

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 9, 2023  
7:30pm

Meeting held at 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061  
Meeting available via Zoom

Notice of this meeting was sent to appropriate governmental agencies, the school's website, and was published in the "South Shore Charter Public School Update".

**Trustees:**

**In attendance:** Edwin Rivera (Chair), William Smyth (Vice Chair), Vinnie Walsh (Treasurer), Kathleen Trask (Clerk), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Natacha Julien, Ken Poudrier, Kate Trowbridge

**Remote participation:** Kiki Fluhr, Jimmy Juste, Tadgh Sullivan

**In absentia:** Pete Farrell, Cindy Lyons, Andrew Sobers

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Remote Staff:** Kerri Doble (Staff Accountant/Procurement Manager)

**Audience:**

**Remote Audience:** Tochi Anuonyemere, SSCPS Student; Helen Li, Parent, Isabella Stumpo (Guest)

**Meetings documents:**

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from the February 9, 2023 meeting
- Executive Director Report
- Minutes from the joint Finance and Ad Hoc Facilities meeting
- Year-to-Date Financials
- Updated Procurement Draft Policy
- Governance Committee - Board candidate resumes
- Personnel Committee minutes from February 2023

**Opening of Meeting:** E. Rivera called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

**Board Business**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** V. Walsh moved to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2023 meeting. B.Smyth seconded.

**Vote by individual roll call:**

Edwin Rivera (Chair), William Smyth (Vice Chair), Vinnie Walsh (Treasurer), Kathleen Trask (Clerk), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Natacha Julien, Kate Trowbridge

**Remote participation:** Kiki Fluhr, Jimmy Juste, Ken Poudrier, Tadgh Sullivan

All in favor, motion carried unanimously

## School & Academic Report

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

Full Report may be found [here](#):

### Student Achievement:

- March is upon us K-12. Women's History Month has arrived. Classrooms and hallways are taking shape with the images and stories of phenomenal women who have shaped history.
- Middle and high school students have completed mid-year exams.
- The second trimester for students in grades K-4 has ended.
- The Class of 2023 has done some fantastic work completing Senior Debates and now college acceptances are rolling in.
- Student course selection for next year will begin over the next two weeks.
- Students are still talking about the overnight lock-in at 100 Longwater Circle.
- The Grade 10 ELA MCAS will get this MCAS season underway at the end of March.

### Enrollment Lottery:

- The Enrollment Lottery was conducted on March 3, 2023 virtually and in-person. This year we received 742 applications, 74 more than last year, for 97 openings. Seats were offered to students in Kindergarten and Grade 9. Special thanks to Pam Alger, Director of Admissions, Angie Pepin, Principal K-12, and Ralph deGennaro, Director of Technology and Communications.
- Anticipated openings are determined by the number of students currently enrolled, the number of students graduating in June, the number of students who have indicated they will be returning next year on the *Intent to Return* form, and the impact on academic programming for each grade level. Academic programming, and student mental health and emotional well-being remain the strongest factors for determining class size.
- The number of applications received from each sending district is also posted on lottery day.
- Highest number of applications: 1. Brockton (134) 2. Weymouth (122) 3. Randolph (102)
- Reviewed and distributed the Acceptance Packet which was mailed to each newly accepted student.
- Current enrollment remains at 1063

### Transportation Update:

- Transportation planning for the 2023-2024 school year is underway.
- Working with First Student, school administration will use data gleaned from the *Intent to Return* forms submitted by families to review current routes and stops and identify areas of improvement.
- Families who indicate their transportation preferences and needs on the *Intent to Return* form have been given first priority for next year's transportation services.
- Data from the SSCPS Annual Family Survey will be reviewed during the May Board of Trustees Meeting. This year's survey included an overall sliding scale evaluation of the transportation program and an area for comments.
- A tremendous thank you to the staff at First Student who worked so tirelessly throughout the weather event on February 28. First Student dispatch worked closely with us late Monday night, early Tuesday morning, and throughout the day.

**Annual Survey** - The annual survey closed March 6 with 43% of families participating. The full survey will be reviewed at the May Board meeting.

**Teacher Diversification Initiatives** - The school is participating in the DESE Teacher Diversification Professional Learning Community. Members of BSU will be included in the hiring process for the 2023-2024 school year.

