

Board Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025 – 1:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACS) met on Wednesday, August 6, 2025
432 Park Avenue, 14th Floor New York, NY 10022

Attending Trustees:

Alysia Steinmann
Ashley Garrett
Ben Hartman
Christine Sandler
Elaine Florio
Hannah Hoch
Ilene Lainer
Jason Stock
Mark Saretsky
Naeema Livingston
Paul O'Neill
Susanna Kvam Norris

Absent Trustees:

Carol Santiago-DeJesus

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director

1. Call to order

- **Action:** The NYCACS general meeting was called to order at 1:16PM

2. Board Business

- **Minutes from the 06-16-2025 Board Meeting**
 - At 1:16PM, the minutes from the Monday, June 16, 2025 Board meeting were reviewed.
 - **Action:** At 1:17PM, Ms. Sandler made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Garrett seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the minutes. Ms. Florio abstained.

3. School Updates

- **Involvement in NYC Charter Advocacy Coalition**
 - At 1:17PM, Ms. Fisher reviewed a previous discussion regarding NYCACS' involvement in a newly formed NYC Charter School Advocacy Coalition. Each of the member schools is required to commit time and financial resources to this initiative. Pros and cons were discussed.

- **Action:** At 1:21PM, Ms. Lainer made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$20,000 to join the newly formed NYC Charter School Advocacy Coalition. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the motion.
- **2025-2026 School Safety Plan**
 - At 1:22PM, Ms. Fisher reviewed the updated School Safety Plan required by NYSED along with required steps prior to Board vote (public notice, comment period, and meeting).
 - **Action:** At 1:24PM, Mr. Hartman made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 School Safety Plan. Ms. Garrett seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the plan.
- **Board Meeting and Event Calendar**
 - At 1:25PM, Ms. Fisher drew attention to the 2025-2026 Board meeting and event calendar included in the meeting materials.

4. Future Planning

- **Purpose and Membership of Future Planning Task Force**
 - At 1:26PM, Ms. Fisher and Mr. O'Neill discussed the benefit of a future planning task force. Now that org chart enhancements have been fully executed, and various potential future initiatives have been set forth, the value of a task force to spearhead related work is clear. Mr. O'Neill asked for volunteers to be part of that task force work. The following Trustees expressed an interest: Ms. Sandler, Ms. Lainer, Mr. Stock, Ms. Hoch, Mr. Saretsky. Mr. O'Neill would be involved as well.

5. Executive Session

- **Action:** At 1:35PM, Ms. Kvam made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss the Executive Director's performance evaluation and contract terms. Ms. Hoch seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the motion.
- **Action:** At 1:50PM, Ms. Hoch made a motion to leave executive session. Ms. Kvam seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to leave executive session.

6. Closing Items

- **Action:** At 1:51PM, Ms. Sandler made a motion to advance the ED contract process using the Executive Committee (including Ms. Hoch) as proxy for the full Board vote. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the motion.
- **Action:** At 1:52PM, Ms. Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Saretsky seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.