

# SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

October 14, 2021

700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061

Via [Zoom](#)

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:** William Smyth (Vice Chair), Prue Goodale (Clerk), Heidi Aylward, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Ken Poudrier, Kathleen Trask, Ken Poudrier, Jody Regan, Vincent Walsh, Tadhg Sullivan (pending DESE approval)

**Remote participation:** Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Katie Vecchione

**In absentia:** Edwin Rivera (Chair), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Peter Farrell

## **Also in attendance:**

**Staff:** Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Kristine Bingham (Director of Finance), Angie Pepin (K-12 Principal)

**Audience:** Remote: Diana Bazile, Kerri Doble, Maureen Guerre, Marco Pedulli In-Person: Derek Powers

Vice Chair B. Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:34pm

## **Board Business:**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** H. Aylward moved to approve the minutes from the September Meeting as presented. P. Goodale seconded. Individual Voice Vote: William Smyth Prue Goodale Heidi Aylward, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Ken Poudrier, Kathleen Trask, Ken Poudrier, Jody Regan, Vincent Walsh, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Katie Vecchione Motion carried unanimously

### **Committee Assignments and Board Bios**

- Committee Assignments - Work with Board Chair to finalize assignments and post on school’s website
- Members asked to review current bios on the school’s website and submit any changes

### **Finance Committee - Annual Audit Report**

Finance Committee welcomed Nicole Reilly from AAF CPA’s to review the FY21 Audit Report

- Audit performed with Federal and DESE guidelines.
- All reports issued are clean reports with positive outcomes.
- Reviewed Profit and Loss Statement - minimal audit adjustments as of June 30. Revenue \$20.5M vs. \$19M year prior/ Increase in tuition and government grants which prompted the federal review. All grant increase due to COVID-19; rev and expense Increases in expenses due to the school deciding to fund the new salary grid
- Ratios show the debt ratio is strong and in a positive range.
- Grants increased due to government funds.
- Reserves: liquid equity compared to operating expenses \$1.2M expenses per month 4.3 in reserve reduced vs year ago but still strong.
- Management letters to DESE no findings clean letter; board report nothing significant to report; Federal procurement is more stringent than DESE requirements.

**MOTION:** V. Walsh moved to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee and vote to approve the FY21 Audit as presented. K. Poudrier seconded. Individual Voice Vote: William Smyth Prue Goodale Heidi Aylward, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Ken Poudrier, Kathleen Trask, Ken Poudrier, Jody Regan, Vincent Walsh, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Katie Vecchione Motion carried unanimously

**Note:** K. Bingham thanked Kerri Doble (Staff Accountant) for all her hard work all year which contributed to a successful audit.

## **School & Academic Report**

**State of the School Report:** Alicia Savage, Executive Director reported

- On October 2 the Harvest Run and Back-to-School Picnic was held with a wonderful day thanks to so many community members including Parents Association, Katie Vecchione and Andrea Poudrier; SSCPS Facilities and many teachers and staff. Thanks to our sponsors and the high school students who designed the sponsor boards. It was a terrific day and we are thrilled to have the day back.
- MCAS results were released and reports sent out to families. School reviews data for trends. Data gleaned is now more complicated. Angie Pepin met with parents this morning to help parents understand their child's score. Reviewed the overall student achievement for 2021. Accountability classification has not changed. 10th grade percentages were lower due to many students in remote learning all year. Next steps: Use assessment tools such as: DIBELS; PSAT; iXL Diagnostics; Formative Assessments; and classroom observations. SSCPS held a robust summer program for Title I, Title III, SPED, and an additional Summer Acceleration Academy. Plans for summer programs will continue this next summer. After school tutoring will begin in November. Additional support for students in FIT, tiered supports in the classroom and ; MCAS FIT at the high school.

## **Enrollment**

- Current enrollment 1048; 1st grade lottery was held this week. Accepted 20 new students across grades.
- On November 1 the new application will be available as we launch another enrollment season. Planning an in-person Open House in December and "Talk to us Tuesday's" in January/February as needed. Registration will be required, with a limit of a student and an adult. Marketing on social media, newspaper, postcards, and lawn signs. Asking the Board and Parents Association for assistance with reaching out to their communities.

## **School Calendar**

- Reviewed and discussed the 1st draft 2022-2023 school calendar draft. Suggestion by PA Chair for 12/23 to be half day. January 2nd New Year's Day observed. Calendar to be voted at the December meeting. October state holiday - to be voted in November Columbus Day as state holiday; Indigenous People's Day observed

- **October State Holiday Presentation**

Discussion concerning the October state holiday and how it is recognized on the school calendar. The SSCPS calendar recognized both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day.

Presenters:

- Marco Pedulli - Science Teacher, Social Justice Workshop Advisor; BSU Advisor, HS Soccer Coach
- Students: Maureen Guerre and Diane Bazile; members of the Social and Racial Justice Workshop
- Derek Powers, 2nd grade Teacher

Dr. Pedulli introduced the students who presented on behalf of removing Columbus Day and replacing it with Indigenous Peoples Day. Derek Powers presented on behalf of keeping both on the school calendar. During Board discussion, the Board asked for more information including more input from the school community as well as researching the school's obligation as a publicly funding entity. More information to be presented at a later meeting to the Board.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Faculty: J. Regan and K. Cianelli reported**

- K-8 is back and committed to routines as students adjust to being back in the building. We are making progress.
- We finished Back to School nights, which were well-received by parents.

- Progress reports are already out, and we're almost done with the 1st Quarter
- Stephanie Chery ran another successful PSAT day for the Junior Class this past Wednesday.
- We are continuing to deal with behavior, and we have re-implemented lunch detentions, on top of the existing Saturday detentions. This allows for more immediate attention to minor behaviors, like cell phone usage and profanity slips. We are also holding numerous conversations with students about expectations and respect.
- Our student leaders have attended a MARC training through Bridgewater State University, which stands for Mass Aggression Reduction Center.
- SSCPS will be inducting 16 new members to the National Honor Society on Tuesday.

**Students:** T. Sullivan reported

- Students making progress adjusting to being back in-person
- Varsity Soccer on a winning streak;
- Best Buddies has started with advisor K. Trowbridge
- Students participated MARC training
- PSAT's were held this week and the NHS Induction Ceremony is next week

**Parents Association:** K. Vecchione reported

- Successful Back-to-School picnic and walk
- PA website has teachers Amazon Wishlist
- PA is working on updating the Bylaws
- Working on a November fundraiser, details to come.

**Development:** H. Aylward reported

- Development has nothing new to report

**Ad Hoc Facilities:** K. Poudrier reported

- Reviewing preliminary real estate costs

**Governance:** P. Goodale reported

- Committee is considering the results of self-evaluation survey and presentation at the summer meeting
- Monitoring the new Board mentoring program
- Reviewed Open Meeting Law
- Beginning next year, at the 1st meeting each Committee Chair presentations will be held with Committee memberships assigned by October/November
- Board Recruitment - One current member's term is up at the end of this year and there is room to add members

**Personnel:** B. Smyth reported

- Discussion of the Executive Director contact
- Private session for negotiations December
- Review and update of the Faculty Handbook will be ongoing

**Audience:** Public Comment

There were no additional comments from the audience or any questions/comments in the Zoom chat.

**MOTION:** J. Regan moved to adjourn the regular meeting. T. Deveau seconded Motion carried unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:32pm

Respectfully submitted:  
Pam Algera

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Approved by: Prue Goodale, Clerk