

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 6, 2025
5:30pm

Meeting held at 700 Longwater Drive and 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), Ken Poudrier (Treasurer), Katy Sullivan (Vice Chair), Natacha Julien (Clerk), Tracy Deveau, Jerry Ford, Rowena Samuels,, Kate Trowbridge

Remote participation: Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst, Willow Shinney-Kalafatas, Keisha O'Marde-Jack,

In absentia: Tiffany Brown-Grier, Bruce Frost, Andrew Sobers

Also in attendance:

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

Audience: M. Bulger, C. Teulet-Cote, A. Dandrow, J. Dandrow, A. Golden, K. Doble, C. Salamone, K. Sobol, K. Doyle, A. Freitas, M. Freitas, B. Folan, K. Boyle, K. Curry, A. Williamson, N. Sullivan, D. Lopez

Remote Audience: C. Clark, S. Daly, J. Zaval, M. Gallagher, E. Kay, M. Carter, M.Finn, K. McDonald, B.Gammon, A.Dupuis, A. Pepin. A. Plummer, B.Lofstand, D. Sloan, D.Darabus, J.Kjelgaard, J. Allen, J. Johnson, J. Kay, J. Bonney, J. Fontaine, K. Cianelli, K. Raposa, K. Thompson, K. Cafourek, K. Connolly, K. Edwards, P. Barrett, P. Hanlon, R. deGennaro, S. Kim, T. Ames, T. Smiley, R. Bodeur. T. Payton, Z. Johnson, H. Brems

Meetings documents:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from prior meetings
- Executive Director Report
- Executive Director Goals 24-25 and supporting data
- SSCPS Year 30 Summary of Review Final 2025
- DESE Charter Renewals and Amendments
- Notification of DESE approval of SSCPS Enrollment Increase
- Family Survey Data
- Field Trip Requests

Opening of Meeting: J. Juste (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:39pm

Individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack

Board Business

The Board Chair welcomed everyone and invited all to attend the next meeting which is the SSCPS Annual Meeting where much gets decided as we move forward to the next school year. He encourages all to attend as many meetings as they can.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: K. Poudrier moved to approve the minutes as presented from the February 6, 2025 Board Meeting. R. Samuels seconded

Individual roll call: Juste, K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack. Motion carried

Executive Director School & Academic Report

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

[Executive Director Report](#)

State of the School/Student Achievement

- Celebration of the life of JJ Facey was held on February 27
- Professional Development was held on February 7, 2025 regarding students rights. Executive Director has worked with the school's attorney for guidance

Mid Year Goal Review - Updated Benchmarks

Goal II: [iReady Midyear Diagnostic Results](#)

[iReady MidYear Growth Baseline](#) [iReady Overall Mid Year Growth](#)

Students in Grades K-8 have taken two iReady diagnostic assessments; first in the fall, second midyear. Kindergarten students are administered the diagnostic on an iPad. Students in grades 1-8 take the diagnostic on a Chromebook. The winter diagnostic was administered in January and February. Results from the fall and winter diagnostics may be found linked above. Teachers use this data to review the percentage of students at each level; *Mid or Above Grade, Early On Grade Level, One Grade Level Below, Two Grade Levels Below, Three or More Grade Levels Below*. Placement on each grade level is also categorized into four domains; *Number and Operations (NO), Algebra and Algebraic Thinking (ALG), Measurement and Data (MS), and Geometry (GEO)*. By reviewing data from the fall and midyear, teachers are able to determine if students are making progress in the four domains and overall. Improvement by overall placement evident at all grade levels. Improvement by domain was evident schoolwide.

Goal III: [Faculty and Staff Focus Group Data](#)

Goal IV: [SSCPS Annual Family Survey Data 2025](#)

Goal V: [Question 25 SSCPS Annual Family Survey Data](#)

Data from the SSCPS Annual Family Survey 2025 indicates that families continue to value and appreciate regional transportation. This year's survey once again included an overall sliding scale evaluation of the transportation program and an area for comments. Question 25 received 202 responses. The Weighted Average for the transportation remains high at 8.78 on a 0-10 scale. The most often chosen response was 10 *Outstanding*; 43 survey takers, 21.29%, indicated the highest level of satisfaction with the program. Open ended responses are included within the full survey results linked for review.

