



Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2023

Board Members Present: Pat Brantley (PB), Tammy Tuck (TT) Neils Ribeiro-Yemofio (NRY), Meenakshi Nankani (MN), Jhae Thompson (JT), Maia Shanklin Roberts (MSR)

Board Members Absent: , Derrick Johnson (DJ), Dionne McDonald (DM), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Eric Goldstein (EG)

Staff Members Present: Myron Long (ML) Executive Director

Guests Present: Jake Cinti and Susan Kay, Open Impact Real Estate

A. Meeting Opening

Roll Call; Establishment of Quorum; Call to Order

Tammy Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm and established quorum with 6 board members and 1 staff member present.

Mr. Long led the board in a joy and wellness exercise.

B. Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
 - Mr. Long reminded the board that the SJS budget for the upcoming year was approved at the 5/17/23 Board meeting. The budget is solvent at 150 scholar-activists and will yield a positive net income of \$51,000.
 - Mr. Long will share enrollment updates at the July Student Performance, Finance and Executive committee meetings.
 - Mr. Long updated the board on the status of the search for new facilities for the Social Justice School and shared that SJS is looking in

Ward 5, where 53% of students go to charter schools which may support recruitment.

- Mr. Cinti from Open Ed shared objectives for the facilities search to find a stand-alone school with 7-12 classrooms with enough space for 170-300 students with 15,000 to 30,000 square by spring 2024 to use starting June 2024.
- Mr. Cinti shared that SJS would pursue parallel paths for both permanent and temporary facilities for SY2024-25 and/or SY2025-26 to meet the deadline to relocate from the current building. He also shared key drivers for selection, updates on the search process resulting in 3 currently active negotiations, and rationale and updates on how including an RFP process benefits SJS.
- Ms. Kay shared that Open has sought out mission-aligned developers and shared updates on several.
- Mr. Cinti added that it is preferable to work with a partner who would be a long-term partner for each phase of the work over time. He shared key assumptions around target deal terms, estimated operating expenses and target encroachment and affordability.
- Ms. Brentley asked about annual encroachment at 9% in the early years vs. later years.
- Mr Cinti and Ms Kay shared that these are conservative projections and there is possibility for change depending on the partner.
- The guests shared two example locations for permanent sites to consider pros and cons in terms of transportation, encroachment and other factors.
- Mr. Cinti named the challenges of limited spaces and high demand,
- Named that temporary space can be more competitive than can be with long-term option. He shared that one year in a temporary space would allow a full renovation of an existing building while two years in a temporary facility would allow ground-up construction.
- The guest shared next steps to continue the expanded site search, the RFP process for developers, negotiations for a permanent site, and conducting temporary site tours
- Mr. Ribeiro-Yemofio asked if there have been any sites that were not a fit for permanent space but would be for temporary use.
- Mr. C shared a space that fits that profile and could fit 200 students.

- Mr. Ribeiro-Yemofio asked about one of the partners and what options they had available.
 - Ms. Shanklin Robers clarified if SJS could stay in the current location for an additional year.
 - Mr. Long shared that SJS had asked Rocketship about the possibility of extended co-location and named that each school was experiencing operational challenges as they each grow in terms of shared spaces.
 - Mr. Cinti shared that staying in the current location is a possible third parallel path.
 - Mr. Long shared that there would be updates and discussion at the Finance committee in June.
- School Performance Committee
 - Mr. Long shared that there is tension around goal attainment for SY22-23 and SY23-24 because when SJS is up for 5-year review in SY25-26 these two years will guide that review in terms of business rules.
 - PCSB has changed goal attainment policy and slowed down on development of new performance framework such that SJS could either meet or exceed the sector average for scores of 4+ on PARCC, meet or exceed the NWEA Publisher growth norm 50th percentile, or meet or exceed our targets for our mission-specific goals or show improvement in SY22-23.
 - Ms. Brantley added that charters have the option to opt-in to the PCSB framework for goals or negotiate a separate set of goals with PCSB which a few LEAs have done. PCSB considers similar factors.
 - She noted that KIPP schools said they would meet a specific mark in 3 of 5 years. She recommended looking through these alternate goals to consider what SJS might propose. She shared a concern that because SJS is a limited grade school so while improvement from the pandemic will likely happen but if enrollment phase is different because students are coming in later grades and then moving on we aren't capturing growth of the students we have from 5th to 8th. SJS will turnover an entire set of students over a 5-year period.

- Ms. Brantley added that there is a policy that relates; could get board to agree that since the PMF is unknown that the policy doesn't allow for why the framework exists - to let LEAs know what will be judged on.
- Mr. Long shared some concerns around the clarity of the proposed goal attainment policy. He added that he would have a follow-up conversation with Ms. Brantley.
- Ms. Tuck asked if there were any advocacy opportunities or needs around this issue the board or Student Performance Committee could support with.
- Mr. Long shared that the DC Charter Alliance has an email to share with DC Council members about the WTU funding for charter schools.
- Ms. Brantley shared that the council voted to approve the proposal by Mendelson and Frumin withdrew his amendment, and that it would be worthwhile to thank the chairperson for passing an amendment that doesn't delay or decrease the amount funding and gives charter LEAs clarity about the amount of funding they will receive without added bureaucracy. She noted that council members shared with her they had not heard from charters on the issue.
- Mr. Long shared that in conversations with teachers it was important to know what compensation would be provided.
- Ms. Brantley shared a final point that the correlation of at-risk students and performance on the framework is problematic for stand-alone middle schools.

D. Closing

- Mr. Long also shared that trustee financial contributions are due by June 30th.
- Mr. Long encouraged board members to attend 8th grade promotion on Tuesday, June 13, and 9am at SJS, and that the board is welcome to join the associated events and celebrations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.