



**Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Pat Brantley (PB), Tiffany Clemmons (TC), Derrick Johnson (DJ), Justin Jones (JJ), Ashley McMichael (AM), Meenakshi Nankani (MN), Rael Nelson James (RNJ), Maia Shanklin-Roberts (MSR), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Jhae Thompson (JT), Tammy Tuck (TT)

**Board Members Absent:** Eric Goldstein (EG), Lorraine Ramos (LR),

**Staff Members Present:** Myron Long (ML) Executive Director, Reginald Galloway (RG) Director of Operations, Dominique Diggs (DD) Operations Manager

**Invited Guests:** None

**A. Meeting Opening - Board Member**

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

The Meeting came to order at 6:06 pm.

**B. Opening Exercise**

Ms. Clemmons read the SJS mission and each trustee welcomed Ms. Ashley McMichael as a new board member and introduced themselves. Mr. Long led the board through an opening exercise.

**C. Mission Moment:**

Mr. Long reported a focus on wellness, shared the SJS Wellness Statement, and shared that all staff have been provided with access to three sessions with a mental health provider.

**E. Committee Reports**

- Governance Committee - Derrick Johnson
  - Mr. Johnson announced Ms. Clemmon's transition from the board and thanked her for her contribution to the organization. Ms. Clemmons expressed her appreciation for Mr. Long and the board's commitment and service.
  - Mr. Johnson reminded board members to use their SJS Board email and shared drive accounts to securely access board-related documents and information and adhere to board data policies. Mr. Long provided information for support if needed.
  - Mr. Johnson explained next steps for trustee commitments and 1:1 conversations with Mr. Long.

- Mr. Johnson shared updates for finalization of SY21-22 goals for Mr. Long as Executive Director and requested that each committee review and provide feedback in the next committee meeting in order to finalize goals by the end of November.
- **Receive and Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on August, 17th, 2021; 6:00pm**
  - The board received and approved Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on August, 17th, 2021; 6:00 pm
 

Motion: Pat Brantley  
Seconded: Tammy Tuck

The August minutes were approved with one abstention.
- Facilities & Finance Committee - Reginald Galloway
  - 2020-21 Budget:
    - Performance on key Indicators reviewed with operational support partner EdOps:
      - 78 DAYS OF CASH AT YEAR'S END
      - 2.4% GROSS MARGIN
      - 0% GRANTS INVOICED
      - FORECASTED FAR SCORE: 94
    - Cash Position: The cash position and net income are forecast better than budget through September.
    - Forecast: The forecast through the first quarter is based on the first enrollment certification, which included a total enrollment of 102 and increase in SPED and At-Risk enrollment. SJS is projected to have a \$51K net income at the end of the year.
    - Staffing: The staffing roster has been updated to include additional support for SpEd, LEP, and school culture. The additional salary expense is offset by the increases in per pupil funding and SOAR Grant revenue.
      - Mr. Long added context concerning the budgeting formula and enrollment projections.
    - Enrollment: The decrease in total enrollment is offset by the increase in SpEd and At-Risk enrollment, resulting in \$124k more in Per-Pupil Funding than budgeted.
  - Audit:
    - Ms. Nankani shared that SJS is going under its first fiscal audit for FY21, being conducted by Maner Costerisan PC. SJS is currently waiting for results which will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and then presented to the board.



looking at big picture and more granular data, and engaging in consultancy or problem of practice protocols.

- Mr. Jones shared examples of BOY I-Ready data and Mr. Long shared additional context on student testing at the beginning of the year.
- Mr. Jones also shared the SJS Instructional and Cultural Vision statements with the board and recommended each trustee review.
- Questions and Discussion:
  - Please share BOY data with board (?)
  - What is being used for Math? i-Ready for math and reading assessment. Illustrative Math is the math curriculum.

