

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 16, 2025
5:30pm
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), Katy Sullivan (Vice Chair), Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst (Treasurer), Tiffany Brown-Grier (Clerk), Jerry Ford, David Luu, Rowena Samuels, Andrew Sobers (6:07pm)

Remote participation:

In absentia: Tracy Deveau, Gerald Fernandez, Bruce Frost, Keisha O'Marde-Jack, Willow Shinney-Kalafatas, Andrew Sobers, Kate Trowbridge

Also in attendance:

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

Audience:

Remote Audience: Kimoy Phillpotts (AAF CPA), Nichole Reilly (AFF CPA), Amy Koskowski (SSCPS Teacher)

Meetings documents:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- Draft Minutes from prior meetings 9/25/25 and 10/02/25
- [Executive Director Report](#)
- [FY25 Financial Audit Documents](#)

Opening of Meeting: J. Juste (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:44pm

Individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, T. Brown-Grier, J. Ford, D. Luu, R. Samuels

Board Business

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: K. Sullivan moved to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of 9/25/25. R. Samuels seconded

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, T. Brown-Grier, J. Ford, D. Luu, R. Samuels, A. Sobers Motion Carried

MOTION: D. Luu moved to approve the amended minutes from the Special Board meeting of 10/02/25. Seconded Samuels

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, T. Brown-Grier, J. Ford, D. Luu, R. Samuels, A. Sobers Motion Carried

FY25 Independent Financial Audit Presentation by AAF

K. Bingham introduced Nichole Reilly from AAF CPA's who will present the audit and review the documents. The audit was presented to the Finance Committee at the meeting held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

- This years' audit was an outstanding process from their perspective. Everything went really smoothly. No issue getting the audit done in a timely manner
- This year SSCPS had a federal audit in accordance with the government auditing standards and related compliance with DESE's Charter School Audit guidelines
- For the federal audit they tested the Nutrition program which the school receives funds through the state
- There were no issues with compliance of the nutrition program, the internal control testing, as well as any of the compliance requirements that DESE lays out for charter schools. This process is a big feat with lots of things to test. Good job to K. Bingham and team
- Because of the Federal Audit, there is a one page document, Management Letter, which states a clear report on internal controls over financial reporting and that is what DESE is looking to see as well. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in those internal controls.
- The other letter is the Board Report which is geared to management and the Board. This letter is used to communicate any significant audit issues regarding process and any new accounting standards. There were two this year but they did not affect the financial statements that were assessed. The misstatement is something that is considered immaterial
- No audit adjustments. No changes were made. Communicated some upcoming GASB standards that the school will be required to follow for the next fiscal year. There is another accounting standard that relates to capital assets that will be included next year as well.
- Financial Statements; consistent year over year with no adjustments
- Big changes with the new leases and the bond paydown. This activity has been disclosed in the FY25 audit and will be reflected in the FY26 audit and financial statements. Statements based on lease/mortgage that were in effect on June 30, 2025 so there will be substantial changes to the balance sheets for next year
- Profit and Loss: \$1.7M prior year surplus; this year a \$1.5M surplus; strong year overall. Increase in total net position for the year with almost 6 months of reserves. Net position is the equity earned over time and the recommendation is 6 months of reserves. Tuition rates increases and the increase in salaries still allowed for surplus
- Government Audit is clean. The audit will not be able to be submitted to DESE for the federal government through what is called the Data Collection form process until the federal government issues their compliance supplement. DESE is aware and has extended the deadline to submit the finalized audit.

MOTION: K. Sullivan moved to approve the FY25 Audit as presented. A.Uhlenbrock-Furst seconded
Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, T. Brown-Grier, J. Ford, D. Luu, R. Samuels, A. Sobers Motion Carried

FY25 SVB Private Debt Covenant Report

K. Bingham reviewed the debt covenant report which uses numbers from the audit. The school is required to provide a debt covenant calculator annually for FY25. The calculation was prepared by First Citizens, the bank who held the mortgage.

