



**Social Justice Public Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 28, 2024
Location: Social Justice School**

Board Members Present: Eric Goldstein (EG), Neils Ribeiro-Yemofio (NRY), Joel Smith Goering (JSG), Caitlin Campbell-Hahn (CCH), Shannon Hodge (SH), Dionne McDonald (DM)

Board Members Absent: Pat Brantley (PB), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Maia Shanklin Roberts (MSR)

Staff Members Present: Myron Long (ML), Executive Director

Guests Present: Tiffany Gillis Brown (TGB, remote), Yinnie Tse (YT)

A. Meeting Opening: Roll Call; Establishment of Quorum; Call to Order

NRY called the meeting to order at 6:41pm and established a quorum with 6 board members and 1 staff member present.

B. Approval of the April 2024 Minutes

NRY shared the April 2024 board meeting minutes for review and requested a motion to approve. JSG moved to approve and EG seconded. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

C. Opening Activity/Mission Moment

NRY invited guest Yinnie Tse, a prospective board member, to introduce herself. YT shared about her previous roles at Washington Latin and DCPS, as well as her investment in SJS's mission. NRY added that YT was a Pahara fellow. The board members introduced themselves and welcomed YT.

Mission Moment: ML shared one of the songs that SJS scholar-activists wrote and produced during a recent unit on go-go as an act of resistance in Learning Design Lab. Students made 4 tracks and shot some videos as part of the unit, with an upcoming listening party for student performances. ML shared that this unit was very popular and allowed some scholar-activists to shine in new ways at school. This unit was funded through CTE funding from OSSE.

ML also shared about the recent One World Challenge, a writing competition where SJS scholar-activists took home awards.

D. Executive Director Update

Facility updates:

- Some increases in projected expenses because of project management and architectural costs. Board discussed options for managing costs and the partnership agreement with Cafritz.
- Estimate is for the modulars to be ready for use in early August; PCSB will do a site visit 2 weeks before the start of the SY

- The board discussed potential back-up options in the case of delays.
- SJS will be renting space at a nearby church (10k square feet) to use for gym activities; during the warmer months will also use the park by UDC. ML is working through scheduling challenges to allow for travel time with the team. The search continues for office space.
- SJS presented to the PCSB about the new facility application recently. The board briefly discussed how to engage with PCSB going into the 5-year review in SY24-25.

Talent updates:

- 100% of teachers who have been asked to return have stated their intent to return.
- 2 strong finalists for the principal role; ML expects to be able to share more soon.

Fundraising and partnership updates:

- \$15k grant from Ed Forward DC to support SJS's guaranteed income pilot, "Guaranteed Together."
- \$30k Summer Boost grant to support summer school
- Several grant applications outstanding to support community leader teacher model, school-based mental health, and the Civil Rights trip.

D. Committee Updates

Executive Committee

NRY shared that the executive committee's main focus for this month is the recruitment of new board members and succession of new members into board officer roles as Tammy Tuck rolls off the board.

New board members:

- NRY asked for a motion to approve TGB's membership on the board of directors of SJS. CCH made a motion and SH seconded. The motion passed with no one opposed and no abstentions.
- NRY invited YT to ask the board any questions as she considers joining the board. YT asked board members to share what keeps them up at night when thinking about the next 12 months at SJS and board members shared responses.

Board officer roles:

- NRY moved the group into discussion of the board chair position. NRY was nominated for chair, so he recused himself from the discussion.
- EG moved to approve NRY as board chair. DM seconded. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.
- NRY moved the group into discussion of the secretary role, which was previously held by CCH. CCH was nominated and so recused herself from the discussion.
- SH moved to approve CCH as board secretary. JSG seconded. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

NRY shared a board survey with the group to complete, to help the executive committee get a better understanding of members' areas of expertise and relevant gaps to consider for board recruitment.

Finance Committee

- JSG shared the April finance report. SJS's bottom line is similar to previous projections. Project management and architectural fees have been added to this budget.

- JSG led the group into a discussion of next year's budget. The draft budget presented tonight assumes 121 students in SY24-25. (Audited enrollment for SY23-24 is 124 students.)
- ML shared updates on enrollment efforts to date, including a ramped-up digital campaign and building stronger relationships with elementary schools. ML and team feel very good about reaching 121 students in SY24-25.
- SH suggested that ML look more broadly at enrollment trends of neighboring charter schools and those with similar demographics or models to SJS.
- The board discussed the 121 enrollment target in the proposed budget and whether the enrollment target should be adjusted. The group agreed to vote to approve the 121-student budget and revisit the budget prior to submission to the PCSB pending the analysis of alternative contingency budgets with lower enrollment projections.
- NRY moved to approve the 121-student budget model for SY24-25. CCH moved to approve the budget and DM seconded. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

Student Performance Committee

- CCH shared that the SPC did not meet as planned this week since CCH instead joined the Finance Committee meeting to discuss the facility application.
- CCH invited board members to review SJS's sample ASPIRE score, which is linked in the board packet.
- CAPE testing is almost over, MAP testing is coming up and those scores will be available in June.

Community Engagement Committee

- NRY shared that the committee is starting to plan for the 5-year review and will be working to gather testimonies from relevant stakeholders.

E. Announcements

ML shared a list of upcoming EOY events with the board and asked them to attend if available. This year's graduation will feature an SJS alumnus as speaker.

F. Closing

NRY called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. JSG made a motion and SH seconded. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.