LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

July Board Meeting Notice

Monday, July 28th, 2025 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/zwc-nqgq-eoj
Or dial: (US) +1 318-596-1082 PIN: 506 225 462#

715 Village Lane, Orient, NY
172 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024
415 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
50 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075
321 South Country Road, Brookhaven, NY
80 Bay Street, Southampton, NY 11968
3 Brooklands, Bronxville, NY 10708
211 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024
28 Flying Cloud Rd., Stamford, CT 06820
9 Petersville Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801

Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule - 2025-26 School Year

July 28th	August 25th	September 29th	October 27th
November 17th	December 15th	January 24th *Board Retreat*	February 23rd
March 23rd	April 20th	May 18th	June 15th

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July Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 28th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

830 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474
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Video call link: https://meet.google.com/zwc-nggq-eoj
Or dial: (US) +1 318-596-1082 PIN: 506 225 462#

- Vote on June's Board Meeting Minutes (5 minutes)
- CEO's Board Report (15 minutes)
- NY State Portrait of a Graduate Presentation by M. Hittenmark (10 minutes)
- Finance Report (15 minutes)
- Development & Marketing Report (5 minutes)
- Committee Updates (10 minutes)
- Public Comments
- Executive Session (30 minutes)
- Adjournment

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CHARTER SCHOOL

July Board Meeting Minutes, July 28, 2025

Board Members Present: Ruth Jarmul Rosann Santos Deborah Dumont David Schatsky Nicholas Ober Tony Stoupas Catherine Jessup Herb Fixler Julie Medler **Board Members not in Attendance:** Talal Rojas	**Others LION asked to be in Attendance:** Keveney McCrillis, Director of Communications and Strategic Projects Celia Sosa, CEO Leslie Rich, CFO Maya Severns, Director of Development and Marketing Matthew Hittenmark, HS Principal **Members of the Public:**

Herb Fixler, board trustee, called for a motion to begin the meeting at 6:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Julie Medler and unanimously approved.

Herb Fixler then motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the June meeting minutes, which had been shared via email before the meeting. Talal Rojas seconded the motion. The June meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Tony Stoupas, board chair, entered the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Celia Sosa, LION's Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the CEO report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She shared that the senior leadership team had just returned from a three-day retreat. Celia reviewed some of the content covered at that retreat. She then highlighted the results of the internal school culture survey. There was a board question about whether anything surprised the school in the results. Celia answered. There was a board question regarding the survey category aligned to the quality of instruction. Celia answered. There was a positive board comment on the high job satisfaction numbers reported.

Celia then updated the board on the status of the special education funding group she has been a part of alongside the NYC Charter Center.

Celia discussed enrollment. LION remains on track to be fully enrolled. There has been some attrition, and LION has done an initial analysis of that attrition. There was a board question about LION exploring the possibility of having a Pre-K. Celia answered that question. She then updated the board and shared LION's distraction-free school policy in line with NY State requirements.

Matthew Hittenmark, LION HS Principal, then led a report on what NY State presented to the Board of Regents regarding an updated portrait of a graduate, which rethinks graduation metrics

for NY State. LION is the only New York State charter school selected to pilot some of these graduation metrics. He discussed the components and how they have changed over time. There was a question about whether LION offers classes in financial literacy or climate education. Matthew answered. There was a board question about the definition of each of the six attributes of a graduate. Mathew answered. There was a board question about how this, when fully implemented, would affect LION students. Matthew answered. There was a board question about summer internships, and a suggestion that the board could assist with funds to help with that. Matthew and Celia responded to that. There was a board question regarding the impact of this on college readiness. Matthew answered. There was a question about how we could use this recognition in marketing to students and teachers. Celia, Matthew, and Maya responded.

Leslie Rich, LION's CFO, then presented her financial report, which was shared via email along with the monthly financials before the meeting. She began by discussing some close-out figures for FY'25. She addressed the audit that is underway, key performance indicators (KPIs), and cash projections for the next 12 months.

Leslie discussed the communication that she has received from NYSED and the federal government regarding Title Funding. This was anticipated and not a concern for LION's budget. There was a question about recent news reports regarding the release of federal funds. There was a board question about the mayoral candidates' possible reaction to charter schools and funding.

Leslie discussed that LION's auditing company is pointing us in the right direction regarding new revenue streams and cost-saving measures in case future years have further funding issues.

Maya Severns, LION's Director of Development and Marketing, presented the Development and Marketing report, which included the fundraising plan for FY26, previously shared via email with meeting attendees. She discussed the five-year average of historical funds raised. Maya shared a new composition of the fundraising goals and the push for additional fundraising, specifically grant funding, as a focus in the new year. There were no board questions regarding the fundraising plan.

Maya discussed the giving circles, LION's graduation campaign results, and corporate fundraising for FY'25. She addressed a shift to co-ownership of events with each division. Maya is excited about restarting a LION associate/alumni board. She concluded her discussion by outlining the board's fundraising goals.

Tony Stoupas asked for committee updates. Keveney McCrillis, Director of Communications and Strategic Projects, gave a facilities committee update, which included the interview of designers to work on the 730 Bryant redesign project. Maya Severns gave a Marketing committee update, which included a shift to a complete redesign of LION's website.

Tony Stoupas opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.

Tony Stoupas motioned to move into executive session at 7:14 PM. David Schatsky seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The board moved into executive session. The board returned from executive session at 7:36 PM. Tony Stoupas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. Nick Ober seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.