

Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025 – 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACS) met on Monday, October 20, 2025
NYC Autism Charter School East Harlem 433 East 100th St., 2nd floor

Attending Trustees:

Ashley Garrett
Boaz Aronson
Carol Santiago-DeJesus
Christine Sandler
Elaine Florio
Hannah Hoch
Ilene Lainer
Jason Stock
Mark Saretsky
Naeema Livingston
Susanna Kvam Norris

Absent Trustees:

Alysia Steinmann
Ben Hartman
Paul O'Neill

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Tiffney Jones, Director of Finance
Juan Gomez, Director of Operations

1. Call to order

- **Action:** The NYCACS general meeting was called to order at 5:10PM

2. Board Business

- **Minutes from the 08-06-2025 Board Meeting**
 - At 5:10PM, the minutes from the Wednesday, August 6, 2025 Board meeting were reviewed.
 - **Action:** At 5:11PM, Mr. Saretsky made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the minutes. Ms. Santiago abstained.

3. School Updates

- **Students and Families**
 - At 5:12PM, Ms. Fisher gave a quick update on the new students and families who joined each school. A more thorough school report will be delivered by the leadership team at the November meeting. Additionally, a consultation report will be delivered at the January meeting.
- **Charter Coalition**
 - At 5:15PM, Ms. Fisher provided an update on the newly formed NYC Charter School Advocacy Coalition that NYCACS has joined. The current initiative this group is focused on is a voter registration/turnout campaign for charter families.
- **Operations and Facilities**
 - At 5:21PM, Mr Gomez provided findings from his assessment of Operations functions across the organization along with some of his team's work to date and goals for the future.

3. Finance Committee

- **FY25 Draft Audited Financials and 990s**
 - At 5:38PM, Ms. Jones presented the draft audit report and 990s, both of which were reviewed with the Finance Committee by the auditing team at the most recent meeting. NYCACS received a clean audit report with no management letter.
- **ERTC**
 - At 5:48PM, Ms. Jones reviewed the status of our ERTC submission. Any decisions on this line of funding is being slowed by the government shutdown and resulting backlog.

4. Future Planning

- **Future Planning Task Force Kick Off Meeting**
 - At 5:51PM, Ms. Fisher reviewed the content of the first future planning task force meeting, which included a discussion of the proposed DREAM partnership timeline as well as the hiring of counsel to assist in reviewing due diligence documents and creating agreement language.
- **High School**
 - At 5:55PM, Ms. Fisher updated the Board on her recent conversation with the Division of School Facilities related to the potential high school space being held for NYCACS. As of right now, that space is still available should high school planning move forward, even if that extends into the 2027-2028 school year.

5. Governance Committee

- **Committee/Task Force Structure and Membership**
 - At 5:59, Ms. Fisher reviewed the current Board committee and task force structure and membership, along with the schedule of meetings.
- **Board Commitment Tracker**
 - At 6:05, Ms. Fisher reminded Trustees of the Board commitment tracker which will be initiated in January to collect Board engagement data across several areas. Individual

data will then be shared with each Trustee so that they are aware and can create future engagement goals if desired.

6. Fundraising/Upcoming Events

- **Board Fundraising Goal**
 - At 6:09PM, Ms. Fisher reviewed the plan, discussed at a previous meeting, to set a Board fundraising goal targeted toward the cost of staff appreciation and compensation initiatives outside of salary and health benefits. Progress toward this amount will be reviewed at each meeting.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - At 6:14PM, Ms. Fisher gave a reminder about upcoming events including:
 - Giving Tuesday - December 2
 - East Harlem Piano Recital – Friday, December 5 @ 12:30PM
 - Bronx Piano Recital – Wednesday, December 10 @ 9:00AM

5. Executive Session

- **Action:** At 6:17PM, Ms. Lainer made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss the two sensitive personnel issues. Mr. Saretsky seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the motion.
- **Action:** At 6:28PM, Mr. Stock made a motion to leave executive session. Ms. Garrett seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to leave executive session.

6. Closing Items

- **Action:** At 6:29PM, Ms. Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.