

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 5, 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: Katy Sullivan (Vice Chair), Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst (Treasurer), Tracy Deveau, Jerry Ford, Rowena Samuels, David Luu, Keisha O'Marde-Jack

Remote participation: Jimmy Juste (Chair), Tiffany Brown-Grier (Clerk - delayed arrival)

In absentia: Bruce Frost, Willow Shinney-Kalafatas, Andrew Sobers, Kate Trowbridge, Gerald Fernandez

Also in attendance:

Staff: Alicia Savage (Executive Director), Joe McSheffrey (Technology Support Specialist), April Robino (Administrative Assistant)

Audience: N/A

Remote Audience: Kerri Doble

Meeting documents:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Meeting Minutes 12/11/25](#)
- [2/5/26 ED Report](#)
- [2026 Employee Benefit Plan Update with Board Presentation](#)
- [Financial Reports](#)

Opening of Meeting: K. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

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

BOARD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: T. Deveau moved to approve the minutes from the Board meeting on 12/11/2025 (with change requested by T. Deveau to name reference in Facilities Update). R. Samuels seconded.

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

7 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion carried.

SCHOOL & ACADEMIC REPORT:

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

[2/5/26 ED Report](#) and [Slides for ED Report](#)

Student Achievement:

- Slide show presentation shown on screen as part of ED Report.
- January and February have been very busy.
- Just finished up mid-year assessments.
- The Art Workshop displayed their Exhibitions of Mastery at the fashion show on 1/9/26.
- Lots of exciting things are coming up for Black History Month.
- African Diaspora Night will be held on 2/26/26.
- 2/4/26 was World Read Aloud Day and high school students read to students over at 100. NHS and Student Counsel read to children at Bright Horizons.

College Board:

- An update was given on the College Board recognitions. SSCPS achieved overall Silver recognition on the College Board AP Honor Roll for the Class of 2025. Details are included in the ED Report and slides presented at the Board meeting.
- Students are presented with College Board options in Advisory.
- Students can choose from a list and take as many as they can manage.
- Introducing AP classes earlier - grade 10 (adding one class in grade 9).
- Offer dual enrollment college credit - 3 courses in senior year available. Early College Planning Grant awarded for \$25,000. Receive college credit from Quincy College.

PSAT/NMSQT and SAT Scores:

- Updates on the PSAT/SAT scores from Spring and Fall 2025 were provided. Details are included in the ED Report and slides presented at the Board meeting.
- The curriculum for MCAS is different than for PSAT.
- Start testing in grade 8 and again in grade 9. 10th grade test is different. 11th grade is more rigorous. Accommodations for test takers are for IEP & 504 and some for EL students.
- 8th grade PSAT scores from Spring 2025 - A cohort of 75 students took the test with 24 receiving accommodations. The total scores outperformed State, National and Global Testers. Reading/Writing scores outperformed the State, National, and Global. Math scores were lower than State, National and Global.
- 9th grade PSAT scores from Spring 2025 - Cohort of 79 students with 33 accommodations. Total scores were lower than State, National, and Global Testers. Reading/Writing was lower than State and outperformed in National and Global. Math was lower than State, National and Global.
- 10th grade PSAT scores from Spring 2025 - Cohort of 60 students with 38 accommodations. Total scores were lower than State and higher for National and Global Testers. Reading/Writing was lower than State and outperformed for National and Global. Math was lower than State, National and Global.
- 11th grade PSAT/NMSQT scores from Fall 2025 - Cohort of 62 students with 38 accommodations. Total scores were lower than State, National and Global Testers. Reading/Writing was lower than State, National and Global. Math was lower than State, National and Global. Significant progress from prior year.
- 11th grade SAT School Day scores from Spring 2025 - Cohort of 69 students with 26 accommodations. Total scores were higher than State, National and Global Testers. Lower than State All Schools (including private). Reading/Writing outperformed State, National and Global. Math lower than State, National and Global.
- Grade 12 SAT scores from Fall 2025 - Cohort of 14 students (21% of Class of 2026). Total Scores outperformed State, National and Global Testers. Reading/Writing outperformed State, National and Global. Math outperformed State, National and Global.

