

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

November 12, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 845 1468 9114

Passcode: 054502

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: Edwin Rivera (Chair), William Smyth (Vice Chair), Prue Goodale (Clerk), Vincent Walsh (Treasurer), Leslie Alden, Heidi Aylward, Katie Cianelli, Peter Farrell, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Ken Poudrier, Jody Regan, Honora Sullivan, Kathleen Trask, Katie Vecchione

In absentia:

Also in attendance:

Staff: Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Kristine Bingham (Director of Finance), Angie Pepin (Principal), Matt Tondorf (Director of Learning Services), Joyce Dandrow (Learning Services Teacher & FASA Chair), Derek Powers, Kerri Doble, Nora Broderick, Krista Cafourek, Marion Whalen Finn, Kassanda Sullivan, Melissa Freitas

Audience: Brittney Lofstrand, Cheryl Carrigan, Cindy Lydon, Laura Foley, Liz Sweeney, Michele Rankin, Satina Craffey, Sue Knineh, Amy Farrell, Kendra Polefka, Tiffany Brown Grier, Karen Boyle, Christina Walsh, Katie Wilcox, Kristine Duggan, Hilary Navarraro

Edwin Rivera (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:33pm

Board Business:

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: L. Alden moved to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2020 Meeting as presented. B. Smyth seconded. Motion carried unanimously

School & Academic Report: Alicia Savage, Executive Director reported

Accountability Plan

MOTION: V. Walsh to approve the amended Accountability Plan as presented. P. Farrell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Achievement

- Congratulations to the newest members of the National Honor Society. A virtual ceremony led by NHS Advisor K. Cianelli was held on October 19
- Congratulations to 20 members of the Class of 2021 who qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Students receive this award by scoring in the top 25% of their class or in the top 25% of their sending district
- Special congratulations to Emmanuel Antenh who has been named a Commended Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended Scholars are nationally named based on the top 2-4% of students taking the 2019 PSAT exam

Enrollment

- Current enrollment is 1009. Work on enrollment continues amidst the pandemic
- Top sending district remains Weymouth with 25.4% followed by Randolph with 20%, Brocton with 11%
- Reviewed the changes to the Learning Model Table.

State of the School

- The school transitioned to full remote on October 9 and remained full remote until November 9. The building remained open for faculty, staff and for those students on IEP's with the greatest need
- On Tuesday, November 10 the school transitioned to hybrid and in-person learning. Thank you to the faculty and staff for the smooth transition back to hybrid
- Walls for the tents have been installed and heaters are on the way. The school will be utilizing the outdoor space all year long. Families will need to be aware so that students will be dressing appropriately for the weather
- The Instructional Task Force teams reconvened to address sustainability concerns with the faculty. The discussion resulted in recommendations to be included revisions to the Reopening Plan

Reopening Plan Addendum

Proposed changes:

- Schedule change to incorporate one day per week of full remote learning beginning November 20 and continue throughout the remainder of the school year. Students would be remote learning from 8:15am - 12:05pm followed by 2 hours of professional development, curriculum and lesson planning, and level meetings. Reviewed the scheduled changes to Levels III and IV and High School
- Reviewed the schedule changes to FIT, Advisory, specials and Project
- Working with the SSCPS Health Office, we have reviewed some of the state protocols regarding COVID-19 positive cases. Adopt the following recommendations to further strengthen CDC and DESE guidelines:
 1. Students should wear layered warm clothing as the winter months approach.
 2. All high school lunch periods will be outside under the tent.
 3. Windows will remain open at 100 during the school day.
 4. Art and music will be in the tent or in an open window classroom.
 5. Masks must be worn in the building at all times. Mask breaks are for outside time only.
 6. Students must continue to distance in class and outside.
 7. Students must be at least six feet away from one another when taking a mask break outside or eating lunch.

MOTION: P. Farrell moved to approve the Reopening Plan Addendum as presented. H. Aylward seconded. Motion carried unanimously by Individual role call

New and Revised COVID-19 Health Office Recommendations:

Additional COVID-19 School-Wide Recommendations:

- a. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, that student must remain in isolation for at least 14 days. The student may return to school after 14 days if they are symptom free, have tested negative and/or have a physician's note, and have not had a fever for 24 hours.
- b. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, all siblings must quarantine for at least 14 days. Siblings may return to school after 14 days if they are symptom free, have tested negative and/or have a physician's note, and have not had a fever for 24 hours.
- c. If a student demonstrates COVID-19 symptoms at school. The student and siblings will be sent home. The student and all close contacts will be asked to follow all CDC, MDPH, and DESE guidelines to determine a safe return to school.
- d. If a student is absent from school due to COVID-19 symptoms, all siblings and close contacts must remain home and quarantine until the criteria is met to safely return to school.

