Board of Directors Meeting
January 28, 2025
Approved Minutes

Present: Larry Cafero, Matt Nittoly, Anne Dichele, Adam Norris, Todd Parkin, Deb Whalen, Amanda Gormley, Stephanie Cecio, Nicole Shagoury, Nell Conroy, Kim Grimm

Absent: [none]

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM.

Motion to approve December meeting minutes made by Ann and Deb. Approved by all present members.

Board membership update: Chiara Askew-Oliver (community member) and Britnee Henderson (parent representative) have vacated their board positions. Nicole Shagoury will be replacing Sally David in a founder seat.

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

Director Update:

I. **Cheers & Beers Fundraiser**

(Update from December meeting- The 2024 Cheers & Beers Fundraiser had a net profit of $9830)

I. **Side by Side enrollment lottery 2024 (important dates)**
   - ✓ **Mon 1/27- online applications available**
   - ✓ **Wed 2/26 informational Open House at 10:30am**
   - ✓ **Wed 3/19 informational session at 5:00pm**
   - ✓ **Tues 4/1 lottery applications due by 4pm**
   - ✓ **Wed 4/30 LOTTERY at 5pm**

II. **TEACHING & LEARNING UPDATE:**

Professional development initiatives started back up after the Christmas break. As part of our Right to Read grant initiative, the SBS Literacy Team began sharing new learning

around the science of reading with K-5 teachers. On Thursday, January 30th, Betterlesson will be here to begin helping the team build a walkthrough culture around reading instruction here at SBS. Additionally, grades 3-8 teachers finished a two part series in MLL professional development provided by Professor Anastasia Sorokin focusing on core curriculum instruction for intermediate English Language Learners.

SBS Administration Report:

Mary Newbery and Matt Nittoly presented a snapshot of Side By Side's academic and cultural progress over the past few years. A few highlights from the discussion:

- SBS continues to rebound from the global challenges of learning in a Covid environment. SBS has consistently achieved academically higher than both Norwalk and state scores in nearly all categories (see below).
- We discussed the strengths of the SBS learning environment, including the trust, culture, dedicated faculty and staff, and site-based decision-making that allowed us to adapt quickly to unexpected change.
- We discussed some of the challenges for a small school to see continued success, such a limited number of electives/specials and an increase in public pre-school programs.
- SBS has seen a demographic shift to a predominantly multilingual learning environment over the past few years.

	State Achievement				Side By Side Achievement				Norwalk Achievement			
	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2018-19	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
ELA	56	49	48.5	48.9	52	51	50	52.3	48	40	39	38.7
MATH	48	40	42.5	44.1	51	44	53.8	53.8	40	30	32	34.1
Science	51	47	48.5	48.5	70	70	50	57.1	38	37	38	35.3
	State % growth points				Side by Side % growth points				Norwalk % growth points			
ELA	54	51	57	58.7	64	66	63	61.4	60	57	55	57
MATH	52	46	62	61.4	76	78	77	65.8	61	62	60	60.8

Finance committee:

- Adam presented a review of the financial reporting to date. There are no significant variances from the budget.

Alumni Engagement:

The board discussed the possibility of encouraging more SBS alums to reconnect with the school. Ideas to pursue:

- Gather contact information for an alumni database
- Start with one alum from each class to find the connections as a first step
- Encourage classes to gather and reconnect with each other and the school
- Solicit discussion, volunteering, and charity giving

Action Items:

- Board members should help solicit new community members for the board
- Further discussion of soliciting alumni as potential community members to add a different perspective

Meeting adjourned: motion to adjourn at 6:26 PM by Nell. Seconded by Kim. All present members agreed to adjourn.