

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes of the 194th meeting held March 26, 2009 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: Bob Gass (Chair), Jeffrey Seglin (Vice Chair), Alyse Algera, Kasundra Brown-Corbin, Dan Falkner (ex officio), Michael Maniscalco, Michael Nuesse, Angie Pepin (ex officio), Cheryl Peterson, Rena Shea, Bill Smyth (Clerk), Brian Tyler (Treasurer), David Whitemyer

In absentia: Miriam Brownwall, Deidre Lamoureux, Jo Loughnane, Michael Ryan

Also in attendance:

Staff: Prudence Goodale (Interim Executive Director), Kristine Shipps (Business Manager), Jim Connolly (7-12 Principal), Ted Hirsch (K-6 Principal), Velma Begley (Level I Coordinator & Teacher);
Kassandra Grant (Level I Teacher), Elise Lovejoy (Level I Teacher),

Audience: Parent: Jon Belber, Deborah Brown, Denise Demaggio, Geraldine Elliot, Annette Golden, Kirsten Larsen, Lizanne Moffett, Nancy Schaeffer Flynn.

Bob Gass Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. A moment of silence was taken in honor of Robert Bowker Kelly.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: J. Seglin moved to approve the minutes to the 193rd meeting held February 26, 2009 as amended. Seconded B. Smyth, motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee: B. Tyler reported

- Update on stolen items: Items have not been located. Insurance settlement net return is \$11,000 plus \$800.
- FY10 Budget process has begun. Combining the information from State, Charter School Office and towns. No final answers as of yet. Limited information is available. Other schools are building budgets based on 5-10% reduction.
- FY09 Enrollment FTE 519 – tuition dollars may be over budget if enrollment stays for remainder of year.
- K. Shipps attended the Annual Charter School leader day. MPCSA stressed the importance of the April 29th Advocacy Day at the State House. Funding issues will be voted on. Representation from every charter school is very important. The FY09 Budget should not be negatively impacted at this time.
- None of the Federal Stimulus money is for Charter Schools. The money will be used the help districts to stay at foundation budget which may trickle down.
- Received IDEA fund for next 2 year which should be used for equipment, software, materials and not on salaries.

MOTION: B. Smyth to approve the Finance report as stated. Seconded K. Brown Corbin, motion carried unanimously.

School & Academic Report:

Executive Director Report: Prudence Goodale reported.

- Difficult days for the school with the passing of a graduate. Group of students made tie dye shirts in his honor. The support staff is looking at ways to assist students and staff thought this time with bringing in mental health expertise in the areas of grief, death and suicide.
- DESE visits. Two groups have visited for the last two days. The initial feedback was good and we should receive draft reports in 4-6 weeks. The Executive Director thanked the faculty and staff for their assistance.

Academic Report

- Velma Begley presented an overview of the curriculum on Level I. Two of the projects, Kindergarten Dance Project and the Level I Garden/Farm Project presented the work being done by their students.
- Elise Lovejoy (Level I Teacher) read a prepared statement to the Board of Trustees. Board chair permitted parent comment. Board chair reminded attendees of the role of The Board versus the role of Administration. The parents were advised to meet with the Executive Director and Administration.

Chair requested a 2 minute recess at 8:16pm.

Board reconvened at 8:21pm

Committee Reports:

Audience: no report

Faculty: Dan Falkner Reported

- FASA negotiation team will join the Level Coordinators meeting on Monday to discuss calendar.

Parents Association: .no report.

Student Report: Alyse Algera reported

- Difficult week but there is a sense of strong community support for the students.
- Ten students with two faculty advisors attended a Diversity seminar.
- All High School students participated in a Community Building exercise regarding labeling.

Facilities Committee: K. Shipps reported

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday at 5:30pm
- Budget line items will be discussed.

Development Committee: P. Goodale reported

- Committee minutes were in the packet.
- Golf Tournament/Auction committee are meeting. Push to attract signups.
- Founders Celebration this Saturday and 115 people have indicated attendance.

Governance: Bill Smyth

- Committee has been working on a revised Solicitation Policy.

MOTION: J. Seglin to approve the recommendation of the Governance Committee and adopt the revised Solicitation Policy as distributed. R. Shea seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: J. Seglin and B. Tyler reported

- Board Chair and Executive Director will negotiate contract for the Part Time Executive Director.
- Committee will discuss timeline for search of permanent Executive Director.

Discussion: Renewal and HR Report

- Climate and Culture committee has been established to follow up on the February meetings.
- Communication came up as an issue.
- 68% of teachers have been at SSCPS for five years or less. Turn over in Administration also.
- Demographic changes in student population wit the move to Norwell.
- Project/Workshops difficulty for new teachers.
- Need to be clearer with new staff as to the differences in Charter schools.
- Long range challenges – staffing
- Next steps: Climate and Culture Task Force and Project/Workshop Task Forces committees will meet again with recommendations for improvement
- Board volunteers needed for the Accountability Plan committee.

MOTION: B. Smyth to adjourn the meeting. B. Tyler seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Smyth, Clerk
Pam Algera