**700 Longwater Drive** - Additional space on hold for the 2023-24 school year. Meeting with FoxRock to discuss schools future needs.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Faculty:** K. Cianelli reported

At 100:

- Community Outings continued this week with a trip to the Norwell FD.
- Level I EOMs occurred this week
- Level I visited Holly Hill Farm this past month for their winter walks. They will begin their bi-weekly visits again starting in April
- Level III's Character trait is Teamwork this month. They are currently doing a March Madness Reading Competition
- Level II's FITs with parent volunteers began this week
- Level III's Community Service Project has been busy collecting items for the homeless and creating care packages for those that are in need
- PE classes on the lower level are participating in the American Heart Association Fundraiser, which ends tomorrow

At 700:

- Roughly 50 students planned and executed the lock-in that we approved during the last meeting. The students had an amazing time, bonded over fun experiences, and reflected on their past together at SSCPS fondly
- Students from the BSU put together strong, informational, and necessary presentations for Black History Month delivered during advisories
- SATs/PSATs will take place on April 12th for 8-11th grades, and seniors are going on a field trip to the State House

### **Students:** T. Sullivan reported

- The lock-in held for juniors and seniors went well, no problems and people there had a good time
- The track, softball, and volleyball season are all starting soon. Sign up sheets have been posted and meetings are being held
- NHS, BSU, MSA, and GSA continue to meet

### **Parents Association:** No report

### **Finance:** V Walsh reported

- Committee met tonight and approved 2/16/2023 minutes
- The committee reviewed the draft procurement policy and recommended approval by the full Board. The Business Office will confirm the stated acronyms in the documents are accurate with the state

**Motion:** B. Smyth moved the recommendation from the Finance Committee and the auditors to approve the revised Federal Procurement Policy addendum as presented K. Trask seconded

### **Vote by individual roll call:**

Edwin Rivera (Chair), William Smyth (Vice Chair), Vinnie Walsh (Treasurer), Kathleen Trask (Clerk), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Natacha Julien, Kate Trowbridge

**Remote participation:** Tracy Deveau, Kiki Fluhr, Jimmy Juste, Tadgh Sullivan

All in favor, motion carried unanimously

### **Development:** No report

**Governance:** K. Trask reported

- Update on Board Recruitment - N. Julian reported Three interviews were conducted by N. Julian, J. Juste, and K. Trask with candidates for potential Board membership. Resumes were included in the packet.
  - Kathleen Sullivan - seasoned lawyer with experience 1st amendment law, human resources, and mediation and workplace policy. She has 10 years of previous Board experience and private school experience
  - Alisha Furst - strong communication skills, extensive experience in communication across opposition and functions, expertise in project management and merger acquisitions. She has some Board experience and has governance mindset and experience in a private school
  - Helen Li - some strength with extensive volunteer work and accolades in strong verbal communication, some experience in DEI, strong sense of opportunities for deficit lens, some consideration. There were some challenges to responding to what SSCPS is doing well and then demonstrated significant challenges in understanding the role of governance and challenges with relationship skills

The Governance Committee is recommending going forward with two candidates. Kathleen Sullivan and Alisha Furst. Vote at the May meeting

- Current slate is not filled. All four Executive Board positions are open for the 2023-24 school year. K. Prouder agreed to serve as Treasurer, V. Walsh agreed to serve as Vice Chair. Board may have a potential Clerk/Governance candidate which we will know soon.
- Jimmy Juste is interested but would like to know the direction of the Board and have support from the faculty and other members of the Board.
  - What do we need from the chair and how should the role contribute to the board's efficacy?
  - What are hopes for the work of the board over the next 18-months?
  - What concerns should be on the board's radar in the coming 18-months?
  - Where do we have room to grow as a board?

Discussion regarding role of Chair and the direction of the Board - Important for the Chair to be in attendance and to mediate over what could be differences of opinion and keep it civil. The second role is Committee assignments which are important for members to have expertise and fit the needs of the committee. - chair to assign committee membership and assign expertise to have balanced committees. Over the next 18 months, work on the potential expansion will need to be driven by the Chair with time and planning. Board's role is to support the school.

**Personnel:** B. Smyth reported

- Administration provided Personnel with FASA negotiations update
- Survey will be going out to the Board by email for the yearly Executive Director Evaluation with respond due by May 31. Emails will be sent out mid-May
- The Personnel Committee will be providing Faculty/Staff with a survey regarding the Executive Director. The survey will be sent out mid/late April. Information from this survey will be incorporated into the final evaluation.
- The results from the surveys as well as published Updates and Board reports will be used to finalize the evaluation.

**Audience:** Public Comment

There were no audience members and questions/comments in the Zoom chat.

**MOTION:** B. Smyth moved to adjourn the regular meeting. K. Trask seconded

**Vote by individual roll call:**

Edwin Rivera (Chair), William Smyth (Vice Chair), Vinnie Walsh (Treasurer), Kathleen Trask (Clerk), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Natacha Julien, Kate Trowbridge

**Remote participation:** Kiki Fluhr, Jimmy Juste, Tadgh Sullivan

All in favor, motion carried unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Algera

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Approved by: Kathleen Trask, Clerk