



**Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022**

Board Members Present: Eric Goldstein (EG), Meenakshi Nankani (MN), Lorraine Ramos (LR), Maia Shanklin-Roberts (MSR), Tammy Tuck (TT), Raël Nelson James (RNJ), Pat Brantley (PB), Derrick Johnson (DJ), Aaron Stallworth (AS), Justin Jones (JJ)

Board Members Absent: Jhae Thompson (JT), Ashley McMichael (AM)

Staff Members Present: Myron Long (ML) Executive Director; Reginald Galloway (RG) Director of Operations

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 6:08 pm.

B. Mission Moment

Ms. Nankani read aloud the SJS mission.

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

C. Problem of Practice

Mr. Long shared that Committees struggled to meet in March and asked the Board to consider how to ensure that Committees are actively engaged in supporting the mission and vision of SJS.

Board members discussed the following:

- Owning any absences and putting strategies in place to prevent proactively
- Being mindful of life conflicts for a given month such as spring break
- Possibility of having staff or a virtual assistant support board scheduling
- For committees that have staff members, thinking about topics and work to move forward with if the staff is unexpectedly unavailable, or rethinking scheduling to better accommodate staff availability
- Proactively looking at calendars together to anticipate conflicts
- Rethinking frequency of some committee meetings based on when the committee has work or will present to the full board

- Each committee establish roles to have a secretary who sends notes and updates to Mr. Long, including any scheduling challenges, and a presenter who will own sharing information with the full board

Mr. Long shared that in May the board and each committee will be engaged in approving the SY22-23 budget.

D. Goals Overview

Mr. Long shared that SJS is using an EL Education ELA rubric to assess progress with teacher moves focused on thoughtfully engaging student voice and choice in the classroom. He shared data from a recent quarterly walkthrough:

- 83% of classrooms showed strong evidence of productive grappling (indicator 2B)
- 83% of classrooms showed evidence of asking and answering questions requiring reading and evidence (indicator 2D)–this is a 16% increase from October!
- 83% of classrooms showed at least some evidence of teachers structuring learning to foster student leadership and voice. This looked like having students share their thinking and reasoning for choices, and using protocols to engage students in discussion.
- 100% of classes showed evidence of students asking and answering questions that require reading, writing, and using evidence from sources, or require mathematical and scientific exploration–this is a 33% jump since the beginning of year!

Mr. Long shared that next year SJS plans to do monthly rather than quarterly observation walkthroughs.

Mr. Long shared that there has been a decline in overall In-Seat Attendance and described the strategies SJS is implementing to respond.

Mr. Long shared the PCSB healthy school snapshot data for this school year through December that compares LEA performance with average sector performance. He shared that overall SJS is meeting targets and highlighted strong performance in mid-year entry. He noted the suspension rate is higher than the sector average. SJS is trying to combat this by increasing mental health support given the need for more than half of SJS students

Mr. Johnson asked how PCSB calculates chronic absenteeism. Mr. Long and Mr. Galloway explained that it is the number of students who have 10 or more unexcused absences and shared that SJS works to get families resources to address the reasons for chronic absenteeism.

In reference to operational goals, Mr. Long highlighted that SJS is sending offer letters and will have updates around staff retention. He discussed the need Ms. Nelson James raised in an earlier conversation to consider the percent of staff SJS invites to return to their positions rather than all staff.

Academic, Culture, and Climate Goals

by June 15, 2022

Goal	Last Assessed	Goal	Current Result
Belonging & Awareness: >3.5 on national student survey	Oct	3.5	3.5
Families feel supported: 90% of families on survey	Jan	90%	87%
80% students participate in student-led conferences (SLCs)	Dec	80%	67%**
95% students participate in learning expedition	NA	95%	NA

