

**Minutes – November 12, 2024**  
**South Buffalo Charter School**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present:

In Person: Kathy Linhardt, Jen Mack, Anne Marie Tryjankowski, Carine Merritt

Virtual: Matt Szalkowski, Chris Schafer

Members Absent: None.

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at SBCS – Presented by Ms. Celeste, Behavior Support Specialist – See attached.  
Personal Touch – Food Service at SBCS – Tabled until next month’s meeting.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting.
- Academic Committee – Met. Discussed link with proposed questions to streamline meetings.
- Facility Committee – Met. Updated plant checklist.
- Finance Committee – No meeting. Financials reviewed.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – No meeting.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meetings on October 8, 2024, and October 10, 2024, was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Carine Merritt. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent’s Report – See attached.
- Motion to approve a 24-month contract with EnergyMark was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to approve Lumsden and McCormick audit for year ended 06/30/24 was made by Matt Szalkowski; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Consensus Agenda
  - Motion to approve the SBCS Schedule of Bills, Balance Sheet, Board monthly Income Statement, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Statement of Cash Flows and Check Register for October 2024; and the 154 South Ogden, LLC Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for October 2024 was made by Carine Merritt; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Szalkowski; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.

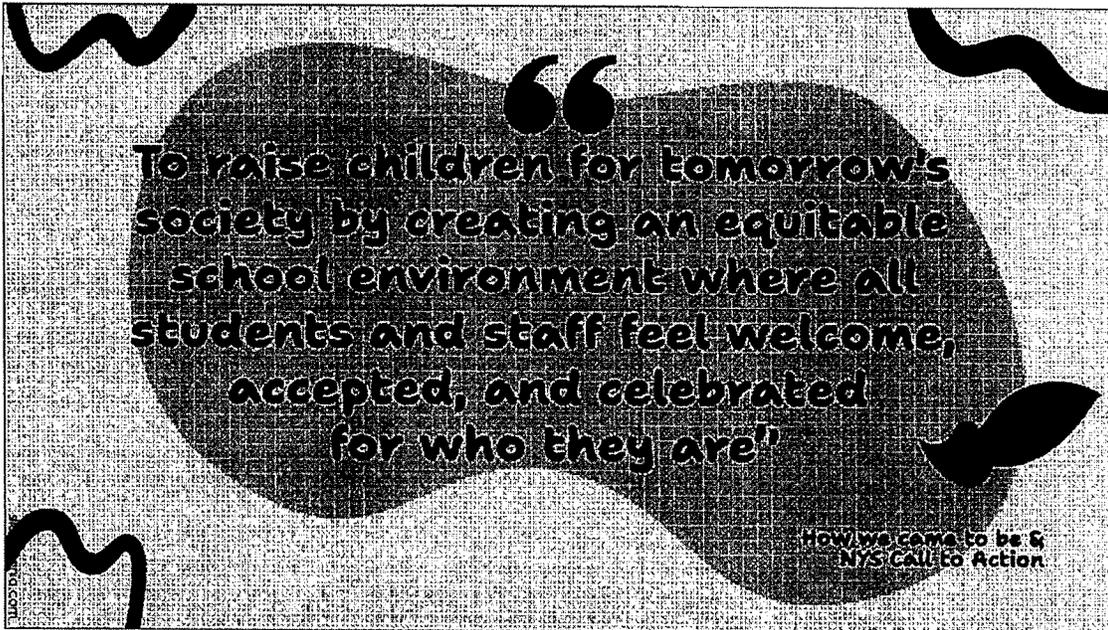
The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



