

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 12, 2026  
5:30 p.m.  
Meeting held at 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061  
Meeting available via [Zoom](#)

Notice of this meeting was sent to the appropriate governmental agencies, posted on the school's website, and was published in the "South Shore Charter Public School Weekly Update".

**Trustees:**

**In attendance:** Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst (Treasurer), Tracy Deveau, Jerry Ford, Rowena Samuels

**Remote participation:** Katy Sullivan (Vice Chair), Tiffany Brown-Grier (Clerk - delayed arrival), David Luu, Jimmy Juste, Keisha O'Marde-Jack

**In absentia:** Bruce Frost, Andrew Sobers, Gerald Fernandez

**Also in attendance:**

**Staff:** Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Kristine Bingham (Director of Finance), Joe McSheffrey (Technology Support Specialist), April Robino (Administrative Assistant)

**Remote Staff:** Sophia Cacciapouti (Human Resources Specialist), Kimberley Thompson

**Audience:** Beth Delaney and child

**Remote Audience:** Helen Li

**Meeting documents:**

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [2/5/26 meeting minutes](#)
- [3/12/26 ED Report](#)
- [SSCPS Complaint Procedure](#)
- [FY26 Approved Calendar](#)
- [Board Candidate Folder](#)
- [Financial Reports](#)

**Opening of Meeting:** K. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**Individual roll call:** K. Sullivan (remote), J. Juste (remote), A. Uhlenbrock-Furst, T. Deveau, J. Ford, R. Samuels, D. Luu (remote), K. O'Marde-Jack (remote)

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** K. Sullivan moved to approve the minutes from the Board meeting on February 5, 2026. T. Deveau seconded.

**Vote by individual roll call:** K. Sullivan (aye), T. Brown-Grier (aye), A. Uhlenbrock-Furst (aye), J. Juste (aye), D. Luu (aye), T. Deveau (aye), J. Ford (aye), R. Samuels (aye), K. O'Marde-Jack (aye)

**9 in favor. Motion carried.**

**SCHOOL & ACADEMIC REPORT:**

**State of the School Report:** Alicia Savage, Executive Director reported.  
[3/12/26 ED Report](#) and [Slides for ED Report](#)

**Student Achievement:**

- March has been an exciting month with a lot of weather challenges.
- African Diaspora Night was terrific and was held on March 5th, which was moved from the original date due to snow.

- The BSU Wax Museum was held on February 13th.
- The AP African American Studies Black Art Exhibition was fabulous.
- The Bridge Building Competition in Boston was snowed out, so it was moved to our gym space.
- Grades 7 and 8 went on terrific field trips to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Kennedy Library.
- The Senior class did a terrific job at their Senior Debates last week.

#### SSCPS Annual Family Survey Data:

- Survey data is included and linked in the ED Report for anyone to review.
- Survey feedback is essential and is used to inform decision-making, including facilities, academics and extracurriculars, and all those things that make up the school community.
- This is the first year of enrollment growth and facilities expansion.
- Also conducted a faculty survey, as well as faculty focus groups during professional development time.
- Participation in the family survey this year was high, with 180 responses from 766 families (23% response rate), but was a bit lower than last year. Could be due to family participation in the transportation survey and focus groups.
- Academic Programming (Question 5) - Measured family satisfaction with academic rigor and preparation for future learning by academic area. Most families agreed, or strongly agreed, that the school offers a rigorous academic program across all subjects. Satisfaction scores were ELA 85%, Math 86%, Science 81%, Social Studies & History 83%, World Languages 83%, Arts 77%, Projects & Workshops 85%.
- Core Values and School Culture (Questions 8 and 9) - Most families agreed, or strongly agreed, with both questions. The first question asked whether SSCPS strives to nurture a respectful culture and the second asked if SSCPS initiatives on diversity help to make the school a stronger community? The satisfaction scores were 84% for respectful culture and 82% for diversity initiatives.
- Core Values and Shared Objectives (Questions 35, 41 & 42) - Families generally agreed, or strongly agreed, with these objectives. Survey results show very high satisfaction, 82% for community service, and 89% and 95%, respectfully, for the two student achievement questions.
- Areas of Growth - Providing adequate facilities for students remains the area with the most need for growth. Another area for growth is the enforcement of the Code of Conduct (Question 10).
- Survey and focus groups are the vehicles for family input. Administration and teachers do not look at social media for this purpose.
- Overall Satisfaction (Question 43) - Measures the overall satisfaction with the educational experience and academic program. This year, 85% of families selected strongly agree or agree on the overall satisfaction.
- Any negative responses are looked at by Alicia to see what the greater issue is and what can be done to resolve it and if any additional investigation needs to take place.
- Will revisit the survey results at the Board retreat in July.

