January 2011, we don't need to meet monthly and are only required to meet the quarterly requirement for not-for-profit corporations. To ensure we maximize board attendance, we are proposing building a schedule based on the months we need to make up to review academic results, audit review, and approve budgets, rather than monthly.

Li'Esha Garcia made a motion to Approve the proposed board meeting schedule for SY2627.

John Gutierrez seconded the motion.

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

VI. Closing Items

A. Approve Minutes

Kim Ramos made a motion to approve the minutes from March Board Meeting on 03-11-26.

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 7:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gutierrez