Enrollment

- Current enrollment 1063 as of March 3, 2025
- The Enrollment Lottery will be held tomorrow, March 7. We received 760; reviewed the top numbers per town
- Updates on the NSS are in the Board report. If there are any questions, please reach out to A. Savage. We were informed on February 11 that our school may take students from Randolph and Brockton.
- Reviewed the results of Question 26 from the Annual Family Survey: *Please indicate your level of support for a gradual student enrollment increase of no more than 225 students over the next five years to gain additional classroom space and improve facilities. 201 responded; 53 very supportive, 50 somewhat supportive, 57 neutral, 21 somewhat opposed, 20 strongly opposed.*

Real Estate Update - Executive Session

Motion: K. Sullivan moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Real Estate transition where the subject matter, if public, could jeopardize our position. K. Poudrier seconded.

Individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack

The Board Chair invited A. Savage, K. Bingham, P. Algera to attend the Executive Session.

MOTION: K. Sullivan moved to reconvene the regular board meeting. K. Trowbridge seconded

Individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack

Reconvened into regular session at 6:29pm

Enrollment Growth & Lottery Cap

The Board reconvened into regular session and discussed the enrollment increase and the lottery cap. The Lottery will be held tomorrow, March 7 and the enrollment cap is contingent on the Board vote as to whether or not to approve the increase in enrollment. Board Chair opened the floor for discussion

- DESE approval of increase is based on the 5 year growth plan, plus or/minus 5% per year
- Question from a staff member, why not take more Kindergarteners? We would be taking 80 K's, and additional students in grades 1 and 2. We would not want all new students in one level.
- Are there applications to support the growth plan? Yes, the number of applications received is in the Board report.
- How would the students from Brockton/Randolph? Tuition may be prorated which we do not have the calculations. We were told by the Charter School office not to worry too much about taking students from Brockton and Randolph this year but we do not have that in writing. They also said it was our decision entirely whether or not to accept Brockton and Randolph. Both of them are below cap however we do not know how much. Part of the calculation will be the number of graduates from those towns.
- We have Brockton and Randolph in the charter. All other charter schools must skip over.
- Question, for the lottery tomorrow, if the expansion is accepted it would be grade 8 and 1st grade? Yes, we are looking at 1st grade by 18 seats; 2nd grade by 18 seats, 7th grade 19 seats, and 8th grade 20 seats. Based on the 2026 growth plan. Additional acceptances in grade 9 and grade 10
- How does the unknown potential proration affect the budget? We do not know how the proration is formulated so there is no way to know if we would be imposed a proration. The seats available would be based on the number of graduates from all charter schools who graduate Randolph students.
- Can we cap Brockton/Randolph students? Concern of housing the students that we accept. The Board will be the oversight of the project and it is ultimately the Board's responsibility.
- There is some flexibility to where the acceptances happen. We have more success when students are accepted at the lottery.
- Question? Is there any concern at all about the timing of the logistics to be able to be ready by September. There is some concern however the Board is not the project manager but the leaseholders know that our timeline is August 1. The Board will provide oversight but it's going to be up to operations to make sure that it happens in time. The Board will implement the oversight and the community can hold the Board accountable.
- Concern with the expansion is that this plan does not include some of the asks from the community such as fields, gym, common space, etc. We will have more classrooms and with this may give us the opportunity to have the wish list items over time. We would have control over the entire building and property. This may also open up grant opportunities. There is still work for the Board to do but this opens up an opportunity to move forward.

- Grade 7 and 8 would move to 700 beginning in September; with the whole high school upstairs in the new space.
- Staff at 100 is 50/50/ Some excited to be able to take new students and new space. There is some concerns and nervousness with the special needs of the new students; faculty would like the additional classroom space; what changes/construction plan would be for 100? There would be some repurposing of space at 100. Works with parents at 100 to reconfigure space and some enhancements at 100.
- M. Bulger (High School Teacher) commented that this expansion would allow the school to reach more students with a quality product and the valuable work that is done here.. Great amount of support for this at the high school teachers as well as some of the level IV staff. The work done at the school is too important to let this opportunity go away. There was also support from a Level IV Teacher in moving Level IV.
- Question? Taking Brockton and Randolph. School will take the recommendation from the Department of Education Charter School Office that we may take the students.