#### Facilities Update:

- Phase II is ongoing despite weather setbacks.
- Interior framing for North side upstairs offices and classrooms was completed last week and passed inspection.
- Building inspector reviewed blocking and insulation progress this week.
- Sheetrock, drywall and insulation installation is underway.
- Seismic bracing work continues in case of any potential earthquake impact.
- HVAC units and door frames have been delivered and are awaiting installation.
- Flooring and lockers were selected.
- Furniture and cabinetry being ordered to arrive before school starts in August.
- Photos were shared of some of the damage from recent snow storms.
- Still sticking to May 15th completion of Phase 2. May need to balance with AP testing around same time.

### Transportation Update:

- Survey results show there's an overall high satisfaction rate with the transportation program. Always looking to improve it.
- Concerns about communication, route efficiency and overcrowding are being addressed. A lot of family communication has taken place regarding the new bus and changes in routes.
- Addition of new bus has reduced overcrowding. Started on 2/26 after delay from school closure.
- Adding 2 more buses next year.

### Enrollment/Withdrawal Data:

- Enrollment Lottery was held on March 6th.
- A lot of interest in the school, despite state-wide declining enrollment trends.
- A lot of admissions events and community outreach took place prior to lottery.
- At the November Open House, there were 205 visitors for K-5, 76 for Middle School and 34 for High School.
- Tuesday "Talk to Us" sessions were well-attended. 97 prospective students and families attended, which was higher than last year.
- A year-to-year comparison was presented. This year had 788 applications, with 36 deemed ineligible, for 192 anticipated openings.
- Kindergarten received the highest number of applications, followed by grades 6 and 9.
- The highest number of applications came from Brockton, followed by Randolph and Weymouth.
- Current enrollment is 1,131 students.

### COMPLAINT/COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE:

- K. Sullivan presented a revised version of the complaint policy that appears in the Student and Family Handbook. Live edits to the document were made by Katy during the meeting based on lengthy Board discussion and input.
- The current policy is located deep on the website and in the Student and Family Handbook and should be disseminated in a more obvious way to families so they know what is the most effective way and what their rights and responsibilities are when they have a complaint.
- There was in-depth discussion by the Board regarding the complaint policy and defining the steps to be followed by parents in making complaints, as well as the timeframe and steps for Administration and the Board to acknowledge and respond to such complaints.
- Revisions made to the policy include:
  - The Principal or Dean of Students shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint within three school days, absent extenuating circumstances, and provide a substantive response to the concern within ten school days, barring exceptional circumstances.
  - If that response does not adequately resolve the issue, a complaint can be made to the ED or Director of Student Services, or their designee, and they will acknowledge receipt of the complaint, barring exceptional circumstances, within 3 school days and provide a substantive response, barring exceptional circumstances, within 10 school days.
  - If still not adequately resolved, a complaint can be made to the Board, who will have 45 days to respond in writing to the complaint.
  - If not adequately resolved by the Board or they do not respond within 45 days, a written complaint can be made to DESE.
- Any parent complaints regarding special education or student safety can by-pass this procedure and go straight to DESE.
- Written complaints need to be saved and accessible to the whole Board and maintained in an aggregated way (Google folders accessible to Board members).
- School's attorney indicated complaints to Executive Director should not live in Board's Google drive and should not be as easily accessible as those to Board. Board should not be monitoring day-to-day and acting in operations. ED Complaint folder should be moved from its current location on the Drive.
- Complaints will only be escalated further if not resolved in the previous step.

