

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 14, 2024
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), Natacha Julien (Clerk), Tiffany Brown-Grier, Katie Cianelli, Tracy Deveau, Kathleen Sullivan, Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst

Remote participation:

In absentia: Raeven Charles, Kiki. Fluhr, Ken Poudrier, Andrew Sobers, Kate Trowbridge

Also in attendance:

Staff: Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Kristine Bingham (Director of Finance), Joe McSheffrey (Technology Support Specialist), Pam Algera (Director of Admissions), Angie Pepin (K-12 Principal)

Remote Staff: Kerri Doble (Staff Accountant), Matthew Tondorf (Director of Learning Services)

Audience:

Remote Audience:

Meetings documents:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from the February meeting
- Executive Director Report
- FY24 Calendar proposed revision
- YTD Financial Statements

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

Individual roll call: J. Juste, V. Walsh, N. Julien, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst

Board Business

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst moved to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2024 meeting. N. Julian seconded.

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, V. Walsh (abstained), N. Julien, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, A. Sobers, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst. Motion carried

School & Academic Report

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

[Executive Director Report](#)

Student Achievement:

- The second trimester for students in grades K-4 has ended.
- Middle and high school students have completed mid-year exams. Students in grades 8-10 are preparing for the PSAT on April 11.

- Student course selection for next year will begin over the next two weeks.
- The Grade 10 ELA MCAS will get this MCAS season underway at the end of March.
- Congratulations to our Seniors who completed their Senior Debates and are now one step closer to graduation.
- Celebrations surrounding Women's History Month and the Year of the Dragon continue.
- Congratulations to all our student athletes on another successful winter season, including those who received MCSAO recognition. Congratulations to Coach JP Marcellus for receiving the MCSAO South Division Coach of the Year.
- Congratulations to our high school students in the Multicultural Workshop who hosted a fantastic African Diaspora Night last Thursday evening. Special thanks to Sheina Prince-Eugene and Nadine Sullivan for their work bringing this event to fruition.

Executive Director Goals: Mid year review

Student Learning Goal

By late spring, the South Shore Charter Public School shall demonstrate sustained or improved academic achievement in at least nine of twelve grades by successful implementation of new and sustaining curricula.

- Mathematics professional development for teachers in grades K-8 has been designed around the new iReady math curriculum.
- K-8 teachers meet bi-weekly, in August, and during school-wide professional development days to analyze assessment data, discuss findings and best practices, review vertical alignment, and plan instruction.
- Families were introduced to the iReady curriculum in the Weekly Update on September 15, 2023.
- Students in grades K-8 have now taken two diagnostic assessments, fall and winter.
- Reviewed charts by grade level with student assessment data

Executive Director District: Improvement Goals

Regional Transportation

The South Shore Charter Public School will continue to implement the highly successful regional transportation program, with targeted improvements to increase success in school and community.

- Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year is underway using new enrollment data.
- Preliminary data from Strategic Planning Family Focus Groups indicate positive feedback, a need for program continuation, and a desire for additional personnel on some of the longer routes.
- Data from the 2024 SSCPS Annual Family Survey reveal that families continue to value and appreciate regional transportation.
- The Weighted Average for the transportation remains high at 9.16 on a 0-10 scale.
- The response that received the highest number of selections was 10 *Outstanding*.
- Reviewed family survey results chart and comments

Executive Director District: Improvement Goals

Strategic Planning

By the Fall of 2023, the South Shore Charter Public School will begin the process of developing a five-year strategic plan with institutional stakeholders. The plan will include the school mission and vision and strategic goals to serve as a navigation tool over the next five years.

- The Strategic Planning Committee has successfully completed 26 out of 28 focus groups; 11 faculty and staff, 9 family and caregiver, and 8 student focus groups.
- The Strategic Planning Committee has begun to analyze focus group data as the notes from each focus group become available.
- A comprehensive approach which includes focus group data, student achievement data, and stakeholder surveys will help to create a better understanding of the school's current and future needs.
- Identified insights and key themes will inform the goals and actions steps of the next strategic plan and the upcoming Charter School Renewal.

- Reviewed charts listing the scheduled focus groups

Enrollment & Lottery:

- The Enrollment Lottery was conducted on March 8, 2024 virtually and in-person.
- This year we received 784 applications, 42 more than last year, for 95 openings.
- Seats were offered to students in Kindergarten and Grade 9.
- Special thanks to Pam Algera, 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.
- Additionally, academic programming, and student mental health and emotional well-being remain strong 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 (165) 2. Weymouth (155) 3. Randolph (100)
- Current enrollment remains stable at 1062.

