

# SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 9, 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), Vincent Walsh (Treasurer), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Jody Regan, Tadhg Sullivan

**Remote participation:** Edwin Rivera (Chair), Heidi Aylward, Pete Farrell, Ken Poudrier, Katie Vecchione

**In absentia:** Kathleen Trask

## **Also in attendance:**

**Staff:** Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Kristine Bingham (Director of Finance), Ralph deGennaro (Director of Technology)

**Audience:** Derek Powers (Remote), Daria Williams Fernandez (In-person)

## **Meeting Documents:**

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft minutes from 11/18/2021 meeting
- Executive Director Report
- FY22 Enrollment Status
- FY23 School Calendar
- Sample School Calendars from top sending districts
- October Holiday survey results
- Financials and Cash Flow - July-Nov 2021

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:36pm

## **Board Business:**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** B. Smyth moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting as presented. H. Aylward seconded.

### **Individual Voice Vote:**

**In favor:** H. Aylward, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Fluhr, P. Goodale, N. Julien, K. Poudrier, J. Regan, E. Rivera, B. Smyth, T. Sullivan, K. Vecchione

**Abstained:** P. Goodale and V. Walsh.

## **School & Academic Report**

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

- December brings back some old traditions. The 1st Trimester for grades K-4 has ended and we are halfway through the 2nd quarter. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held the next two Friday's. Additional conferences will be held in January and February for families on a waiting list. After School tutoring has begun and is held on Monday and Wednesday. Seniors are receiving early college acceptances with a few colleges offering on the spot acceptances. PSAT data is now available. Craft day will be held at the elementary school

- Sign ups for COVID 19 testing have increased. School wide there are 678 signed up. The Health Office conducted a direct outreach to families in grades K-8 and the same program will take place at the high school in the next week or so. Pooled testing will begin the week of January 4 with assistance from an outside agency.
- Reviewed the PSAT data. Juniors received their scores to aid in the college admissions process. This data will help to formulate any remediation needed during FIT time.

### **Enrollment and Admission Events**

- Current 1044; continue to accept off waitlist
- FY23 enrollment season began November 1; reviewed enrollment table
- Last year we held virtual Open House opportunities which were not well attended. Dropping enrollment appeared to be the trend for many charter schools. Despite this trend our waitlist data indicates 507 students on the waitlist as of March 2021.
- SSCPS will be hosting an in-person Open House next Thursday from 5-7pm. During January and February SSCPS will host *Talk to us Tuesdays* for visitors to tour while school is in session. Registration is required for all visits
- Lawn signs are available to be displayed. A Social Media campaign has begun. Our current families remain our best marketing. Application deadline is Monday, February 28 and the Lottery will be held on Friday, March 4, 2022

### **School Calendar**

- FY23 Calendar for review. 188 faculty/staff days and 180 student days The school year begins on August 30, 2022.
- Scheduled 1 full day for Parent/Teacher Conferences; 6 Professional Development Early Release days; 2 full Professional Development days; 3 Holiday Early Release days; Early Release last day of school 6/15. Five snow/emergency days will be added if needed June 16, 20, 21, 22, 23
- Reviewed top sending district current year calendar

**MOTION:** K. Cianelli moved to accept the 2022-2023 as presented and amend the calendar to include 3 early release days for grade 7-12 for Mid-Year Exams in January. B. Smyth seconded

**Individual Voice Vote:** H. Aylward, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, P. Farrell, K. Fluhr, P. Goodale, N. Julien, K. Poudrier, J. Regan, E. Rivera, B. Smyth, T. Sullivan, K. Vecchione, V. Walsh  
Motion carried unanimously

### **October Holiday**

- Reviewed the results of the survey which was completed by students in grades 5-12; parents and the faculty.
- The survey was a ranked choice voting as follows:
  1. SSCPS will continue to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and celebrate it with Columbus Day
  2. SSCPS will recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and remove any reference to Columbus on that day
  3. SSCPS will continue to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrate it with Columbus Day, and support student efforts to advocate for two bills currently in the Massachusetts Legislature, H.3191 and S.2027 which are acts to establish an Indigenous Peoples' Day at the statewide level
- Board member K. Fluhr read a statement (attached)

**MOTION:** V. Walsh moved to accept the recommendations of the majority of the SSCPS community and approve #3 on the survey. B. Smyth seconded.