MOTION: A.Uhlenbrock-Furst moved to approve the FY25 SVB Private Debt Covenant Report. K. Sullivan seconded

Vote by individual roll call: J. Juste, K. Sullivan, A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, T. Brown-Grier, J. Ford, D. Luu, R. Samuels, A.Sobers Motion Carried

School & Academic Report

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

Executive Director Report

Student Achievement

- Massachusetts voters decisively ended the MCAS graduation requirement in November 2024, with 59.1% in favor.
- The elimination of high-stakes testing has reshaped the pathway to graduation across the state.
- The Department of Education attempted to address alternative rigorous and equitable Competency Determinations (CDs) to ensure students meet learning standards.
- A one-size-fits-all solution is off the table: the state has not proposed a single, codified approach to replace MCAS.
- Instead, each school district, charter, and collaborative is now responsible for designing, approving, and submitting their own CD policies by year's end.
- Members of the Instructional Leadership Team have been working with the School's existing exit standards to fulfill the CD requirement which will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for a vote at the November meeting.

Werner Salinger Holocaust Guest Speaker

On October 6, guest speaker Werner Salinger shared his Holocaust experience with our eighth grade students. For three years, Mr. Salinger has generously visited our school, recounting his escape from Germany after Kristallnacht, his immigration to the U.S., and his service as a translator and air force officer. Students reflected on the impact of WWII and its lessons. This important visit was supported by a Genocide Education Grant, which also funds related speakers, materials, and field trips. Special thanks to Kristen Mullin-Connolly for organizing the event.

#SSCPSRoadToGrow

The SSCPS Annual Road Race took place on September 27, 2025, with 130 participants running and walking through Wompatuck State Park to support the school. The event was a community effort, with special thanks to our students and families, the SSCPS Trustees, faculty, staff, and Road Race Coordinator Joe Kay for the hard work and planning.

MCAS Data

- Reviewed the results that were received at the end of September
- Reviewed the average scaled scores by subject; school vs state data
- Reviewed the passing rates by subject; school vs state data
- Reviewed the students with disabilities; school vs state data
- Reviewed the EL students and former EL students: school vs state data
- Reviewed the MCAS Growth Data for ELA and Math

Construction Updates

- The third lease amendment for campus facilities has been approved and signed.
- Construction at 700 Longwater is set to resume in 40 to 50 days.
- FoxRock is working with the Town of Norwell to obtain necessary permits and meet with the building inspector.
- Plans include a temporary return to the 700 B area on the first floor, providing classrooms, offices, and a teacher lounge.
- The targeted completion date for the project remains in August 2026.

Regional Transportation

- Bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year have been updated based on feedback from the Annual Family Survey.

- School administration collaborated with First Student to adjust routes and stops, aiming for more balanced ridership and stops closer to families and communicated changes to families in August.
- Two additional buses were added to accommodate 85 new students starting in August.
- Increased ridership resulted from both new and current families opting into regional transportation, some after routes were established.
- Efforts to adjust routes and reduce overcrowding on heavily populated buses are ongoing.
- While bus incidents have not increased overall, some student behavior issues have occurred and have been addressed.

Enrollment

- Current enrollment as of 10/14: 1139
- Working with a few students who need bus assignment

Executive Director Goals are linked in the Executive Director report.

Bylaws - Tabled

Committee Reports:

Faculty: J. Ford reported

- The School Store has sold \$2,500 of school apparel with the profits going to the JJ Facey fund. An additional \$2,000 of teacher spirit wear was sold
- PSAT testing for Juniors; Seniors no school, regular school day for everyone else

Students: No report

Parents Association: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported

- Raise Craze fundraiser is in full swing with a goal of raising \$35,000 for facilities improvements, field trips, staff appreciation. \$19,00 has been raised with 14 days to go

Finance: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported

- Reviewed the audit documents
- Reviewed the Debt Covenant report
- Coming up in November there may be a vote on a recommendation on bus changes and then bring to full Board

Development: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported

- Working on goals for the year
- Support community service; developing teacher fundraising network; alumni association initiative needs help; looking strategy for developmental support

Governance: K. Sullivan reported

- Nothing new to report

Personnel: T. Brown-Grier reported

- Committee will be reviewing employee salary grid
- Committee will be reviewing the employee health benefits and employee guidelines

Ad Hoc Facilities - committee is looking for members

Audience: Public Comment

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted: P. Algera

Approved: 11/13/2025