

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 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:** Jimmy Juste (Chair), Vinnie Walsh (Vice Chair), Ken Poudrier (Treasurer), Natcha Julien (Clerk), Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Kiki Fluhr, Kathleen Sullivan, Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst, Raeven Charles (pending DESE approval)

**Remote participation:** Andrew Sobers, T. Deveau

**In absentia:** T. Brown-Grier, K. Trowbridge

**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:** K. Doble, A. Melone, D. Edwards

**Meetings documents:**

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from the October meeting
- Executive Director Report
- FY25 Draft Calendar
- Board Case Student

**Opening of Meeting:** J. Juste (Chair) called the meeting to order a 7:31pm

**Individual roll call:** J. Juste, V. Walsh, K. Poudrier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Fluhr, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, R. Charles. A Sobers

**Board Business**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** A. Uhlenbrock-Furst moved to approve the minutes from the 10/19/2023 meeting. K Sullivan seconded.

**Vote by individual roll call:** J. Juste, V. Walsh, K. Poudrier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Fluhr, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, A. Sobers

**FY25 Draft Calendar**

- Reviewed and discussed the draft FY25 calendar with a vote in December
- ILT has reviewed, FASA has reviewed
- Reviewed the draft as presented

- FASA discussion. FASA asked that the amount of PD days prior to start of school be reduced to two instead of 3+ and asked that another day be scheduled as off to replace Yom Kippur
- Changes to the number of faculty/staff days would be referred to the negotiation team

**PA Focus group up J. Juste**

- J. Juste and A. Uhlenbrock-Furst facilitated one hour meeting
- 13 in attendance; 10 questions were posted for feedback
- Digestible communication - weekly newsletter too long
- Looking for the school directory
- Notes as still be put together
- Community, be connected with other families
- Next meeting will be remote

**School & Academic Report**

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

**Student Achievement:**

- Literacy Lane was a great event and well attended
- Congratulations to all 21 of our John and Abigail Adams scholars from the class of 2024. 30 percent of the class has received this prestigious award. This merit-based scholarship award recognizes high performance on the ELA and Math MCAS taken in Grade 10 in the Spring of 2022, providing recipients a four year tuition credit at any Massachusetts state college or university. Scholarships are granted to students whose combined MCAS score places them in the top twenty-five (25) percent of students at the South Shore Charter Public School, or in their sending school district. Abington, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Holbrook, Plymouth, Randolph, Rockland, Weymouth, and Whitman

**DESE Comparative SAT Data - refer to Executive Director Report**

The October ED Report reviewed PSAT and SAT data for the 2022-2023 school year. Included is a snapshot of SAT scores taken on the Grade 11 SAT School Day in April 2023. This data has been provided by The College Board purchased by the school and used to inform instruction.

- SAT data provided by the Massachusetts Department of Education is similar to the SAT data provided to us by the College Board.
- Data is not current, nor is it taken from the same timeframe.
- Data provided on the DESE website is a compilation of 2021-2022. This is not data from last year, but instead, the year prior.
- This data may be used to compare districts, but it is one source removed from data provided by The College Board.
- The source is secondary, not primary.
- DESE data is used to determine the number of test takers by student group by comparing the total student group percentage K-12 to SAT participation in grades 11-12.
- Although the number of students in each group at grade levels 11 and 12 has not been provided, comparisons do provide an overview of student group participation on the SAT for each district.
- Comparing SAT participation for each student group at South Shore Charter with its top three sending districts is useful in determining equity. Which student groups have access to the SAT, and which student groups do not.
- Comparative data is useful in determining institutional direction for strategic planning.

**Enrollment:**

- Current enrollment 1061
- New enrollment season November 1, 2023

- Received 120 applications during the 1st day
- Open House held November 2 with Talk to Us Tuesdays in January and February
- Application deadline February 29 with lottery to be held March 8

### **Student Withdrawal Data**

- Each year the School reviews data gleaned from students not returning for the next academic year. Data indicates 113 students withdrew in FY21 and 103 students withdrew in FY22. The FY23 report submitted to the state October 1 indicates a student withdrawal number of 86; a 13% decrease in withdrawals since FY21.
- Reviewed the withdrawal decisions for years 2021, 2022, 2023
- Data gleaned from family exit surveys from 2021, 2022, and 2023 provides additional data for review in the SSCPS Withdrawal Data pie charts. Of note is the transportation trajectory. The South Shore Charter Public School did not offer free regional transportation to students in 2020-2021.
- Regional transportation was voted on and approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2022. Families were able to sign up for the program for the 2022-2023 school year. Data illustrated in Chart X is taken from the first year of the regional transportation program.
- Feedback higher social/bullying;

### **Transportation Update:**

- Current ridership is 788 students on 15 bus routes
- There are no families on the waitlist
- Student behavior continues to be limited to smaller infractions.
- School-based video camera security has been implemented.
- The bus driver shortage persists. South Shore Charter continues to work with First Student to address driver shortage issues as they arise.