**Individual Voice Vote:**

**In Favor:** T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, P. Farrell, P. Goodale, J. Regan, E. Rivera, B. Smyth, K. Vecchione, V. Walsh

**Opposed:** H. Aylward, K. Fluhr, N. Julien, T. Sullivan

**Abstain:** K. Poudrier

Motion carried

**Committee Reports:**

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

**K-8**

- Preparing for Parent/Teacher conferences. Teachers working in teams via Zoom to meet with families.
- Mid-term progress reports are sent to every student to update families
- More cases of COVID-19 are being detected with some students at home. Teachers working hard to keep students;
- The school has provided a new tool, iXL, which is being used for formative assessments to target students who may need remediation

**HS**

- Faculty preparing for Parent/Teacher conferences;
- Faculty are using any spare time to address behavioral issues;
- NHS will be hosting three blood drives
- NHS offering tutoring during Thursday FITS and after school
- Thank you to Administration for the treats before Thanksgiving break

**Students:** T. Sullivan reported

- High School Basketball has begun with 2 games played
- Clubs are meeting

**Parents Association:** K. Vecchione reported

- Parent are excited about craft day returning
- Looking forward to the pooled testing starting in January
- Community event to be held on December 28 with a movie and dining for dollars
- Next PA meeting December 15

**Development:** H. Aylward reported

- Development met this evening and talked about fundraising goals which includes Athletics, technology, transportation, play structure. Committee Interim Chair will work with Director of Finance to set monetary goals and work with the PA on strategies

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

- Nothing new to report

**Finance:** V. Walsh reported

- Finance met on Tuesday to review the DESE year end report which is based on FY1 audit report and is reformatted for submission to DESE.
- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the report

**MOTION:** P. Farrell moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve the DESE FY21 Year End Finance Report as presented. B. Smyth seconded

**Individual Voice Vote:** H. Aylward, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, P. Farrell, K. Fluhr, P. Goodale, N. Julien, K. Poudrier, J. Regan, E. Rivera, B. Smyth, T. Sullivan, K. Vecchione, V. Walsh. Motion carried unanimously.

**Governance:** P. Goodale reported

- Committee working on Board recruitment. Form for potential members is posted on the school's website. Interested candidates should contact P. Goodale for a submission packet due by the end of January. Interviews will be held early February. Looking for candidates with diverse backgrounds and members of the outside community. Committee encourages recommendations. Board will speak to the PA at their next meeting.
- Working on job descriptions for governance committee

**Personnel:** B. Smyth reported

- Committee met in Executive Session with the Director of Finance to discuss compensation options for the renewal of the Executive Director contract
- Employee Guidelines will be discussed at next meeting

**Audience:** Public Comment

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

**MOTION:** B. Smyth moved to adjourn the regular meeting. V. Walsh seconded

**Individual Voice Vote:** H. Aylward, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, P. Farrell, K. Fluhr, P. Goodale, N. Julien, K. Poudrier, J. Regan, E. Rivera, B. Smyth, T. Sullivan, K. Vecchione, V. Walsh. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Algera

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Approved by: Prue Goodale, Clerk

Statement from Board Member Kiki Fluhr

*While Columbus is an important figure to teach, I think we as a school should reconsider having a day in his celebration. Columbus initiated the two greatest crimes in the history of the Western Hemisphere, the Atlantic slave trade, and the American Indian genocide. [\(Link\)](#) [\(Link\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)*

*I believe we all broadly know about the atrocities he committed, that within decades of his landing on the island of Hispaniola the entire indigenous community had been decimated – all but 500 of the 300,000 people that had lived there had been killed. The primary sources that describe the massacres are many, and are horrifying to read. [\(Link\)](#)*

*But I don't know if it's widely understood that he was also sex trafficker of children.*

*This isn't me exaggerating, or being political. In his own words, about the Indigenous people he encountered on Hispaniola, he wrote,*

*“A hundred castellanoes [Spanish coin] are as easily obtained for a woman as for a farm ... there are plenty of dealers who go about looking for girls. Those from nine to ten [years old] are now in demand.”*  
[\(Link\)](#)

*Imagine telling our 4th and 5th graders that we are commemorating a man that stole, and sold, girls their age into sex slavery. And if you, like me, would never ever want to bring anything like that up to your 9- or 10-year-old, then we should not be celebrating this man.*

*If Indigenous peoples' lives mattered in our society, and if Black people's lives mattered in our society, it should be inconceivable that we would honor the father of the slave trade with a holiday. Columbus Day is no longer recognized in 23 of our 50 states. [\(Link\)](#) Boston, as well as 2 dozen other communities in Massachusetts have dropped Columbus' name from the October holiday. [\(Link\)](#) **We, as a school community**, don't have to wait for the federal or state government to transform Columbus Day into something more decent. There is no statute that says we must keep it on our calendar. We can choose to let go of the holiday that celebrates his crimes.*

*I will be voting for option 2.*