

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 13, 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: Edwin Rivera (Chair), William Smyth (Vice Chair), Kathleen Trask (Clerk), Vinnie Walsh (Treasurer), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Jimmy Juste, Ken Poudrier

Remote participation: None

In absentia: Pete Farrell, Cindy Lyons, Andrew Sobers, Tadhg Sullivan

Also in attendance:

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

Audience:

Remote Audience: Nichole Reilly, AAF CPA’s; Tochi Anuonyemere, SSCPS Student

Meetings documents:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from the September meeting
- Draft Committee Assignments
- Executive Director Report
- FY23 Current Financials
- Draft September Finance Committee Minutes
- Draft September Personnel Committee Minute
- FY23 Audit Report Documents as prepared by AAFCPAs

E. Rivera, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:42pm

Board Business:

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: B. Smyth moved to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2022 Meeting as presented. K. Trask seconded.

Vote by individual roll call:

Edwin Rivera, William Smyth, Vinnie Walsh, Kathleen Trask, Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Jimmy Juste, Ken Poudrier

One abstention; ten in favor; motion carried

Finance Committee - V. Walsh presented

The committee met prior to the Board meeting and approved the minutes from the September meeting and reviewed the audited Financial Statements with Nicole Reilly from AAF CPA's. The Committee approved the audit as presented.

V. Walsh introduced and welcomed Nicole Reilly via Zoom to present their report on the FY22 Audit

- Clean audit. The Audit was conducted in accordance with state and federal standards. Small adjustments and recommendations have been made.
- Reviewed the key financial indicators for year end. Current assets up as compared to prior years. Current ratios show assets up \$1M cash surplus on the school's side. Current liability is stagnant. As school pays down debt ratios should stay consistent. \$3 to pay every \$1 of liability. Very strong financial position. Total liability has decreased as debit is paid off. Debt to equity is strong. Increase in total revenue due to increase in student tuition and government grants. Includes the ESSR funding and Nutrition funding. Operating expenses increased and net income is strong. Increase in total net position due to surplus revenue tuition and grants. School has made investments in salaries and an increase in student learning costs using the ESSR grant. Reviewed the number of months of operating expenses. Currently \$1.4M of operating expenses per month, school has 4.5 months of reserved built up which is a very strong position.
- Recap: strong year for the school and a clean audit.

MOTION: V. Walsh moved to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee and vote to approve the FY22 Audit as presented. B. Smyth seconded.

Individual Voice Vote: Edwin Rivera, William Smyth, Vinnie Walsh, Kathleen Trask, Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Kiki Fluhr, Natacha Julien, Jimmy Juste, Ken Poudrier Motion carried unanimously

Board Business: continued

Board Resignation: Board received notification through Alicia Savage that Siobhan Daly resigned 10/12/2022. Faculty will recommend a new representative

Committee Assignments:

- Reviewed the assignments and amended. Ken Poudrier has agreed to Chair the Development Committee. One member to be assigned.

School & Academic Report

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

Annual Harvest Run - #TheTogetherRun SSCPS

- Thank everyone that participated in the Harvest Run. Special thanks to our event sponsors and everyone who joined us on Saturday morning to support our school.

Assessment and Accountability MCAS

- Reviewed the school's MCAS results in comparison to the state and found the scores to be similar to the statewide performance.
- Using Average Scales Score as a measure, SSCPS was slightly below the state in Mathematics grades 3-8 and 10, Science and Tech/Eng Grade 10, and in ELA Grade 10
- SSCPS had a higher Average Scaled Score than the state for ELA Grades 3 - 8 and Science, Tech, and Engineering, Grades 5 and 8.
- The DESE website reports that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most districts and schools did not receive an accountability determination in 2022.

- Looking at the data provided, we can see that the number of students scoring Not Meeting Expectations (NM) has increased slightly. This is consistent with statewide trends.
- Learned statewide is the fact that high rates of student absenteeism have proven to be a challenge for teaching and learning.
- According to DESE, the average Massachusetts student missed eleven days in 2021 and fifteen days in 2022. Of greater concern is that chronic absenteeism for students in grades 3-8 increased in 2022 by 138% when compared to 2019. The DESE reports that statewide 1.7 million days of school were missed because of positive COVID-19 cases in 2022.
- This number does not include faculty and staff absences or days missed as a result of being a close contact of someone who tested positive.
- Next Steps:
 1. The School has been collecting additional data points since Fall of 2020.
 - a. DIBELS
 - b. PSAT
 - c. iXL Diagnostics
 - d. Formative Assessments
 - e. Classroom Observations
 2. Transition to Physics MCAS for students in ninth grade
 3. New math curriculum for grades K-8.
- Instructional Supports and Interventions
 1. Summer Programming
 - a. Title I and Title III Instruction
 - b. Special Education Services and Instruction
 - c. Summer Acceleration Academy
 2. iXL (K-8) Allows for small group and individual skills instruction
 3. Focused Instructional Time (FIT) and Tiered Supports
 4. After school tutoring beginning in November