### **Strategic Plan**

- The Strategic Planning Committee held the first meeting on October 24, 2023.
- There was a review of the 2020 plan and a discussion about what goals have been met and what areas need to be revisited.
- The first focus identified was academics and addressing the social/emotional challenges that have increased in recent years.
- Outreach strategies were discussed to ensure that a diverse representation of families is included in the process.
- The next Strategic Planning meeting will be November 21, 2023 - 8:30am

### **DESE Charter School Convening - J. Juste reported**

- J. Juste conducted an activity based on the case studies as presented
- Reviewed Case Study #1. Meeting members broke out into two groups to discuss case study and provide , feedback

### **Committee Reports:**

**Faculty:** K. Cianelli reported

At 100:

- Level I: Our Farm trips are coming to and end this fall. Students had a Harvest and are already looking forward to the Spring when they will return.
- Level II: We are getting ready to head to Plymouth Patuxet at the end of this month to wrap up our unit on Native Americans. Students in Grade 3 are getting ready to start a Mystery Book Project

- The End of October we had the Literacy Trick Or Treat night, which was well attended despite the rain. Many families came out and enjoyed themselves.
- The K-8th grade students will participate in a book fair next week (Mon 11/13 - Wed 11/15). Students will visit the book fair, make note of the books they like, and if families would like to order books all orders will be placed online on Storybook Cove's website. The SSCPS library will have a wishlist on Storybook Cove's website if any families are interested in donating books to our library. Some teachers may also be making wish lists as well. This is a fundraiser for SSCPS. SSCPS will receive a percentage of any books purchased that are available at the book fair. Families will not have to pay tax for any books that they buy from the book fair.

At 700:

- The National Honor Society hosted a Blood Drive and we had the highest number of successful student donors.
- NHS is also hosting a Teacher versus Student Volleyball game next Friday.
- Best Buddies is looking to sponsor a Family Feud Tournament near the Thanksgiving break.
- The first deadline for early decision college applications is past, and some seniors and teachers alike are relieved to be beyond the due date.
- The first quarter ended last week, and grades are now available.

**Students:** R. Charles reported

- Student board working on fundraising and wondering if the PA money would be available
- There will be a proposal for a high school lock-in

**Parents Association:** No report

**Finance:** K. Poudrier reported

- Committee met earlier and discuss increase in Facilities Aid of \$100 per pupil
- Committee agreed to do an internal adjustment to recategorize Technology funds operating/capital
- Committee will schedule an additional meeting to discuss cash management/banking to re-group over the banking crisis. November 30 at 2pm
- Chair thanked Kristine Bingham for her work

**Development:** A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported

- Committee met on October 26 and agreed to work on two items
- SSCPS Connect: work with the school community to develop a database of resources of how we can engage and build community within the school and engage and enrich the learnings. Chair attended SEPAC and some parents attended the School Council meeting. What are the needs of the school? Compile needs before creating a survey for the whole community.
- Review of the school calendar. What is currently planned? What could still be done this year? What events raise money but also focus on those events?

**Governance:** K Sullivan reported

- Working on a proposed By-law amendment. Draft is not ready. Is there any required language; no changes have been made. When the draft is ready the full Board will review.

**Personnel:** K. Fluhr reported

- Negotiation team will be meeting soon

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

- Planning to meet in December

**Audience:** Public Comment

Parent, Amanda Melone commented. She attended the PA Focus Group. Communication seems to get lost, the newsletter has a lot of information and she suggested that it be condensed for quicker access for what is needed. May be a lot of information for families whose first language is not english. Maybe broken out K-8 and hs. She also commented that as a new parent, she felt there was no guidance to where to find things as a 1st time parent. She also noted that she feels there is bullying on the bus and would like to see monitors.

**MOTION:** K. Poudrier moved to adjourn the regular meeting. seconded, motion carried unanimously. V. Walsh seconded

**Vote by individual roll call:** J. Juste, V. Walsh, K. Poudrier, N. Julien, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau (Remote), K. Fluhr, K. Sullivan, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst

All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:03pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Algera

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Approved: 12/07/2023