- SSCPS offers the opportunity to take the first SAT for free in school. Direct cost to school.
- Students can take the SAT multiple times and only submit desired scores.

Facilities Update:

- The town issued the Phase 2 construction permit on 12/17/25.
- Outside construction at 700 Longwater began, including a driveway and fence being installed.
- Have entered the construction phase of Stage 2.
- The estimated completion date is 9/1, after next school year starts.

Transportation Update:

- There were 294 responses to the December Family Survey. Link on page 9 of ED Report as to specific responses.
- Two Family Focus Groups were held with day one being more attended.
- Some responses mentioned student behavior issues when getting on the bus in the morning.
- Some family recommendations made were for bus tracking, monitors, separating grade levels (exceptions for siblings)
- Overall satisfaction with program & changes.
- First Student determines routes based on families that sign up. Many late signups this year that affected stops.
- 2/23 new bus route starts. First Student still working on stops. There will be some changes to current routes.

Enrollment/Withdrawal Data:

- Page 10 of ED Report and slides outline the enrollment/withdrawal data including some of the family comments. No bullying referenced for 2024-2025.
- Title 3 funds no longer being received from the Federal government..
- Current enrollment is 1,131 students as of 2/3/26. Withdrawals of 128 students (including withdrawals from over summer).
- Lottery for waitpool was held on 1/28/26. Waitpool is for applications received after the application deadline. 11/1 enrollment season began. Have received 622 applications, 59 for siblings.
- Receiving cap in Brockton & Randolph.
- Lottery next month. Adding kindergarten class for next year. Adding spots in grades 1 and 7.
- This was the highest growth year.

Scam/phishing emails:

- Send spam emails to Rio in IT to determine validity.

FY27 HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL:

- Personnel and Finance Committees had a meeting with Ken Bettenhauser. The presentation from that meeting is included in the Board meeting packet and folder.
- Ken will have additional meetings with staff to go over options.
- Might possibly be heading to a new health plan. Quotes come out in April. Going to be a difficult decision, so the more people are informed and educated on the matter the better. Some options may be available in the future, but not currently.
- Important decision Board will have to make. Want to give everyone time to learn more about it.
- School currently pays 70% of deductible.

RESPONSE TO PARENT COMMUNICATIONS:

- The Board received two communications from parents that felt their individual child had been treated unfairly and wanted the Board to be made aware of it.
- Communications were sent to the Executive Committee. Only one was also sent to Administration. Board Chair and Administration responded to both parents.
- Executive Committee reviewed the communications policies and protocols currently in place.
- Neither parent followed the complaint procedure outlined in the Student/Family Handbook.
- There is concern that it should be easier for families to find the appropriate way to voice complaints/concerns and also the process for those who want to make complaints.
- There was discussion of creating an Ad Hoc Communications Committee to look at a communications strategy between Board and Administration.
- There was also discussion of adding to the Board's web page a direct link to the complaint procedure in the Handbook to make it easier to find.
- By-laws and Handbook have a complaint procedure in place. The Personnel and Governance Committees will take this up at their next meetings to draft an actual policy as to who will be the person to process and respond to complaints.
- Executive Committee has been handling these communications up until now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance: K. Sullivan reported.

- Great response to Board recruitment efforts. Received 6 applications - one is an alumni and the others are parents of students.
- Started interviewing and scheduling times to talk with each candidate.
- There will be 4 positions open on the Board, unless any further resignations are received.
- Received written resignation today from Willow Shinney-Kalafatas from the Student Representative position. No vote or action is needed on this. Willow is currently a Senior and the Board thanked her for her years of service.
- J. Ford indicated that students will vote in April for a new Student Representative who will be a rising Sophomore.
- Trustees can be asked to resign or there is a process in place for a Trustee to be removed, if necessary.

Faculty: J. Ford reported.

