



**Social Justice Public Charter School Inc.  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Eric Goldstein (EG), Justin Jones (JJ), Ashley McMichael (AM), Meenakshi Nankani (MN), Lorraine Ramos (LR), Maia Shanklin-Roberts (MSR), Jhae Thompson (JT), Tammy Tuck (TT), Raël Nelson James (RNJ), Pat Brantley (PB),

**Board Members Absent:** Derrick Johnson (DJ) , Aaron Stallworth (AS)

**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 6:06 pm.

**B. Mission Moment**

Mr. Long asked the board the following question: "During the past three months, when was there a time when you thought you knocked it out of the park as a board member?"

- EG: Providing lunch for SJS Staff
- LR: Being available as a thought partner
- MN: Being intentional about engagement
- PB: Being Responsive
- LR: Galvanizing the board around the holiday gift
- JT: Opportunity to visit the school
- JJ: Looking to be proactive; being supportive towards data-informed decision making

Mr. Long summarized that common themes included proximity (i.e. being close to the work) and community.

**C. Problem of Practice**

Mr. Long presented context and data points for the challenge of significantly increasing the number of 5th graders who attend SJS and adapting our instructional and operational vision in order to be responsive to our current enrollment trends.

While reaching out to PK-4 schools has not been as impactful, SJS increased our partnership with Rocketship PCS, which allowed for more touch points with families and their rising 6th graders. We have added more bilingual, Spanish-speaking staff who have supported recruitment efforts. We will continue to collaborate with our partners at Rocketship PCS to reach out and connect with families seeking a co-located middle school option.

Board members discussed the following:

- Options for providing and coordinating transportation (leveraging Safe Passage, church buses, Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs Director Thomas Bowen)
  - <https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/mora>
- Further leveraging the word of mouth of existing parents and students
- Flexible programming and staffing model to be able to offset 5th grade enrollment with more students in other grades
- Offering virtual learning
- Offering a 5th grade summer bridge program or offering 4th grade to promote building relationships given family preferences to change schools only at the traditionally terminal grades of 5th or 8th
- Leveraging opportunities for potential families to experience SJS culture
- Determining at what point SJS would decide to no longer offer 5th grade

### **C. Goals Overview**

Mr. Long provided a summary of where SJS is performing against annual goals:

- Academics
  - Reading proficiency has increased and is now above the city average (~48%)
  - Math proficiency is below the city average (~45%)
  - Reading is currently above the (growth) goal (61%) while math is below the goal (51%)
- Culture and Climate
  - Students and families feel seen, known and loved
  - Pandemic trauma continues to impact student culture and family engagement

Goal	Goal	BOY	MOY
PARCC proficiency greater than DC average			
ELA	48%*	36%	51%
Math	45%*	31%	30%
<10% students score a level 1	10% (<)	47%/52% (ELA/M)	28%/51% (ELA/M)
60% of students 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile or meeting growth goal			
ELA	60%	NA	67%
Math	60%	NA	51%

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

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	Feb	Data from this presentation & Dec presentation aligned to goals	Yes	Yes
Retain 90% of students	Jun 30	NA	Re-enrollment starts April 1 <sup>st</sup>	90%	NA
Recruit 90% staffing	Jun 30	NA	Update at May Board meeting	90%	NA
90% in-seat attendance	Jun 30	Jan 20	Above our goal, but still lower than we would want in a pre-COVID year (95%)	90%	90.4%
5% out-of-school suspension	Jun 30	Feb 2	We suspended 6 students in October, November, and December. We are slightly above our goal.	5% (<)	5.9%

Discussion:

- SJS is starting high-dosage tutoring and reviewing the appropriateness of the current math curriculum.
  - Suggestion from Ms. McMichael: Carnegie Math
    - <https://www.carnegielearning.com/solutions/math/middle-school-math-solution/>

- Learning expectations have not yet occurred.

#### **D. Committee Reports**

- Governance Committee - Myron Long
  - Mr. Long updated the board that in a future meeting we will review draft Executive Director goals.
- Financial Committee - Meena Nankani, Myron Long & Reginald Galloway
  - Through January 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.
  - SJS is re-negotiating with Rocketship for facilities.
  - Mr. Long shared SY 22-23 PPF Updates that the Mayor announced 5.9% per pupil funding and \$36 million in Recovery Funds for charter and DCPS LEAs.
  - Mr. Galloway shared:
    - We forecast the school's year ending cash balance as \$724.11k, \$362k above budget.
    - The school will end the year with 86 days of cash. This is above the recommended 60 days.
    - The forecasted net income is \$155k, which is \$131k above the budget. It yields a 4.7% gross margin.
    - Grant applications were still in process as of December and January. This timing pushes grant reimbursements back toward the third and fourth quarter of the year
    - SJS learned about the ESSA funding increase from OSSE that SJS will work to factor into the budget for next year.
    - The Financial Audit Review (FAR) forecasted score is 94. This is PCSB's annual evaluation of the school's financial and operational position.
  - Mr. Galloway expressed gratitude for Ms. Ramos' encouragement to track spending on COVID-related items.
- School Performance Committee - Justin Jones
  - Mr. Jones shared updates from Winter MAP proficiency and growth data:
    - Reading proficiency has increased and is now above the city average (~48%)
    - Math proficiency is below the city average (~45%)
    - Reading proficiency (40th percentile and above) increased 15 points from the fall
    - Math scores have held steady from the fall and we will engage in a problem of practice to explore root causes and possible solutions at our next board meeting
    - Winter test sample sizes were consistent and acceptable even if fall 21-22 is slightly low (~90%)

- Reading is currently above the goal while math is below the board metric
  - Reading growth is 10 points above national average (pre-pandemic) at 60% of students meeting their growth target
  - Math is below national average at 47% of students students meeting their growth target
- Mr. Long raised the opportunity for board members to volunteer to proctor PARCC or MAP assessments
- Mr. Jones shared committee questions and conversations about curriculum and staffing for content teaching.
- Mr. Jones shared updates for GPA and noted that strong grades are among the best predictors of future success and 3.0 is a helpful benchmark used in research that correlates with success in HS
  - 42% of students have 3.0 or above in Q2
  - An additional 27% are within striking distance of 3.0
- Mr. Jones shared updates for attendance:
  - We are slightly above our goal and ahead of last year despite COVID challenges for percent of students attending 90 days or more (64% to 67%)
  - If we keep pushing on attendance we will meet our EOY goal
  - Attendance has decreased since our Board meeting in December, likely connected to COVID and safety
  - We are still ahead of last year
- Mr. Jones shared updates for suspension rates and noted that suspension rate is normally the % of students suspended at least once in the year and that if a student is suspended more than once the suspension rate does not increase
  - We are currently above the goal at 6%
  - We can still keep the suspension rate very close to our goal, but it is cumulative so it cannot decrease over the year

#### **E. Closing**

- Mr. Long shared closing thoughts.
- **Receive and Approve Minutes of Previous Board Meeting**
  - The board received and approved Minutes of Previous Board Meeting held on December 21, 2021; 6:00 pm

Motion: Maia Shanklin-Roberts

Seconded: Patricia Brantley

The December minutes were approved.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.**