Operational Goals

Goal	Deadline	Last Assessed	Notes	Goal	Current Result
Enroll at least 96 students	Oct 15	Oct 5	We met our Board goal, but were still slightly short of our overall goal of 107	96	102
Hire, onboard, and train all core teaching staff	Oct 15	Dec 12	We have one remaining vacancy which is challenging but understandable given city context	23	22
Develop Strategic Plan for facilities	Nov 1	Dec 12	Still discussing plans for next year	Yes	ML to share updates
Update Board dashboard	Nov 1	April	Data from this presentation & previous board presentations aligned to goals	Yes	Yes
Retain 90% of students	Jun 30	NA	Re-enrollment starts April 1 st	90%	NA
Recruit 90% staffing	Jun 30	NA	Update at May Board meeting	90%	NA
90% in-seat attendance	Jun 30	Mar 31	Above our goal, but still lower than we would want in a pre-COVID year (95%)	90%	89.7%
5% out-of-school suspension	Jun 30	Mar 31	We suspended 6 students in October, November, and December. We are slightly above our goal.	5% (<)	9%

E. Committee Reports

- Financial Committee

Ms. Nankani shared the following executive summary:

- Through February 2022 the annual cash position and net income are projected to end the year better than budget; driven by the positive variance in per pupil funding and additional grant funding not initially recognized in the budget.
- We are currently forecasting \$168k in Net Income, which is \$145k above the budget and represent 5.1% in gross margin
- To increase enrollment in FY23, we've increased our student enrollment budget
- We currently have a first draft of the 22-23 budget that is solvent, will result in a positive net income and adequate cash position

- The Final Draft of the budget will be presented to the board in the following months
- The school will end the year with 87 days of cash. This is above the recommended 60 days.
- The forecasted net income is \$168k, which is \$145k above the budget. It yields a 5.1% gross margin.
- Overall. SJS is in a strong financial position.

Mr. Galloway shared that SJS has significant ESR funds that will carry over into SY22-23 that the school had not budgeted for and plans for using the funds to strengthen and increase staffing while maintaining a strong cash position.. The funding includes:

- ESSER I / CARES - \$34,000
- ESSER II - \$264,00 that will last through end of next fiscal year and also \$127,000 more
- ESSER III - \$595,000

- Attendance

Mr. Long shared the following update on attendance data:

- We are slightly below our goal and behind last year
- If we still have an opportunity to meet our end of year goal but it will be challenging because there is normally a dip in attendance at the end of the year
- Attendance has decreased since December, which is a common trend across the city
- We have fallen behind last year

- Enrollment

Mr. Long shared the following update on enrollment data and responses to board questions:

- The rate of returning plus new student applications for intent to return is 36.84%.
- SJS has more applications now than did at this time last year and anticipates converting applications to enrollees to reach target of 165 total students
- DJ - How many families have said no?
 - Three applications have declined offers to enroll
 - Current student count is ongoing, anticipate being similar to last year 90%
- EG - Why predict students are saying yes or no?
 - Families perceive stronger relationships with administrative team. Have been working with teachers to ensure families have more understanding of what's happening in classrooms. Doing crew family dinners to support families getting to know each other.
 - MSR - One thing parents see is bonds students have with peers and this seems to grow. Experiences children are having is forcing parents to come to ether. SJS has a strong community among students so would be difficult for a parent to take their student out.

- ML - Also activities like basketball that build bonds among students and among parents.
- Suspensions

Mr. Long shared the following update on suspension data:

- We are at almost twice the goal
- Shared again that sJS is working to increase supports for skills students are missing
- Suspension rate is normally the % of students suspended at least once in the year
- If a student is suspended more than once the suspension rate does not increase
- It is cumulative so it cannot decrease over the year
- The “At Risk” group had the largest gap (15pp)
- Gender has a 7pp gap
- We need to pay attention to difference by race, but given how few Hispanic/Latino students enrolled we are not sure there is a large discrepancy
- IEP currently does not have a gap

E. Closing

- Mr. Long shared the following asks and announcements:
 - PARCC is coming. Board members are encouraged to volunteer to support from 9 to 11am during testing 4/19 through 5/6.
 - Reginald Galloway will transition out of the Director of Operations role in May and Dominique Diggs will step into the role.
 - The administrative team has held two off-campus sessions for strategic planning.

- **Receive and Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting**

- The board received and approved Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on February 15, 2022; 6:00 pm

Motion: Justin Jones

Seconded: Derrick Johnson

The February minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.