MOTION: P. Farrell moved to accept and approve the written Health Office recommendations. B. Smyth seconded. Motion carried unanimously by individual role call

Regional Calculation Update:

The DESE has not released new parameters surrounding town-by-town calculations. In meetings with the Commissioner and the Governor, the messaging is that schools are being asked to continue teaching in person no matter how the towns are coded. Current transmission rates are outside of school communities. The DPH recommends schools contact their local department of health to determine in-school rates of transmission that would constitute changing learning models. SSCPS has contacted the Norwell Board of Health and is awaiting guidance. SSCPS has also contacted Weymouth Board of Health who indicated that the decision is a school by school decision with a range of 3-5 cases to move to full remote. Waiting further guidance from DESE as well as the local Board of Health.

MOTION: K.Poudrier moved to amend the current SSCPS Regional Calculation matrix to match that of the current DESE guidance that 25% of the schools population in the red zone for three consecutive weeks and convene an emergency Board meeting when the DESE guidelines are released to rewrite the policy. P. Farrell seconded.

MOTION AMENDED TO INCLUDE: In the event that there are cases of COVID-19 in our school, SSCPS will consult with the Board of Health and make determinations about school closures on a case by case basis. P.Farrell seconded. Motion carried by individual role call with one member opposed

Committee Reports:

Faculty:

J.Regan and K. Cianelli reported:

- Teachers have expressed concern in returning to hybrid despite spiking cases. Some have recommended that the school transition to full remote learning for the week after Thanksgiving
- Every teacher would like to see their students in person
- The schedule change to include full remote one day a week should help teacher balance planning time and provide the time need for PD
- Several teachers asked that the Board keep into consideration some wiggle room in the guidance from the DESE to continue to keep the faculty safe

Students: Honora Sullivan reported

- Class of 2021 just finished Senior Seminar with Mary Carter. Seniors are in the midst of finishing their applications
- Student Board elections took place today and results will be announced tomorrow

Parents Association: Katie Vecchione reported

- The PA approved \$3,930 in grant requests. All online learning applications/programs were approved as well as \$1,000 seed money for the PA sponsored sign fundraiser.
- Sign fundraiser has raised over \$600 so far.
- PA is sponsoring a teacher appreciation raffle with a random winner each week
- A Remote Learning Survey was sent out and received 366 responses. Every grade level was represented as well as most towns. Comments on student workload ranged from too much to not enough. Parents indicated a need for more structure and activities for the afternoon hours. Briefly reviewed the results. Noted that the survey was conducted while the school was in full remote

Finance: Vinnie Walsh reported

The committee met in October and again this evening.

At the October meeting the committee reviewed the current FY21 financials. A recommendation was made to budget conservatively and implement a 10% reduction

Reviewed the December DESE FY20 Report based on the audit report

Updated tuition numbers should be available at the January meeting

Cash reserves will be used if necessary for this year

MOTION: B. Smyth moved to approve the Finance COmmittee report as presented. P. Goodale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Development: Leslie Alden reported

- The 30 Day Calendar fundraiser is going well with over \$5,000 already raised including monetary donations. Thank you to all who have already donated and please pass on the link to family and friends

Governance: Prue Goodale reported

- Committee discussed the feasibility of updating Bylaws. Committee will review current Bylaws and provide clarification and editing.
- Committee reviewed current members terms and recruitment of new members.
- Committee reviewing and will finalize a tool for an annual self evaluation survey to be administered in the spring.
- Committee Chair will attend the next Parents Association meeting

Personnel: Bill Smyth reported

Nothing new to report

Additional Comments from Board and Audience:

- Board Chair will contact members to finalize Committee membership
- N.Julien and H.Aylward have been gathering community resources for Faculty/Staff. They will meet with K. Bingham
- Parent Colleen Leonard expressed her gratitude to Principal Angie Pepin and the entire staff for going above and beyond for the students and the school community

MOTION: V. Walsh moved to adjourn the regular meeting. K. Poudrier seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Algera

Approved by: Prue Goodale, Clerk