- Mandatory WIDA ACCESS Testing: January 20, 2026, through February 27, 2026
- This year, ELE staff will administer the ACCESS test to 115 K-12 EL students. The "ACCESS test" (WIDA ACCESS) is an annual English language proficiency assessment given to all K-12 English Learners (ELs) in Massachusetts. The test measures students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in academic English across subjects such as math and science. This assessment helps us track progress and determine when students no longer need EL support. EL students take the ACCESS test annually until they reach a required proficiency level. Annual Score Reports are sent home to parents in late May/early June.
- Melissa Freitas' kindergarten class works weekly with Krista Kelly's 5th grade project. The students are partnered up and they have the same "Big Buddy" each week. They work on crafts or activities that go along with our weekly science lesson.
- Kindergartners will also be presenting their first ever Exhibition of Mastery tomorrow (Friday, February 6th). They have to memorize a nursery rhyme and draw a picture/make a poster to go along with it. They will present in front of their class.

- Third grade gave out our last Jaguar Awards for "A Jaguar is Joyful" and are preparing to hand out our next Jaguar Awards for "A Jaguar is Accepting."
- In 6th grade ELA, students have finished their second book of the year, Out of the Dust, and are working on a creative writing piece in which they demonstrate an understanding of the plot, character and setting, as well as what they have learned about figurative language and stylistic devices, to write a continuation of the story.
- The 6th grade Community Service Project has also been working hard creating handmade Valentines that we will be delivering, in person, to the Guardian Nursing Home in Brockton next week.
- Level 4 Theater Workshop - Student actors rehearsed Scenes from The Little Mermaid, painted set pieces, supported each other, performed for friends, parents, and JP, worked together as a creative team to tell the story
- The AP Bridge & Mentorship Program is progressing well as students regularly meet with their assigned mentors to build academic skills, confidence, and readiness for advanced coursework. Mentors are supporting students with goal-setting, study strategies, and navigating the expectations of honors and AP classes.
- Curriculum coordinators also met with students to discuss AP course offerings, expectations, and pathways, answering questions and helping students make informed decisions about future coursework. Together, these supports continue to expand access and strengthen preparation for AP success.
- The Health offices are working on screenings. Getting heights, weights, hearing, and vision!

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

- Continuing to have monthly meetings. At least two principals from the different levels have been coming in and meeting with the PA Officers.
- At last month's PA meeting, received approval for budget spending for the upcoming year of over \$38,000.
- PA voted to use over \$9,500 for field trips and over \$6,500 for indoor and outdoor improvements.
- Setting up committees to work with Administration on special projects.
- New item PA agreed to do is offer money toward graduation ceremonies for K, 5th & 8th grades.
- Walter will be coming to an upcoming PA meeting to highlight the work he has been doing re: culture. Matt will be coming to a meeting to give a transportation update.

Students: No report.

- Willow has resigned as Student Representative.

Finance: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported.

- The cash flow projections, balance sheet and overall profit & loss can be found in the meeting packet.
- Projections for tuition dollars estimated to be higher. Highlighted in yellow in the spreadsheets.
- Funding has been allocated to hire a Dean of Students at MS/HS level. Keisha can share that information with the PA. Want to hire ASAP, but might be difficult in middle of the year. Preference to internal hire. Position will be posted internally and then externally.
- Will continue discussing health insurance options at next Finance meeting on 2/24/26.

Development: A. Uhlenbrock-Furst reported.

- Continuing to work on the goals for the year.
- A couple of the Board candidates have really good development experience.

Personnel: T. Brown-Grier reported.

- Will be having more discussions regarding the health insurance as that is a timely matter that needs to be more addressed.
- There have been extensive and productive discussions about the existing faculty salary grid.
- An additional Personnel meeting will be added for the end of February and Tiffany will send out an email about dates.
- At the March committee meeting there will be further discussion of the civil rights policy and communication about the upcoming Executive Director evaluation.

Ad Hoc Field Trip: No report.

Ad Hoc Facilities: No report.

Audience: Public Comment

There was one remote audience member and no questions/comments in the Zoom chat.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: A. Robino

Approved: March 12, 2026