



Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2021

Board Members Present: Pat Brantley (PB), Tiffany Clemmons (TC), Eric Goldstein (EG), Derrick Johnson (DJ), Justin Jones (JJ), Rael Nelson James (RNJ), Lorraine Ramos (LR), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Jhae Thompson (JT), Tammy Tuck (TT)

Board Members Absent: Meenakshi Nankani (MN), Maia Shanklin-Roberts (MSR), Jhae Thompson (JT), Tammy Tuck (TT)

Staff Members Present: Myron Long (ML) Executive Director, Reginald Galloway Director of Operations, Dominique Diggs (DD), bria wade (bw)

Invited Guests: None

A. Meeting Opening - Board Member

Roll Call; Establishment of Quorum; Call to Order

The Meeting came to order at 6:05 pm.

B. Opening Exercise

Mr. Long led the board through an opening exercise.

C. Mission Moment: Ella Baker Summer Academy

Mr. Long reported on the school's first Ella Baker Summer Academy, which featured academic support and extracurricular activities for students.

E. Committee Reports

- Governance Committee - Derrick Johnson
 - **Receive and Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on June, 15th, 2021; 6:00pm**
 - The board received and approved Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on June, 15th, 2021; 6:00 pm

Motion: Derrick Johnson

Seconded: Tiffany Clemons

The June minutes were unanimously approved.

- Board Leadership
 - Mr. Johnson reminded the board of the new Leadership slate for the 2021-2022 school year:
 - Ms. Nelson James - Chair
 - Mr. Johnson - Vice Chair
 - Nankani - Treasurer/Finance Committee
 - Ms. Tuck - Secretary
 - Mr. Goldstein - Fundraising Committee
 - Ms. Shanklin-Roberts - Facilities Committee
 - Mr. Jones - School Performance
- Board and Committee Meetings
 - Mr. Johnson updated the board on the frequency of full board meetings (even months) and committee meetings (odd months).
- Board Agreements
 - Mr. Johnson will be distributing a School Year 2021-2022 board agreement and asked the board to start to think about their contributions for the upcoming school year.
- Finance Committee - Myron Long
 - FY21 Cash Position: The school finished FY21 with a stronger cash position than initially budgeted, which supports a stronger forecast for the ending FY22 cash position.
 - Forecast: This first monthly forecast for July is based on the enrollment projection of 107 scholar-activists and funding that was confirmed as of the end of FY21.
 - Enrollment: The current number of confirmed scholar-activists is 102, with another 6 that are in the process of enrolling at the school. The FY22 budget includes a contingency that will allow the school to absorb the decrease in funding if enrollment remains at 102.
 - Key Financial Indicators:
 - Mr. Long reported on the following key financial indicators:
 - Days of Cash on Hand
 - Grants Invoiced
 - Gross Margin
 - Additional Federal Funding:
 - Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Grant = \$55,590.30
 - This funding will be used to help launch SJS' after care program.
 - Public Charter School Reopening Facilities Grant (PCSRFG) = \$84,745.76
 - This funding will be used to ensure that SJS has funds for reopening initiatives: salaries
 - Additional Funding Updates:
 - Mr. Long provided updates on the following competitive grants:

- VELA Education Grant II
 - \$25k
 - Catalyze Challenge
 - Up to \$500k
 - NSVF Learning Solutions
 - \$150-350k
- Questions and Discussion:
 - Is the gross margin captured at 102 or 107 students (DJ)?
 - The gross margin is captured at the moment, i.e. 102 students
 - Is the SOAR grant the first reimbursement based grant SJS is receiving (EG)?
 - The SOAR grant is not the first reimbursement based grant SJS is receiving as all of SJS' grants are reimbursement based.

F. Executive Director Report

- **Enrollment:**
 - SJS is anticipating enrolling 108 students. SJS Staff is aiming to enroll 17 additional students in order to convert 120 students coming to the school.
 - The majority of new SJS scholars are coming into 6th grade.
- **School Reopening:**
 - SJS will reopen for students the week of August 23rd
 - SJS is focusing on Covid-related safety in the building
 - SJS Staff will either need to be fully vaccinated or undergo weekly testing
 - SJS will have on site testing for staff and students
 - Masks and social distancing will be required
 - Student with Medical Conditions will be accommodated with distance learning through January
 - SJS will have mental health support at the school
 - SJS will provide mental health services at the school for students, staff, and teachers
- **Summer Institute:**
 - **Summer Institute or Professional Development focused on Crew, Content, and Culture with a focus on math and ELA.**
- **SY21-22 Academic and Operational Goals**
 - **Academic Goals**

Some of the goals have shifted based on an analysis of current SJS data against historical DC-citywide data (*italicized*)

- *The percent of students who demonstrate proficiency on the PARCC ELA and Mathematics assessments by scoring a level 3 or 4 is at or above the DC average for middle school students. No more than 10 percent of students will score a level 1 on either assessment - this shift takes into account historical data, data from the pandemic, and other comparison schools for SJS*

- At least 60 percent of all students will achieve at or above the 50th percentile or meet or exceed their typical spring growth target in reading/math based on NWEA MAP's national norm by June of each year
 - *SJS will score at least a 3.5 or higher on the questions that measure a "Sense of Belonging" and "Social Awareness" as measured by the NSVF SEL Survey - New Schools shifted to a new system called Kelvin.*
 - At least 90 percent of families feel supported and welcomed at SJS as measured by the Family Support and School Climate indicators on the NSVF SEL Student Survey
 - At least 80 percent of students will participate in a student-led conference
 - *At least 95 percent of students will participate in a social justice learning expedition - this goal increased by 5%*
- **Operational Goals**
- By October 15, 2021:**
1. Enroll at least 96 students (90 percent of budgeted enrollment goal)
 2. Hire, onboard and train all core teaching staff commensurate with student enrollment
- By November 1, 2021:**
1. Develop Strategic Plan for facilities acquisition for 23-24 SY and begin execution of the strategic plan in January of 2022
 2. Update Board dashboard outlining key academic and operational metrics signaling organizational health for the semester
- By June 30, 2022:**
1. Retain at least 90 percent of students from Year 2 enrollment total
 - a. At least 107 students (if Year 1 goal is met)
 - b. At least 96 students (if 90 percent or less of Year 1 goal is met)
 2. Recruit at least 90 percent staffing goals
 - a. Retain at least 90 percent of SJS staff who are given an offer letter for the 22-23 school year
 3. Maintain at least a 90 percent in-seat attendance
 4. Maintain no more than a 5 percent out-of-school suspension rate

- Questions and Discussion:
 - Is there any update on the redesign of the PMF (DJ)?
 - PCSB is planning on rolling out the new indicators soon and will have some middle school specific indicators (ML)
 - PCSB sent a list of business rules for schools around data collection (ML).
 - PCSB will still collect a full set of measures from each school and should continue advocating for a fair 5-year review for schools that launched during the pandemic (PB).
 - Is the Mayor's grant for reopening or pivots during the year (EG)?
 - It's for reopening, but SJS will not spend down the entire grant during the start of the year (ML).
 - There is not a set amount of money for a pivot to virtual learning and it would be interesting to have a conversation with DC and how SJS prepares and plans (PB)
 - How important is having 10% for Level 1 (EG)?
 - SJS wants to create the learning conditions where students are scoring and achieving growth between scores. This goal forces SJS to look at the most marginalized students' growth as well.
- Contract Renewals
 - The Director of Operations announced the following contract renewals
 - Ed-ops, student data - \$26,000
 - Ed-ops, accounting - \$46,000
 - 3Oaks, furniture - \$70,000

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm