



**Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Derrick Johnson (DJ), Eric Goldstein (EG), Rael Nelson James (RNJ), Maia Shanklin Roberts (MSR), Eric Goldstein (EG), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Jhae Thompson (JT), Tammy Tuck (TT)

**Board Members Absent:** Pat Brantley (PB), Meenakshi Nankani (MN)

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

**Invited Guests:** None

**A. Meeting Opening - Board Member**

**Roll Call; Establishment of Quorum; Call to Order**

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and established quorum. Mr. Johnson led an opening activity using the language of the Social Justice School mission.

**B. Receive and Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting**

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on October 13, 2022.

Motion: Ms. Shanklin

Seconded: Ms. Thompson

The October minutes were approved with no trustees opposed and no abstentions. There was no discussion.

**C. Committee Reports**

- Governance Committee
  - Mr. Johnson revisited the updated board meeting calendar for the 22-23 school year for committees to meet monthly and for the board to meet every other month, and underscored the importance of consistent and frequent meetings and engagement given the charter renewal timeline.
  - Mr. Johnson shared a proposal to collapse the Governance Committee into the Executive Committee and establish an Engagement Committee and the board discussed.
  - Ms. Shanklin expressed a question for whether the work of the Engagement Committee requires a separate committee. Mr. Johnson shared the intention to establish an additional Engagement Committee as we move from a founding to sustaining board, especially with the core focus in the next 18 months leading to our renewal which will require a specific cadence of work around getting new partners engaged and existing partners re-engaged to ensure SJS gets approval. Ms. Shanklin suggested that the full board should implement engagement strategies in this short-term effort this year. Ms. Nelson James shared that a separate committee could include non-board members to support the work of that committee without being privy to the full work of the Executive Committee or board. Mr. Johnson shared that long term an Engagement Committee would also focus on fundraising and advocacy and that the larger size of the board now would allow better efforts in those areas.
  - Mr. Goldstein asked if other DC charter schools have an engagement committee and if so how their work has succeeded. Mr. Johnson shared that many charters have versions of an engagement committee around external relations including policy, advocacy and fundraising.
  - Ms. Nelson James asked if there had been thought about who would serve on an Engagement Committee. Mr. Johnson shared that he intended to join and hoped that a new candidate if approved would join. He suggested that Ms. Thompson, Ms. Shanklin Roberts and Mr. Goldstein would be strong candidates given their background and experience.

- Ms Shanklin Roberts expressed that folding Governance work into the Executive Committee makes sense. She noted for ad hoc committees that another committee needs to supervise them based on the by-laws. Considering work streams coming with new facilities and charter renewal, it may make sense if the Performance Committee supervises an Engagement sub-committee. She shared that she saw a need for ad hoc committees to provide specific timely support.
  - Mr. Goldstein expressed a concern about folding fundraising into another committee rather than standing alone, especially since SJS does not currently have full-time staff committed to development. Ms. Nelson James suggested that fundraising and advocacy work be paired within the same committee. Mr. Goldstein asked if SJS is currently executing all development responsibilities and applying for and getting the grants we aspire to. Mr. Long expressed that SJS could use support.
  - Mr. Long offered that the board consider a Fundraising and Advocacy Committee instead of an “Engagement” Committee. He shared that SJS could use more support in both areas.
  - Mr. Johnson suggested given board input that the Governance Committee collapse into the Executive Committee and that the existing committees spend the next few months to confirm work streams for the year and then determine if a separate committee is warranted.
  - Mr. Johnson asked if there was a motion
    - Motion: Ms. Thompson
    - Seconded: Ms. Shanklin Roberts
    - The motion carried with no oppositions and no abstentions.
  - Mr. Johnson shared the timeline and purpose of the upcoming board retreat and that Ms. Tuck would lead planning with support from Mr. Johnson, Mr. Goldstein, and Mr. Long. The attendees completed a Zoom Poll to share availability.
- Financial Committee
    - Mr. Long shared that SJS was awarded a \$136,000 impact grant from NewSchools Venture Fund. He shared that some of the planned direct student civic engagement work hasn’t happened due to limited

capacity and that this funding could help streamline that support with the support of an external partner.

- Mr. Long shared the following financial report:
  - Net Income
    - Positive Income of \$16k is favorable to budget by \$55k.
    - Revenue (grants) is favorable to budget by \$25k
    - It is based on actual receipts, but will vary based on actual enrollment.
    - We did receive a Supplemental Pandemic Fund, \$10k in July. This is an appropriate amount for the size of our school.
    - We have kept intact the “per pupil shortfall contingency”, thereby having a potential upside of \$112k.
    - Expenses are at budget, on a YTD basis.
  - Cash Flow is positive at \$2.3M, and well above budget.
  - State & Local Revenue: Total Revenue for the year is forecasted at \$92k better than budget.
  - Expenses for the full year are on track.
  - We are forecasting to end the year at \$1.6M and 132 days of cash on hand.
- Mr. Long mentioned the board will need to read and review SJS’s recent financial audit. Mr. Johnson suggested rather than reviewing during the meeting having the board review and approve through unanimous written consent.
- School Performance Committee
  - Ms. Tuck shared the proposal for her to serve as Committee Chair following Justin Jones’ departure from the board.
  - She shared the intention of the committee to allocate 60% of our time to student performance given the wide band of PCSB goals to monitor and support. The committee will allocate 30% of our time to operational performance 10% of our time to mapping our progress toward renewal.
  - Mr. Johnson shared that in the committee discussed the possibility that PCSB may not have their revised framework complete by the time

SJS goes up for renewal and that the board may need to advocate for a fair approach. He mentioned that SJS serves considerably more students labeled “at-risk” than the other two middle schools approved our same year, and that middle school is a challenging grade band for student performance nationwide.

- He shared that engagement and advocacy will be a big part of this work and anticipates that the proposed allocation of time would max out the committee’s capacity. This connects to the opportunity to collaborate across committees or form an ad hoc committee.
- Mr. Johnson asked for a motion for Ms. Tuck to serve as Performance Committee Chair or to open up for discussion.
  - Motion: Mr. Goldsetin
  - Seconded: Ms. Nelson James
  - The motion carried with no trustees opposed and no abstentions.

#### **F. Executive Session**

Mr. Johnson moved into Executive Session to discuss the compensation and performance of an executive.

Trustees with the exception of Mr. Long moved to Executive Session.

#### **G. Closing**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm during Executive Session.**