Transportation Update

- Current ridership is approximately 700 students on 15 bus routes.
- Routes and stops have been honed and students continue to come off the transportation waitlist.
- There are 39 students on the waitlist; 27 students are waiting to be placed on a bus route, 12 have a bus route but are waiting for a change to a more convenient route.
- School administrators provided a brief review of rules and procedures for riding a bus for students on Levels I and II on October 3.

Enrollment

- Enrollment is at 1060, students are currently being accepted off the waitlist.
- Enrollment season for the 2023-2024 school year begins November 1, 2022.
- There will be an Open House on Thursday, November 3, 2022 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
- *Talk to us Tuesdays* will be held in January and February. Prospective students and one family member will be able to visit the school while in session to see the campus and classrooms.
- The enrollment application deadline is February 27, 2023. The Enrollment Lottery will be on March 3, 2023.
- Students accepted at the Enrollment Lottery will receive an acceptance package and an invitation to *Welcome Wednesdays* to be held in March
- Intent to Attend letters will be due April 1, 2023.

Committee Reports:

Faculty: K. Cianelli reported

- There was a Smartpass system submitted to the PA by Mike Forrester, a high school history teacher. The high school hopes to pilot the program so that we can then unroll it to the middle school.
- PSATs were yesterday. The guidance counselors, Mary and Stephanie, did a great job running a difficult day, including having sophomores visit UMASS Dartmouth, and finding coverage for Freshmen and Senior classes.
- The NHS Induction Ceremony is next Wednesday. We have 23 new inductees, bringing the total members to 35.
- The first big date for college applications is approaching, so some seniors are gathering everything to submit and some teachers are adding college recommendation letters to their to-do lists.
- The Communications classes gave speeches to the lower levels. They are practicing audience analysis and were able to present about Individuality and How to Prepare for High School to 8th graders, The Dangerous Effects of Instigation to 9th graders, and How to Make a Cupcake in a Cup to 4th graders.
- There is a robust robotics team, run by a high school science teacher, Karl, and he and some students would like to present something brief to the board at the next meeting to show how they are effectively using their budget.
- The school store is up and running by a high school math teacher, Kim, and the students love it. Last year it was so successful that it ended with a surplus after helping to fund certain projects and endeavors in the school community.

Students: T. Sullivan submitted report

- BSU, NHS, GSA are all meeting
- There is an NHS induction ceremony next Wednesday
- The boys soccer team is currently undefeated
- The girls soccer team has lost 2 games
- The cross country team has won 2 of their 3 meets
- Juniors took PSAT's yesterday
- The high school is having a spirit week in 2 weeks

Parents Association: C. Lyons submitted report

- The PA's first meeting was held last month
- Many are very thankful for the buses this year. There were a few questions with logistics but overall very positive! National Bus Driver day is 4/25. The PA wants to make sure we recognize all the great drivers.
- We have been coming up with a few ideas for staff appreciation.
- It was disappointing that the Back to School Picnic was canceled due to the rain. The PA is putting together a fun family event to run before the end of the year. The PA really looks forward to holding community building events.

Development: K. Poudrier reported

- There will be a report at the next Board meeting
- Tiffany Brown-Grier and Ken Poudrier attended the SSCEF meeting earlier this week

Governance: K. Trask reported

- Committee met earlier this evening.
- Natacha Julien and Jimmy Juste will attend the next PA meeting
- Discuss what the Board is looking for in new candidates. What expertise or experience is needed. Candidates - what are we looking for in a board candidate; interest
- By law review will start this year working together

- Exec Board planning for next year. Succession planning at the Annual meeting

Personnel: B. Smyth reported

- Committee is meeting with the FASA negotiations team

Audience:

SSCPS Student, Tochi Anuonyemere is interested in serving on the Development Committee. Contact information will be sent.

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

MOTION: K. Poudrier moved to adjourn the regular meeting. v. Walsh seconded Motion carried unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted:
Pam Algera

Approved by: Kathleen Trask, Clerk