

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes of the 179th meeting held November 15, 2007 at 100 Longwater Circle, Norwell, MA.

Notice of this meeting was sent to appropriate governmental agencies and press, and was published in the "South Shore Charter Public School Update".

Trustees:

In attendance: Robert Gass (Chair), Jeffrey Seglin (Vice Chair), Michael Nuesse (Treasurer), Bill Smyth (Clerk), Miriam Brownwall, Dan Falkner (ex officio), Elaine French, Jack Kelly, Michael Maniscalco, Angie Pepin (ex officio), Michael Ryan, Frank White

In absentia: Ryan Brenner, Dorothy Galo, Ed Hagerty, Dominic Slowey, Charleen Tyson, David Whitemyer

Also in attendance:

Staff: Prudence Goodale (Interim Executive Director), Tom Gorsuch (Principal), Ted Hirsch (Assistant Principal), Kristine Shipp (Business Manager); Alicia Radl, Claire Overlee

Guests: Kerry Griffin, Mark Parker, Kathy Tyler, Brian Tyler, Andrew Tyler, Mike Hebert, Christopher Shipp, the Wright Family.

Bob Gass called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: M. Brownwall moved to approve the minutes to the 178th meeting. Seconded B. Smyth, motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Calendar Events:

- Next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 20, 2007.
- Charleen Tyson would like to step down from the Board and Edmund Hagerty would like to stay but will most likely step down due to personal issues. The Board has at least 2 openings and can add an additional 2 members.
- New charter school in Brockton. Bob Gass serving as technical help.

Open to the Audience: no report.

Faculty Report: no report.

Parents Association: Kerry Griffin reported

- Kerry Griffin asked if a board member could be present at the next meeting which will be held on December 3rd. Frank White volunteered and Jeff Seglin will act as back up...

Student Report: no report

Business Office: M. Nuesse reported

- Kristine Shipp distributed a hand out clarifying the two options for refinancing current debt and securing monies for build out.

- M. Nuesse feels the School should take a wait and see approach before a formal recommendation is brought to the Board.
- Kristine Shipps and Charleen Tyson are planning to have a conference call.

Executive Director Report: Prudence Goodale reported.

- P. Goodale introduced Claire Overlee regarding the K-8 school store “The Wave” relative to the Wellness Policy. Claire introduced students Carla Bendott; Kaitlyn Shipps and Kayleigh Wright who gave a presentation on the Wellness Policy and what changes the store has made.
- P. Goodale introduced Alicia Radl to give an update on Safety and Security and actions the school is taking. Prue met with the Norwell Police and Fire Chiefs. A Public Address system has been put into place. Alert Now (automated telephone messaging system) is updated and in place. Restraint Training is taking place and 12 faculty and staff have been trained with every Level covered. Two way radios have been purchased and well as a defibrillator. These were purchased with funds from the Foundation which Prue thanked the Foundation for the \$7,500 grant. The School will be having a presenting and Bullying and Internet Safety. Bob Gass signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will be also signed by the Norwell Police Chief. The School will also conduct a practice lock down.
- Prue introduced Andrew and Brian Tyler who made a presentation with Michael Hebert co-founder of Sail Nantasket regarding a proposal to initiate a student sailing team in collaboration with High School students from Hull. The 1st year the sailing team would be a club sport and if the team passed the necessary test it would then be considered a varsity sport. Sailing members would need personal floatation devices and dry suits. The Sail Nantasket funds could assists members with financial grants if needed. Some athletic fees would apply. P. Goodale recommends the Board support this team with the contingency upon Hull supporting as well... SSCPS has \$1,700 budgeted for this.

MOTION: B. Smyth to approve and support the collaboration of SSCPS students becoming part of the Sail Nanatasket team with caution as to the student and school cost. M. Brownwall seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- SSCPS received notification that ten students received the Abigail Adams Scholarship.
- Eight SSCPS students were inducted into the National Honor Society at a ceremony on November 14th.
- K. Shipps and P. Goodale attended the Charter School conference. Difficulty and uncertain times for Charter Schools.
- The family of Torri Wightman wants to direct the funds donated in honor of their daughter to fund the In Control Driving course for SSCPS students. Proposal to require any student driver to have taken course in order to receive parking privileges at SSCPS.

MOTION: J. Seglin to approve the policy requiring student drivers to take the In Control Driving course. M. Brownwall seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- Prue introduced Ted Hirsch and Tom Gorsuch to discuss MCAS.
 - T. Gorsuch discussed the School Improvement Plan and how to improve MCAS scores.
 - Students met Performance target but did not meet Graduation Rate. Looking to improve Senior Advisory program and tracking of students at risk.
 - T. Hirsch presented the Board with the data on MCAS scores by individual student and by grade. Much discussion went into how is MCAS helping use teach students. Are students that are with SSCPS for a long time doing better on MCAS? Both Tom and Ted agreed that they do.
 - B. Gass wanted to stress the understanding of MCAS data.
 - B. Smyth asked when we would get the next scores which will be next August.
 - B. Gass recognized audience member Mark Parker (SSCPS Parent) to speak about his MCAS concerns.

- B. Gass thanked T. Hirsch and T. Gorsuch on the MCAS data and shared his concern about what our students are doing.

Committee Reports:

Bob Gass stressed the importance that each committee submits their meeting minutes.

Facilities Committee: Mike Ryan reported– Initial meeting was held and chair will get drawings from Tappe and set up a meeting with K. Shipps next week.

Development Committee: Jack Kelly presented report. Working on the Annual campaign in early spring (March or April).

Governance: Bill Smyth reported. – Four people have expressed interest in joining the Board. Jo Loughnane, Cheryl Peterson, Brian Tyler and Cassandra Corbin. The Nominating Sub Committee will interview these potential candidates...

Personnel: Frank White reported

- The Board would like P. Goodale to extend here appointment for a second year. B. Gass will research the School's options with the Department of Educations. B. Gass will also hold meeting with staff and parents for feedback before the Board takes action. The Board agrees with this approach.
- Personnel Committee is working on compensation plans for 2008.
- Committee is also working on updating the Personnel Handbook.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Smyth (Clerk)
Kathy Sobol