- Parents discussing things on social media does not create an exception for the school to divulge information to third parties.
- Out-of-office email response should be standard so it can respond with a designee to contact in a person's absence. Does not count as the response to a complaint for timeline purposes.

**MOTION:** K. Sullivan moved to approve the language and adopt the complaint procedure, as revised during this Board meeting, and for it to be published in the Student and Family Handbook, and also published on the school's website and other places as directed by the Board and Administration. J. Juste seconded.

**Vote by individual roll call:** K. Sullivan (aye), T. Brown-Grier (aye), A. Uhlenbrock-Furst (aye), J. Juste (aye), D. Luu (aye), T. Deveau (aye), J. Ford (aye), R. Samuels (aye), K. O'Marde-Jack (aye).

**9 in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **FY26 CALENDAR CHANGE:**

- The Board had lengthy discussions regarding how to make up the additional two snow days. It was proposed to either hold them on Eid and Good Friday or add them onto the end of the school year.
- The Board recognized that this was a hard decision to make and that no matter their decision, there would be parties not happy with the outcome.
- There have been 5 snow days this year. 2 days have to be made up in addition to the 3 already approved in the calendar as make-up days at the end of the year.
- If school days were made up on Eid or Good Friday, they would have to be full days and not half days.
- FASA has expressed they want to use these two holidays to make up for missed days.
- Families expressed they want to protect the religious holidays and extend the school year.
- Teachers can request religious holidays off and students would receive an excused absence if school is held on a religious holiday they observe.
- If nothing is done, the state will just add the days on to the end of the school year to meet the mandated 180 day requirement.
- A communication will be sent out indicating that the last day of school will now be on June 25th.
- It was suggested that this be included in the Family Survey in the future.

**MOTION:** J. Ford moved to change the FY26 calendar to have school on Eid and Good Friday. D. Luu seconded.

**Vote by individual roll call:** K. Sullivan (no), A. Uhlenbrock-Furst (no), T. Brown-Grier (no), J. Juste (no), D. Luu (aye), T. Deveau (no), J. Ford (abstained), R. Samuels (abstained), K. O'Marde-Jack (no).

**1 in favor, 6 against, 2 abstained (faculty members). Motion failed.**

#### **BOARD CANDIDATES PRESENTED BY GOVERNANCE:**

- Vote on candidates was tabled until the May Board meeting. See Governance Committee report below for update.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Governance:** K. Sullivan reported.

- The Governance Committee interviewed 6 candidates for the Board.
- The Committee met and voted to recommend 5 out of the 6 candidates to the Board. The recommended candidates are Glen Palmer, Jitin Mediratta, Joseph Rucker, Nicholas Molchan, and Kathryn Aucella.
- There will be 5 vacant seats on the Board.
- By-laws state that no more than 3 seats can be added in one year. Seats is not the same as people/vacancies for determining numbers.
- There are currently 14 seats and the Committee is recommending adding 3 more seats to the Board, for a total of 17 seats.

- Kate Trowbridge has to be replaced by another teacher as a Teacher Representative.
- Discussion and vote on candidates will take place at the May Board meeting.
- A computer folder was created with all of the candidates' resumes, applications and cover letters that the whole Board can access and review prior to the May meeting.
- Current by-laws provide that if a Board member misses 3 consecutive meetings, or more than 5 in a year, they are subject to removal by the Board. In order to remove someone from the Board, they have to be given notice, the Board has to have a discussion about it and the member is welcome to participate, and there must be a two-thirds majority of the Board vote to remove a member (not a simple majority). Katy indicated there are at least two Board members who may be asked to resign or she may move to have them removed from the Board, as there are other people interested in joining the Board. This would open 2 additional seats on the Board.
- The committee will be reviewing minutes from Executive Sessions to determine what can be released as public record. Open Meeting Law states minutes can only stay private for so long as needed to protect the interest and privacy of ongoing negotiations and related conversations.