MOTION: R. Samuels to accept the expansion of enrollment at SSCPS. K.Trowbridge seconded

Individual Roll Call: K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack, J.Juste, All in favor, motion carried

Charter Renewal Summary Review

Encouraged the board to review the document. Review and discuss at the next board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Faculty: J. Ford and K. Trowbridge reported

K. Trowbridge reported for K-8

- **Level I:**
- First grade finished their animal research projects. The students did a great job asking us questions, and the first graders were very knowledgeable.
- EOM timelines will be coming in next week, and we will start presentations.
- Farm trips will start back up the week of March 17th
- **Level II:**
- Grade 4 has started our March Madness Book Brackets. This year we are putting nonfiction vs fiction picture books.
- We are also doing a program with the New England Wildlife Center in Weymouth. So far Jack (a former SSCPS) student has come to school twice to teach about animals in our forests. We will be going to Great Esker Park and the Wildlife center of the next few weeks
- **Level III:**
- As part of black history month in Spanish, grade5 read “ I too sing, America” in both English and Spanish and then wrote original poems called “Yo so America”, in which students highlighted their heritage, languages spoken and activities they like to do.
- In just a few weeks grade 5 also will be going to USS Constitution to participate in a ship design contest in which students can build model ships and see who has the fastest/ strongest ship.
- Our community outings continue for a group of our Special Needs students at 100. This month they will have the opportunity to go bowling and they are super excited about it! They also are doing fundraising at school in order to continue to fund these trips.
- Last month, we also kicked off Best Buddies at 100. They had a Valentine's gathering and it was a great success

J. Ford reported for 9-12

- The AP Bridge and Mentorship Program kicked-off in the second semester, immersing students in intensive science and mathematics coursework during Workshop. Professional mentors actively engage with students

by offering guidance on STEM careers, and conducting in-school presentations to enrich the educational experience of students. Students meet with their professional mentors via zoom weekly.

- By incorporating professional mentors, the AP Bridge Program aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world STEM applications, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of STEM fields among students.
- The Math workshop continues to prepare for the Calculus Field Day at Northeastern University. Every year, students go to Northeastern University to attend the Bridge to Calculus Program's one-day Calculus Field Day. The initiative was launched in April 2009 as a partnership between Northeastern and Boston Public Schools math departments and has since become the program's major annual outreach event. Attending students compete in teams of three in challenging and stimulating tests in Precalculus and AP calculus.
- On Saturday, March 8th, Theater Workshop will attend The Massachusetts Theater Celebration, hosted by the METG (Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild) at Gloucester High School. This is a day-long, non-competitive exhibition of 5 one act plays performed by 5 different schools, including SSCPS. We will be performing our one act play, "When Bad Things Happen to Good Actors" by Ian McWethy at 2:20. Come by and cheer us on if you can! Tickets for the entire day are \$5! On Saturday, March 8th, Theater Workshop will attend The Massachusetts Theater Celebration, hosted by the METG (Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild) at Gloucester High School. This is a day-long, non-competitive exhibition of 5 one act plays performed by 5 different schools, including SSCPS. We will be performing our one act play, "When Bad Things Happen to Good Actors" by Ian McWethy at 2:20. Come by and cheer us on if you can! Tickets for the entire day are \$5!

Ad Hoc Field Trip Committee: The Ad Hoc Committee met and recommends approval of the Jr/Sr Lock In and the 10th Grade Newport RI field Trip.

MOTION: R. Samuels moved to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Field Trip Committee and approve the Grade 10 Newport RI field trip as presented. N. Julien seconded

Individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford (abstain), R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack Motion carried

MOTION: K. Poudrier moved to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Field Trip Committee and approve the Jr/Sr Lock In as presented. K. Sullivan seconded

Individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Poudrier, K. Sullivan, N. Julien, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, K. Trowbridge, W. Shinney-Kalafatas, K. O'Marde-Jack, A. Uhlenbrock-Brock Motion carried

Parent Association: Keisha O'Marde-Jack reported

- Good effort for the dollars raised towards field trips. Worked with Angie to approve over \$12,000 to fund trip from Raize Craze
- Next meeting will be held March 11 via Zoom

Students: W. Shinny-Kalafatas reported

- NHS organized tutoring and is sponsoring an in school thrift store,
- The Muslim Club met.
- Student Board working on the Jr.Sr Lock In, Jaguar Games, the Spring Fair
- Spring sports are about to begin

Finance: K. Poudrier reported

- Board members thanked K. Bingham for all her work on the projections for the expansion

Development: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported

- Committee met and continue working through goals for the year; benchmarking events and fundraising

Governance: K. Sullivan reported

- Recruiting for additional board members; looking for additional trustees; finance, fundraising
- Working on bylaws and succession planning; encourage all Board members to review the draft and finalize by May Urgent need for members to review the draft By Laws

Personnel: T. Deveau reported

- Executive Director intent to negotiate will meet with Finance
- Evaluation is on time and survey will be sent to board members in May
- Committee will be working the salary grid to be ready for the next round of FASA negotiations

Audience: Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:24pm

Respectfully submitted:
Pam Algera

Approved: 05/08/2025