## **F. Executive Director Report - Myron Long**

- Enrollment:
  - SJS exceeded the enrollment target and doubled the number of students will serve from year 1 to year 2.
  - SJS met goal of 90% enrollment (96 of 107 budgeted enrollment goal)
  - 5th grade enrollment is lower than expected & will need additional recruitment effort next year.
  - SJS has more girls (62%) than boys (38%) and we have a predominantly Black or African American student body (90%).
  - SJS is above 79% of other LEAs in terms of % of students with IEPs, above 69% of other LEAs in terms of % of students designated as “at risk”, and above 50% of other LEAs in terms of % of students that are English Learners, which indicates need for SJS to plan and implement programming targeted to support these groups.
- Attendance:
  - SJS is currently meeting EOY goal. However, only 63% of students are attending enough without chronic absences, which is deeply problematic and reflective of our context.
  - In most years at typical schools, attendance decreases between the end of Q1 and EOY. This year could reverse that pattern if increased vaccination or changes in city COVID guidance shifts attendance policies
  - In-seat attendance gaps are 3 percentage points (“pp”) or less between groups.
  - Gaps are visible when looking at 90%+ attendance. Gender shows the largest gap at 18pp. Race and At Risk follow with gaps of 13pp. IEP and non-IEP students attend at similar rates with only a 6pp gap. The Hispanic/Latino student group is small (9% of student body) so the gap may not be material.
- Suspension
  - SJS has had 0 suspensions.
- Questions and Discussion:
  - How does the Executive Director think the school year is going? How can the board help?

- More problem of practice and thought partnering to share insights from trustees around challenges.
- Ideas for celebrating wins and people.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm**



**Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
December 21, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Derrick Johnson (DJ), Eric Goldstein (EG), Justin Jones (JJ), Maia Shanklin-Roberts (MSR), Jhae Thompson (JT), Tammy Tuck (TT), Raël Nelson James (RNJ), Pat Brantley (PB), Aaron Stallworth (AS)

**Board Members Absent:** Lorraine Ramos (LR), Ashley McMichael (AM), 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**

Ms. Nelson James called the meeting to order at 6:14pm.

**B. Mission Moment**

Mr. Johnson read the SJS mission. Mr. Long highlighted a parent quote about selecting SJS as an opening exercise.

**C. Committee Reports**

- Governance Committee - Derrick Johnson
  - Mr. Johnson reminded board members about the trustee attendance commitment.
  - Mr. Johnson reported on the committee's discussion of Executive Director Myron Long's goals and asked each committee to review the draft goals to provide feedback in upcoming meetings.
  - Mr. Johnson also brought up the topic of the board gathering to connect, noting that Ms. Thompson had ideas that would be shared.
  - Mr. Johnson reminded board members that we are recruiting for another board member after Tiffany Clemmons' departure.
  - **Receive and Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on August, 17th, 2021; 6:00pm**
    - The board received and approved Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on October 19, 2021; 6:00 pm

Motion: Raël Nelson James

Seconded: Eric Goldstein

The December minutes were approved.

