

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes of the 189th meeting held September 25, 2008 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, Dan Falkner (ex officio), Jo Loughnane, Deidre Lamoureux, Michael Maniscalco, Michael Nuesse, Angie Pepin (ex officio), Cheryl Peterson, Bill Smyth (Clerk), Brian Tyler, David Whitemyer

In absentia: Kasundra Brown-Corbin, Miriam Brownwall, Elaine French, Jack Kelly, Mike Ryan, Rena Shea

Also in attendance:

Staff: Prudence Goodale (Interim Executive Director), Ted Hirsch (K-6 Principal), Kristine Shipp (Business Manager)

Audience: Kelly Burke, Debbie Cerilli, John Buckley, Charlie Webb, Students from P. Goodale's graduate course to observe

Bob Gass, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: B. Smyth moved to approve the minutes to the 188th meeting held August 21, 2008. Seconded D. Whitemyer, motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Calendar Events:

- The 4th Development Summit was held and two new parents stepped forward to chair the PA Fundraising Committee.
- John Earle (Johnny Cupcakes) SSCPS graduate and Foundation member was featured in the Patriot Ledger.
- SSCE Foundation Board met and approved the financial audit. The Board also appointed Jo Loughnane as a new member of the foundation. Jo replaces Jack Kelly.
- Next SSCPS Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008.
- The Harvest Road Race is Saturday, October 18th at Wompatuck State Park.
- The 2008-09 Annual Fund has begun.

Board Business:

- Board Committee Assignments –Chair will finalize...
- SSCPS Bylaws call for members of the Board to serve on two committees. The Board is looking to recruit new members. If you know of anyone who may be interested refer their name to the Nominating Committee.
- The Board has received two letters of resignation. Jeff Seglin read both letters to the Board.

MOTION: B. Smyth to accept with regret the resignation of John Kelly and Elaine French. Jo Loughnane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Open to the Audience: no comment

Faculty Report: Dan Falkner

- FASA will be meeting to elect officers.

Parents Association: .Deidre Lamoureux

- Next meeting Tuesday, October 7th – Miriam Brownwall will represent Board.
- Babysitting will be provided with the students from the High School Child Development Workshop. Hoping that this will help boost attendance.
- The November PA meeting is on Saturday the 8th at 10am.
- December 10th is Grandparents Day.
- PA chair will give the Board the dates of the meetings in order to scheduled Board representation.

Student Report: Alyse Algera

- Student Board is working on social events for the High School.
- The rest of the Student Board representatives are being selected for each advisory.

Business Office: M. Nuesse reported

- Finance Committee met prior to this Board meeting and reviewed the financial state of the school with the Auditors.
- Committee looking at the fiscal needs in the state of the current financial situation.
- Finance Committee will make recommendations at next meeting.
- M. Nuesse introduced John Buckley and Charlie Webb from Alexander Aronson Finning...
- John Buckley presented and reviewed findings from the FY08 financials:
 - The overall financial state of the school is good.
 - Every Board is now looking at diversifying cash into smaller banks with protection from FDIC.
 - This year's financials include the one time event of the refinancing of the loan. Statement shows \$100,000 in refinancing expenses. Also shown is the \$300,000 of fixed assets (science lab and new classroom) as well as \$400,000 surplus spent on capital expenditures and refinancing costs.
 - Surplus cash as of July 1st approximately 2.1M which gives 5.05 months of reserve. This is average of where we should be. Non-profits look to have 3-6 months reserve.
 - State tuition payments – additional money will be coming from the Randolph override but not until March 09 or June 09.
 - Auditor's management letter and recommendations were discussed with Finance Committee.

MOTION: M. Nuesse to accept the audit as presented. J. Seglin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report: Prudence Goodale reported.

- 7-12 Principal Search Update: 50 applications were received in which the committee reviewed and ranked all applications. Nine candidates were brought forward for the committee to interview. Of the nine, two received new positions and one did not respond. The committee will interview the six remaining candidates. The remainder of the process should take 3-4 weeks with an appointment to start in January.
- Earlier this week a party for Tom Gorsuch was held and the school presented him with a Captain's Chair with the new SSCPS logo. Also established will be an award for a graduating senior. Tom will help with the selection details.
- Purchased diesel van that is being converted to a "Veggie" van. Kit has been ordered; oil will come from the 99 Restaurant. The van should be ready in 3 weeks.
- Level IV students were presented with a powerful workshop regarding anti-bullying.

- Received letters from Level II demonstration a friendly letter. Letters were passed around.
- Teacher Mentor program – Dan Falkner is coordinating; staff meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month.
- Enrollment Update – anticipate 2 new students starting which would bring enrollment to 518. Numbers down due to transportation costs, raising the academic bar; some students opted to attend Vo-tech programs.
- Reviewed the letter which was sent to all parents (Board was copied) regarding the school’s MCAS results and AYP status. The letter highlighted the changes that have and are taking place to improve student performance and proficiency while keeping up with the changing school climate and population. Putting into place afterschool tutoring in Math and ELA for students in grades 3-8. Formal MCAS presentation will be made at the next Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Facilities Committee:

- Committee is in need of new members.

Development Committee: reported under Executive Director

Governance: Bill Smyth

- The Governance Committee recommends two Bylaw changes for Board vote:

Addendum B iii: Ballots shall be counted by a Tabulation Committee consisting of at least one member from the Executive Committee and a parent designated by the Parent’s Association. Note: No person running for election can count votes.

MOTION: B. Smyth to accept as presented. M. Nuesse seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Article V 7 C (last sentence) by majority vote the Board of Trustees may fill vacancies created by the removal or resignation of an Officer or Trustee. The appointment shall remain effective until June 30th of the fiscal year in which they were appointed.

MOTION: B. Smyth to accept as presented. J. Seglin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Jo Loughnane reported

- Ad for Executive Director will be in this weekend. Deadline for applications is October 20th. Review of applications will begin on October 22. The goal is to have a recommendation to the Board by the December 18th meeting. This timeframe would allow for a second search if necessary. Search Committee is still looking for 2 faculty members and 2 parents. Kathy Arthur Tyler has agreed to represent the SSCE Foundation.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Smyth, Clerk
Pam Algera