

Minutes – December 12, 2023
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present:

In Person: Chris Schafer, Kathy Linhardt, Jen Mack

Virtual: Anne Marie Tryjankowski, Jim Weimer, Matt Szalkowski

Members Absent: Elissa Tipton

Public Comment: None

Presentation: None

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting. Scheduling for January.
- Academic Committee – Met and discussed testing scores. Mr. Ehrle to attend next PTO to discuss scores once all have been released.
- Facility Committee – Met. Put in request for proposed charging stations; reviewed maintenance contracts for HVAC and elevator; waiting on finance committee to determine where to get funds to pay for sound and video proposals as well as light repairs to auditorium.
- Finance Committee – Met. Amendments to be sent out for grants; meeting with Northwest Bank to discuss mortgage; discussed proposals for new electric company – received 5 different proposals and recommend 2-year contract with Shell.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – None

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on November 14, 2023 was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor, except Matt Szalkowski who abstained.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent’s Report – See attached.
- Motion to approve 2023 Financial Audit was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor. Side note: Finance Committee to discuss other options for additional auditors.
- Motion to re-elect Jen Mack to Board was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Jim Weimer. Vote: All in favor, except Jen Mack who abstained.
- Consensus Agenda
 - Motion to approve the Schedule of Bills and Check Registers for November 2023, Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Statement of Cash Flows for September 2023 for SBCS and Balance Sheet for September 2023 and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 for 154

South Ogden, LLC was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Matt Szalkowski.
Vote: All in favor.

- Motion to approve a 2-year contract with Shell for electric was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor subject to confirming no hidden fees or cost associated with switching providers.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Enrollment Summary

December 2023

As of December 8, 2023, we have the following:

K 97 (0)

1 101 (2)

2 101 (29)

3 101 (4)

4 102 (26)

5 101 (32)

6 101 (11)

7 99 (15)

8 96 (8)

Total = 899

The number in parentheses is the number of wait list students. Many grades have a considerable amount. Grades 7 and 8 on the wait list student families have been notified of openings.

Enrollment by district:

Lackawanna – 60

West Seneca – 26

Cheektowaga Sloan – 22

Cheektowaga Central – 17

Frontier – 7

Cleveland Hill – 5

Maryvale – 4

Depew – 4

Sweet Home – 4

Orchard Park – 2

Amherst – 1

Lockport – 1

Buffalo PS - 746

Superintendent Report

December 2023

A previous presentation discussed the ways in which evaluations occurred. An update on those evaluations: Teacher walk throughs for the month of November totaled 50. Teacher observations totaled 17. Any walk throughs or observations that saw remediation needed is being addressed.

Intervention Progress: All Running Records (a tool that provides insight into a student's reading as it is happening through accuracy, errors/self-corrections, and reading strategies used) are complete in grades k-4. Over 90% complete in grades 5-8. Interim assessments have been given and scored and data used to inform intervention groups. Interim assessments are teacher/school created assessments. Interim assessments, Running Records and iReady data utilized to determine intervention needs and groupings. IReady target scores have been set for the January testing run. Students and teachers will evaluate after that round of testing is complete.

Teacher Lesson plans are a vital part of assuring curriculum pacing is on point and skills / standards are taught. 64 lesson plan checks have been completed through December 1.

SBCS events occurring in the last month include: National Junior Honor Society induction, Student Staff Basketball game (students won!), Literacy night, Q1 awards given in classrooms, Pokemon Night, Unity Games and various behavior and academic competitions. Black History Month Committee is well on its way to having a program set up for students and staff for February of 2024. School play auditions are upcoming.

Mental Health book study started in November with 20 staff members participating.

Temporary Transportation Coordinator was hired on 12/7/23 to fill in for a long-term absence.

We had our 1st Marking Period Awards Assemblies for K-4 on Thursday, November 30th. Between two assemblies, we gave out approximately 180 awards and had well over 200 family members attend. Students earned awards for: Respect, Citizenship, Responsibility, Honor Roll, Principal's Honor Roll, Most Improve and Highest Achieving. Grades 5-8 gave awards in their classrooms for quarter 1.

Students will have many holiday activities coming up. Kindergarten is continuing with the tradition of inviting parents in for Tree Making, K-8 will participate in an "Elf Hunt" and K-4 will have time to take pictures with Santa! 5th grade did a family thanksgiving on November 22. They had traditional Thanksgiving food kept warm in crock pots.

The Committee for Black History Month had their first meeting on Wednesday, December 6th in preparation for February. Black History Night is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th.

PTO will have a craft and vendor fair on Friday, December 8, from 5:00-8:00. Over 80 vendors are attending.

National Junior Honor Society will induct their new members with a ceremony on Wednesday, December 6, at 5:30. There were 11 new members inducted this year.

Literacy night took place on November 16. We had about 300 people attend. Students wore pajamas and participated in many glow in the dark activities. Families were entertained with members of the staff doing a read aloud, also Bryan Bollman did a read aloud. Students were able to learn how to create a comic strip, meet author Brian Yanish and learn how to develop a character. We also had a member from the Erie County Library come in and had the students read a book and answer a few questions. Lastly, the SBCS cooking club baked the cookies that were given out to the families.

We had a staff versus students basketball game on Wednesday, November 22. The students beat the staff this year!

We started our staff book club. We have about 20 staff members reading the book Improving School Mental Health. We will be meeting every other week for 6 sessions to work through the book study questions provided by the author. One of the author's presented to the families at the Mental Health night in October.

We had our first Datawise meeting. We reviewed what we started last year and will pick up where we left off. We will be meeting again in December to review our state test data and see how it aligns with our discussion. Our current problem of practice is students have not had consistent daily word work practice each day which is affecting their ability to understand unknown vocabulary, phrases and word parts. We are looking at what ELA skills our students are excelling at and looking at how we can improve our daily word work.

Fran McGreevy Training provided professional development to all members of SBCS. His training was called rooted in culture and it allowed our staff to learn about themselves as well as other members of the school community. During this training Fran continually expressed how we have to work as a school community and that everyone can use a mentor or mentor someone else. These trainings occurred throughout the day on November 28th and 29th.

Behavior Data

	Total Write Ups			Total In-School & Out-of-School Suspension					
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Sept ISS/OSS		Oct ISS/OSS		Nov ISS/OSS	
2023-24	17	31	44	2	5	3	7	10	13
2022-23	47	98	83	11	9	25	16	23	18

Last year we had 228 write ups, this year we have 92 (59% less)

Last year we had 59 ISS, this year we have 15 (74% less)

Last year we had 43 OSS, this year we have 25 (41% less)

Goal is a daily write-up rate up rate where is the entire school is 99.75% behavior free or more every month.. We reached that goal in Sept and Oct, but were 99.71% behavior free for November.