- School Performance Committee - Justin Jones & Myron Long
  - Mr. Jones reported the committee's discussion around student performance data.
  - Mr. Long shared more information about the Empower K-12 study on unfinished learning which included many DCPS and DC public charter schools. Key take-aways include:
    - SJS had 8 points more growth than the city from fall to spring
    - SJS had about 4 months unfinished learning
    - Students designated as at-risk and students with IEPs had less growth than the city
  - Mr. Jones shared that Fall MAP data showed a consistent theme.
  - Mr. Long shared that a substantial number of students did not finish MAP testing due to quarantine or medical reasons. SJS will promote in-school attendance for winter MAP testing to support accountability.
  - Mr. Long reported that similar to national trends, SJS students are not yet performing as well in math as they are in literacy. Take-aways from the MAP data include:
    - Students are starting off below our goal of scoring above the city average (~48% reading, ~45% math)
    - Math has a low percentage of students scoring at the 60th percentile and above (9%)
  - Mr. Long reported that SJS will work with Math Corps tutors to accelerate foundational math skills. SJS will also refine short assessment cycles to leverage iReady data to create re-teach plans to support students in-the-moment during instruction.
  - Mr. Long reported that over half SJS students had a 3.0 GPA or above in Q1 and an additional 22% are within striking distance of 3.0. He relayed the importance of these indicators of high school readiness and shared how students were celebrated.
  - Mr. Long also shared data and planned next steps around attendance and suspensions.
  - Mr. Long grounded updates about academic, culture, climate and operational goals in the unique challenges facing teachers and leaders in schools at this time given substitute and coverage challenges and other factors related to COVID.
  - Mr. Long shared that SJS started the year well behind academic goals and has been strategic and mission-aligned in trying to accelerate learning using a combination of SEL support, parent engagement, staff PD, and targeted & differentiated support.
  - Ms. Thompson shared reflections from her recent visit to the school during instruction and how impactful it was for seeing opportunities to support the school.

- Questions and Discussion:
  - How can we explain at-risk student growth being lower than the city but the general average being higher given SJS has a larger percentage of at-risk students than most DC schools?
    - Students are now classified at-risk that weren't before and there were a substantial portion of students who did not complete testing.
    - At-risk students have wider gap in middle school grades and this study compares SJS to all 3-8 schools so it would be helpful to see a grade level comparison for just grades 5, 6, and 7.
  - How can we get clear on the narrative and document the story of the data over time as we approach charter renewal three years from now?
    - SJS is a new school and performance during the pandemic is better than the city average.
    - We could also look into new students.
    - It is equally important to tell the story of how we are educating students who are not at risk.
    - We should look at attendance and internet access and advocate especially for at-risk students.
    - We should segregate data of At-Risk non-IEP to ensure we are not grouping young people who are experiencing poverty with those with special needs.
  - Are we being evaluated against this data? What are we accountable for when?
    - There is a three-year roll-out for the new accountability framework. Last year we were measured on MAP and mission-specific data as well as attendance. Next year will add re-enrollment. There won't start to be tiered until 2024.
  - How does iReady align to PARCC?
    - iReady is also aligned to standards.
  - What can the board do to support Mr. Long as Executive Director?
    - Mr. Long shared the importance of students connecting with adults as mentors and that he and Ms. Thompson have been discussing ideas. Additional social-emotional learning support is also needed. Teachers could benefit from appreciation from people outside the staff such as phone calls or personal notes. Engaging in problems of practice on specific topics would be helpful as well.
- Facilities & Finance Committee - Myron Long
  - Mr. Long shared an executive summary on behalf of Ms. Nankani and the committee:
    - Through November the annual cash position and net income are projected to end the year better than budget.

- The enrollment certification results included 102 total scholar activists, and increased enrollment for SpEd and At-risk categories.
- The staffing roster has been updated to include additional support for SpEd, LEP, and school culture. The additional salary expense is offset by the increases in per pupil funding and federal grant revenue.
- The FY21 audit was completed and submitted to the PCSB as of December 1, 2021. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion, confirming that the FY21 financials are fairly presented and recorded in line with accounting standards.
- Mr. Long shared the following key performance indicators
  - The school will end the year with 87 days of cash. This is above the recommended 60 days.
  - The forecasted net income is \$154k, which is \$130k above the budget. It yields a 4.7% gross margin.
  - Drawdowns will occur after the grants are fully approved by OSSE. The federal grant applications are currently in the process of review.
  - Days of cash, gross margins and grants invoiced have increased each month from July to November.
  - It is forecasted the school's year ending cash balance as \$721k, \$359k above budget.

#### **F. Executive Session - Myron Long**

- Executive Session started at 7:32pm.
- Confidential personnel matters were discussed during the Executive Session.

#### **G. Return to Open Session**

- Open session resumed at 8:01pm.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.**