

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 10, 2022

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, Ken Poudrier, Jody Regan, Tadhg Sullivan, Kathleen Trask, Katie Vecchione

Remote participation: Edwin Rivera (Chair), Pete Farrell

In absentia: Heidi Aylward

Also in attendance:

Staff: Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Kristine Bingham (Director of Finance), Joe McSheffrey (Technology Support Specialist)

Audience: Remote: M. Freitas, C. Centrella, B. Lofstrand, D. Harper Padula, T. McMahon, C. Lyons, In person: Helen Li

Meeting Documents:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft minutes from 12/9/2021 meeting
- Executive Director Report
- Enrollment - FY22 Current; FY23 Application Status
- Financials and Cash Flow - July-Nov 2021

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

Board Business:

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: V. Walsh moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021 meeting as presented. K. Poudrier seconded.

Individual Voice Vote: E. Rivera, B. Smyth, P. Goodale, V. Walsh, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Fluhr, N. Julian, K. Poudrier, J. Regan, T. Sullivan, K. Trask, K. Vecchione All in favor; motion carried unanimously

School & Academic Report

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

- State of School - Classes resumed in January with at-home COVID-19 tests for faculty and staff. The School felt the Omicron surge. Reviewed the January attendance for both students and faculty/staff. Reviewed the COVID Testing Update
- Student Achievement - Mid-year exams were administered to grades 7-12 mid year exams and 3rd quarter has started. The School is celebrating Black History Month with student work displayed throughout the school halls. World Read Aloud day was celebrated on February 3 with high school students ready to the students in lower grades. Students and teachers preparing for MCAS testing in April and May.

- Teacher Diversification Pilot Program Grant - The School has been awarded \$231,234. Report Card sent home to all families. The grant will fund up to \$12,000 paras or unlicensed teachers to become certified in their subject area with their commitment to stay for 4 years \$93,000 have been distributed to date. There are 27 MTEL Vouchers requested.
- Enrollment and Enrollment Lottery - Enrollment is currently 1045. School hosted an Open House in December (last year Open House was virtual and not well attended) with visitors 118 at 100 and 39 toured 700. The School is hosting *Talk to us Tuesday* so families can see teaching and learning in action during February. As of February 1 490 applications have been received. The application deadline is February 28 and the Lottery is scheduled for March 4th. We have been notified by DESE to skip over for Randolph and Boston residents.
- Updates form DESE Mask Requirements - The announcement from Governor Baker regarding state recommendations was emailed:
After consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner will not renew the state mask requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022. Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide. The Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students supports this decision.

DESE and DPH strongly recommend students and staff continue to follow the DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios. This includes required mask wearing for all students and staff returning from quarantine for up to five days, inside and outside while attending school or work to align with quarantine timelines and guidance.

The Health Office may continue to require mask wearing while in the Health Office.

Masks must still be worn on all school buses and school transportation.

Committee Reports:

Faculty: J. Regan and K. Cianelli reported

K-8

- Parent/Teacher conferences held in December and January were very well-received by families and appreciated by teachers
- Pool testing is working well with additional nursing staff to assist
- Progress reports will be going out soon
- The mid-year exams were the first time for the 7th and 8th graders since they were not held last year. Students experiencing anxiety. Teachers emphasized the preparation with study guides to lessen the stress
- Middle school boys basketball finished the season 3-0. Middle school girls team also having a successful, brief season

HS

- A lot of faculty are pleased with the new testing procedures.
- We are looking forward to the Helping Traumatized Children Learn training, which was postponed due to the icy conditions last week.
- Duties are a huge concern for faculty. In the lower levels they are with the students from 7:45-3:30, and due to the students being in their room, have morning duty and dismissal duty every day. At the high school, there are increased duties in the morning, lunch, dismissal, and break duties. Since the administrative team has taken on bathroom duty around the clock, the high school has seen a significant decrease in bathroom issues. There is no easy solution to this, but there's a need for everyone to brainstorm possible solutions for next year. For the lower levels, parent volunteers were discussed as a possible solution.

- There is also a need for community building that the students are stepping up to fill. NHS is trying to drum up support for the basketball team by hosting a half court throw fundraiser, also encouraging everyone to attend the seniors' last game.

Students: T. Sullivan reported

- Third quarter has started
- BSU, GSA, NHS all continue to meet. The NHS is having a blood drive on March 16th. BSU is celebrating unsung heroes during black history month, announcing one hero every day over the loudspeaker and saying what they did in their lifetime
- The student board is selling bears to adopt for valentine's day to raise money for prom
- The final girls and boys basketball home games are tomorrow. The girls are currently 2-9. The boys are currently 9-2
- Volleyball, baseball, and softball are all starting soon

Parents Association: K. Vecchione reported

- Parents Association has approved grants for Cricut machine, rolling carts. Some funds are still available. Encourage teachers to submit a grant request
- Meeting next Wednesday.
- Last week the PA funded gifts for the school nurses in appreciation for all their work
- PA to host a staff appreciation event next month

Development: nothing new to report

Ad Hoc Facilities: K. Poudrier reported

- Nothing new to report revisit next meeting

Finance: V. Walsh reported

- DESE Q2 Per Pupil tuition revenue projections are \$16,586 which is good news. DESE Projections for FY23 is \$18,035.
- Water Damage at 100 Update - Initial insurance claim loss reports that the schools total loss is \$58,000. This is much lower than what the school has expended out of pocket for this loss. The School will provide additional documentation to the insurance adjuster to request additional reimbursement for out of pocket expenses not factored into the initial report. If needed, the School will look into meeting with a public insurance adjuster to recover additional losses if the insurance company does reimburse additional out of pocket expenses.

Governance: P. Goodale reported

- Committee met and will be interviewing potential Board candidates K. Trask will head the search.
- At the March meeting committee will review a document to explain what Governance does and the responsibilities of the committee
- Priorities for new year: By law revision (late June July)

Personnel: B. Smyth reported

- Committee is reviewing the Employee Handbook
- Committee held an Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiation

Audience: Public Comment

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

MOTION: P. Goodale moved to adjourn the regular meeting. B. Smyth seconded

Individual Voice Vote: E. Rivera, B. Smyth, P. Goodale, V. Walsh, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, K. Fluhr, N. Julian, J. Regan, T. Sullivan, K. Trask, K. Vecchione All in favor; motion carried unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Algera

Approved by: Prue Goodale, Clerk