**Faculty:** J. Ford reported.

- First grade students completed their first Evidence of Mastery by presenting a timeline of their lives, which are currently displayed in the school. They are also researching an animal of their choosing to learn about the habitat, body features, diets, and other interesting facts.
- Literacy Night will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at 100 Longwater for 4th grade students. Families will come to the school to hear stories read aloud by teachers and parent volunteers. Students are welcome to wear pajamas and bring a stuffed animal.
- The 5th grade science students are working on projects on watersheds that affect pollution in the environment. They are using clay to build a watershed to study the effects.
- The High School Theater Workshop competed in the METG High School Drama Festival at Bourne High School on March 7th. While they didn't advance, they gave a great performance earning awards for several students.
- The high school guidance department is busy with many events. Seniors are nearing the end of their time so they are finishing up their Graduation requirements. Preparation is underway for the PSAT/SAT day on April 9th. A Junior Parent meeting will be held on March 18th to prepare students and parents for what to expect between now and next year's graduation for the class of 2027.
- The Sophomore class has a busy end of March. ELA MCAS is March 24th and 25th, and then on Monday, March 30th the class is going to tour UMass Dartmouth.
- There is an upcoming STEM night at the high school for all members of the community on Monday, March 16th. The science department also had 2 field trips this week to Bridgewater State University for a hands-on that focused on CyberSecurity, Biotechnology and Forensics.

**Parents Association:** K. O'Marde-Jack reported.

- The Parents Association has formed 2 committees to work on future events.
- One committee is looking at crafting experiences for Teacher Appreciation in May. May 4 and 5 are the dates being looked at to recognize and celebrate administration and teachers.
- Another committee has been formed related to beautification to take on indoor and outdoor projects using funds generated through Raise Craze and other fall fundraising efforts.
- The PA will be attending an upcoming Planning meeting to discuss their plans for the Spring Fair. Planning meetings are held every Friday at 11:00 a.m. PA has funds earmarked to support a parents' lounge area at the Spring Fair to encourage families to spend more time at the Fair.

**Students:** No report.

**Finance:** A. Uhlenbrock-Furst and K. Bingham reported.

- At the last Finance Committee meeting, K. Bingham presented the year-to-date financial reports, which are also included in tonight's Board meeting packet. These included the Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow.
- The status of the FY27 budget preparations was reviewed, as well as the projected tuition and revenue numbers based on budget enrollment of 1,200 students for next year.
- An update on FY27 entitlement grants was given, which are the Title I, II, III and IV grants.
- Will be holding some off-meetings for budget and health insurance discussions.
- Health insurance renewal is 7/1. Will be receiving updated information from benefits broker regarding options available to us for renewal of healthcare and other benefits.
- A webinar will be presented to the Personnel and Finance Committees to go over the different health care models available to us.

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

- No update at this time.

**Personnel:** T. Brown-Grier reported.

- Personnel has been discussing the timeline for the Executive Director evaluation, with the goal of having the evaluation completed by June and presenting it to the Board in July.
- Will be scheduling a special Personnel meeting later in March to go over ED evaluation.
- Will be discussing the civil rights policy language at the next Personnel meeting.

**Ad Hoc Field Trip:** No report.

**Ad Hoc Facilities:** No report.

**Audience:** Public Comment

There was one remote audience member (Helen Li) who posted a comment in the Zoom chat that was shared with the Board.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: A. Robino

---

Approved: May 14, 2026