FY24 Calendar:

Modification for Inclement Weather on February 13, 2024

- The proposed day to make up for the February 13 inclement weather day is April 10, 2024. This day was initially scheduled for a full day of professional development. The proposal is to change April 10 from a full day of professional development to a half day of professional development. This would eliminate holding the 180th day of school on Monday, June 17, 2024.
- Families may request an excused absence for religious observance in advance of April 10, 2024.
- Notification of the proposed calendar change, pending Board approval, has been sent to families in the Weekly Update on March 6 and March 13, 2024. Families will be notified again following the Board of Trustees vote.
- Proposal to revise the calendar for April 10 from a full day Professional Development to a half day of classes/ half day of professional development to make up for the February 13 inclement day.
- Proposal to keep April 10th as is and add Monday, June 17 as the last day of classes.
- There was a discussion from Board Members, N. Julien and K. Cianelli., N. Julien reported that there has been some community chatter to keep April 10 as the holiday observance. K. Cianelli also noted that students as well as high school faculty would rather change Good Friday or add Monday, June 17 rather than remove Eid.

MOTION: N. Julien moved and proposed to change the calendar to add Monday, June 17, 2024 as a half day of school to make up for the inclement weather day. K. Cianelli seconded.

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, V. Walsh N. Julien, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst. Motion carried unanimously

Board Business:

- Board recruitment with knowledge of finance and development
- Diversity reflective of the school community
- Terms ending for T. Deveau, V. Walsh, T. Brown-Grier, and Student Rep. V. Walsh will not renew for another term. T. Brown-Grier and T. Deveau are considering renewing. Student Rep will be recommended to the Board from the Student body
- Will need Vice Chair to be appointed for FY25
- Short survey will be sent out to the full Board in regard to Board Engagement. Will present at the May meeting.
- Committee work needs to continue and committees should meet in April

Committee Reports:**Faculty:** K. Cianelli reported

- Level 1: First grade just finished EOM presentations. The kids loved talking about their personal timelines!
- Also, we are headed back to the farm starting next week!
- Level 2 Students at 100 who participate in the monthly community outings visited Cardinal Cushing last Friday. They had the opportunity to browse the thrift store and use their communication skills to order at the Cafe. They helped plant seeds in the greenhouse as well. They were able to interact with staff, ask questions and feel comfortable. Many thanks to Amelia Freitas, one of our awesome paras that helped with logistics. The students and teachers at Cardinal Cushion welcome members from our school community to visit any time!
- Level 3: In 5th grade ELA, we're starting our Book Club unit soon! Students will be reading books that they choose (out of a few I've selected) and meet in small groups to discuss them. There's been a lot of excitement about some of the titles in particular, and they're eager to start!

At 700:

- Students in grades 9-12 have been participating in strategic planning focus groups this week, and moderators have been reporting that they are honest and helpful.
- National Honor Society hosted a movie fundraiser afternoon for grades 1-4 on a half day PD day and raised nearly \$1500 for St. Mary's Women's shelter in Dorchester. So many people helped out with the logistics, but John Toland did a phenomenal job with helping to organize and execute the event successfully and smoothly.
- On the same PD afternoon, teachers received a suicide prevention training, run by our skilled counseling team, which was enormously helpful.
- Senior Debates were successful, completing a graduation requirement.
- We are gearing up for the Sophomores to take MCAS on March 26th and 27th.
- Students have filled out their course surveys with their interests for classes next year.

K. Cianelli announced that she is stepping down from the Board. She is working on recruiting a replacement.

Students: No Report**Parents Association:** No report**Finance:** V. Walsh reported

- A Zoom meeting was held on March 6 regarding the FY25 Budget. Reviewed the budget and the proposed pay scale increase. The Finance Committee is looking at long term financials for the school;
- At today's meeting, the committee reviewed the current financials, expense adjustments, etc.
- Committee will schedule meetings as needs for the budget with a presentation at the May Board meeting

Development: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported

- Discussed corporate development strategy
- Discussed event planning

Governance: N. Julien reported

- Discussed by law amendment
- Scheduled two dates to meet to continue the bylaw revision
- Discussed board recruitment applications due two weeks prior to the May meeting

Personnel: T. Deveau, K. Fluhr Reported

- Faculty negotiations ongoing

- Faculty survey in April results in May

Ad Hoc Field Trip: K. Cianelli reported

The Ad Hoc Field Trip committee met to review the proposed 10th grade Newport, Rhode Island field trip aligned with the unit on The Great Gatsby for April 23. The committee recommends this field trip.

MOTION: V. Walsh moved to approve the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Field Trip committee for the 10th grade Newport Rhode Island field trip. K. Cianelli seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, V. Walsh N. Julien, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst. Motion Carried unanimously

Audience: Public Comment

MOTION: V. Walsh moved to adjourn the regular meeting. T. Brown-Grier seconded

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, N. Julien, T. Brown-Grier, K. Cianelli, T. Deveau, K. Sullivan, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36pm

Respectfully submitted:
Pam Algera

Approved