

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 11, 2026 – 5:00PM**

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACS) met on Monday, May 11, 2026  
NYC Autism Charter School East Harlem 433 East 100<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Attending Trustees:**

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

**Absent Trustees:**

Alysia Steinmann  
Elaine Florio  
Ilene Lainer

**Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:**

Julie Fisher, Executive Director  
Tiffney Jones, Director of Finance

**1. Call to order**

- **Action:** The NYCACS general meeting was called to order at 5:03PM

**2. Board Business**

- **Minutes from the 03-16-2026 Board Meeting**
  - At 5:05PM, the minutes from the Monday, March 16, 2026 Board meeting were reviewed.
  - **Action:** At 5:06PM, Ms. Santiago made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Garrett seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the minutes.

**3. Governance Updates**

- **Gifts for Recent Departures**
  - At 5:07PM, Ms. Fisher let the Board know that gifts have been purchased for Trustees who recently left the board which will be shipped to them as soon as they arrive.

#### **4. Per Pupil Funding**

- **Response from NYC DOE on Per Pupil Funding**
  - At 5:09PM, Ms. Fisher reviewed the response from the NYC DOE on NYCACS's funding request. NYC DOE representatives indicated that no increase would be forthcoming and gave no date by which we could reinstate a conversation about an increase, despite the fact that the totality of our funding has been frozen since 2020. Ms. Fisher indicated that she will begin working on a strategic follow-up plan.

#### **5. Finance Committee**

- **Compensation Adjustments**
  - At 5:10PM, Ms. Fisher briefly discussed the compensation adjustments reviewed by the Compensation Task Force and discussed at the last Board meeting. Since the last meeting, she and Ms. Jones looked carefully at impact – specifically to individuals with longer tenure within a single role. They feel confident that these adjustments will not negatively impact any one employee.
- **ERC Update**
  - At 5:13PM, Ms. Jones alerted the Board to the fact that another tranche of ERTC funds was released to the school which will further alleviate some of the deficits projected for FY2026.
- **FY2026 Budget**
  - At 5:13PM, Ms. Jones presented the draft budget for FY2027. She reviewed each school as well as the combined budget. While the projected deficit is significant, NYCACS has strong reserves to cover it in the short term. Longer term projections look much bleaker without a funding increase.
    - **Action:** At 5:30PM, Ms. Garrett made a motion to approve the FY27 draft budget. Ms. Norris seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the FY27 budget.

#### **6. Fundraising/Upcoming Events**

- **Upcoming Events**
  - At 5:31PM, Ms. Fisher reminded the Board about upcoming events including the annual Baseball All Star Game on Friday, May 15 as well as the Brooklyn Half Marathon in which three staff and one staff family member will be running to support NYCACS.

#### **7. Executive Session**

- **Action:** At 5:33PM, Ms. Garrett made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss confidential information about a potential partnering organization. Ms. Santiago seconded the motion and the Board voted, unanimously approving the motion.
- **Action:** At 6:29PM, Ms. Garrett made a motion to leave executive session. Ms. Hoch seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to leave executive session.

#### **8. Closing Items**

- **Action:** At 6:30PM, Ms. Santiago made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Saretsky seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.