



**Social Justice Public Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 27, 2024**

Board Members Present: Eric Goldstein (EG, remote), Neils Ribeiro-Yemofio (NRY, remote), Joel Smith Goering (JSG, remote), Caitlin Campbell-Hahn (CCH, remote), Pat Brantley (PB, remote), Shannon Hodge (SH, remote), Tammy Tuck (TT, remote)

Board Members Absent: Dionne McDonald (DM), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Maia Shanklin Roberts (MSR)

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

Guests Present: none

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

TT called the meeting to order at 6:06pm and established quorum with 7 board members and 1 staff member present.

B. Mission Moment

ML shared some examples of how students have been learning from community experts, which has been effective in increasing student engagement. SJS scholar-activists have been using the 3-D printer to create a Go-Go museum.

C. Approval of the February 2024 Minutes

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

D. Executive Director Update

ML provided an update on SJS's new home for SY24-25, 333 Kennedy St. NE. PCSB and My School DC have been informed of the new address and current families are very appreciative that the school is moving less than 200 yards away. Modulars are expected to be delivered by July 15 and ready to occupy by July 29. SJS will operate its summer program out of its current space, and is speaking to Rocketship about space-sharing opportunities for next year.

ML provided an update on principal selection, which is nearing the finalist stage. ML plans to make an offer for a new principal soon.

ML shared that offer letters for teaching staff go out in early April. The majority of teachers who have been asked to return intend to do so.

ML previewed that at the April meeting, the board will discuss the revised pay scale for teaching and non-teaching staff.

ML shared that the PCSB completed its QSR visit and SJS is awaiting results.

Grant updates: ML shared that SJS has applied for a NewSchools Venture Fund grant to support its community-experts-as-teachers model. Additionally SJS has partnered with Mother's Outreach Network, a non-profit organization that recently received a grant for



violence prevention work from the Office of the Attorney General, to launch a universal basic income pilot at SJS next year. The same organization is also applying for funding from the Greater Washington Community Foundation; if secured that grant could support a longer-term UBI pilot.

E. Committee Updates

TT transitioned the meeting to committee updates.

- **Executive Committee**
 - TT shared that we are still recruiting for a new member with treasurer skills. We also need to add a new member of the Student Performance Committee and a parent.
 - ML has been in conversation with potential board candidates.
 - TT asked board members to share availability for a one-day Saturday board retreat in July.
 - The board briefly discussed ideas for how the board could show support for SJS teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- **Finance Committee**
 - JSG gave the financial report, highlighting that SJS's financial outlook has improved after updating projections based on year-to-date trends and after accounting for some vacancies that have led to positive cash savings.
 - JSG discussed the financial impact of the facility move on SJS's financials. There will need to be a cash outlay for the modular installation and a security deposit on the permanent space.
 - SJS currently has about 125 days of cash, giving sufficient cushion for these upcoming expenses.
 - JSG shared that ML and EdOps have been working through budget drafts and will be sharing with the finance committee prior to its April meeting.
 - ML shared that SJS's target enrollment for SY24-25 is 140 students, but the team is also creating contingency models to ensure that it can weather any unexpected challenges.
- **School Performance Committee**
 - CCH shared that the SPC plans to hold a special meeting to review the QSR results when we have them (perhaps in late May).
 - CCH shared the PCSB mid-year report for SJS, which all board members received. For the 5-year review, PCSB will analyze SY21-22 and SY22-23 data to assess whether SJS has met its goals, including looking for improvement year-over-year. CCH highlighted SJS's improvement from SY21-22 to SY22-23 in PARCC 4+ achievement and shared other areas of growth, e.g. chronic absenteeism and truancy.
 - The board briefly discussed SJS's mission-specific goals (participation in student-led conferences and participation in social justice learning expeditions).
 - The board briefly discussed SJS's performance against the standard for meeting each available pathway for goal attainment for the 5-year review.
 - ML gave a brief update on Zachary Parker's and Charles Allen's bill addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy.
- **Engagement Committee**
 - NRY shared that the Community Engagement committee discussed engagement related to SJS's move to a new facility, including connecting with community leaders.



- o In preparation for the public hearing on the facility, EG is taking the lead on securing testimonies and letters of support. The hearing will be in May, with a vote in June.
- o ML is planning to call all leads and families who applied to SJS to inform them of the facility change.
- o NRY discussed ASPIRE advocacy, and shared that he plans to testify at the April 8th PCSB meeting. He asked that other board members submit verbal or written testimony for that meeting.
- o The board discussed ASPIRE advocacy, including charter leaders' request for a true pilot year.
- o EG asked whether SJS already has mission-specific goals, and ML confirmed that it does, and he hopes that these would not need to be renegotiated with PCSB.
- o PB encouraged board members to look at the charter goals policy, which is also up for public comment.

F. Closing

TT shared that the executive committee would follow up with next steps, and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. NRY moved to adjourn and PB seconded. The motion carried with no abstentions. TT adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