# DEI at SBCS

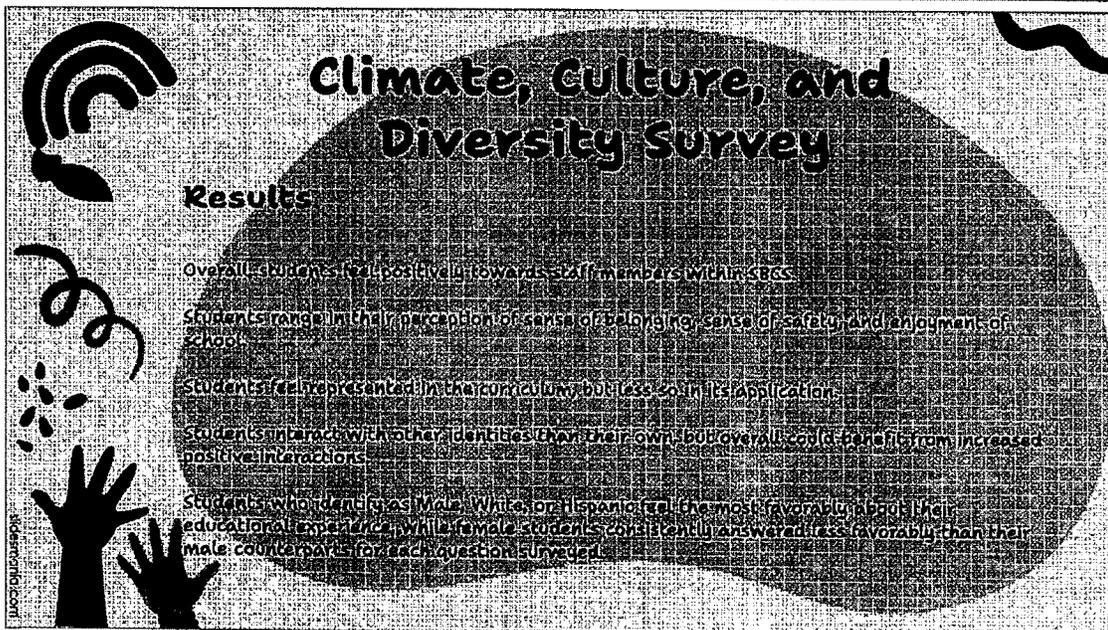
## Board Presentation

November 12, 2024



“To raise children for tomorrow's society by creating an equitable school environment where all students and staff feel welcome, accepted, and celebrated for who they are.”

How we come to be & NYS Call to Action



## Climate, Culture, and Diversity Survey

### Results

- Overall students feel positive towards staff members within SBCS.
- Students range in their perception of sense of belonging, sense of safety, and enjoyment of school.
- Students feel represented in the curriculum, but less so in its application.
- Students interact with other identities than their own, but overall could benefit from increased positive interactions.
- Students who identify as Male, White, or Hispanic are the most favorable about their educational experience, while female students consistently answered items favorably than their male counterparts for each question surveyed.

# Climate, Culture, and Diversity Survey

## Results

### 1. Student DEI Committee

Establishment of a DEI committee to empower students to become leaders of change within our school and leave a lasting impact on the climate and culture of sites.

### 2. Affinity groups support

Our LGBTQIA+ and non-binary gendered students (25% of those surveyed) consistently feel more favorable about their experiences in school, contribution of the GSA Club to strongly recommended.

Female students (45% of those surveyed) consistently responded less favorably than their male counterparts in almost all categories. Further, girls (5-8) and girls on the run (3-5) are all within programs in response to this data.

# Climate, Culture, and Diversity Survey

## Results

### 3. Data informed instruction

Scale the the grade-level break down of data to scaffold or expand curricular practice already in place.

Role plays, teamwork, and critical conversations are social and learning skills that start in the elementary classroom. Encouraging staff to explicitly plan for these concepts within their standards and objectives will build these skills for our secondary students.

### 4. Social-Emotional programming

Survey data supports the implementation of the @heart love social-emotional program to proactively address social-emotional skills in the K-5 setting, and to better support our GSA students. Weekly push-ins will occur in K-5, and monthly push-ins will occur 6-8.

## Goals this year

### Students

-Student DEI Committee (Began October 30th)

-Third climate survey (Administered in June)

### Teachers

-Weave into the fabric of what we already do

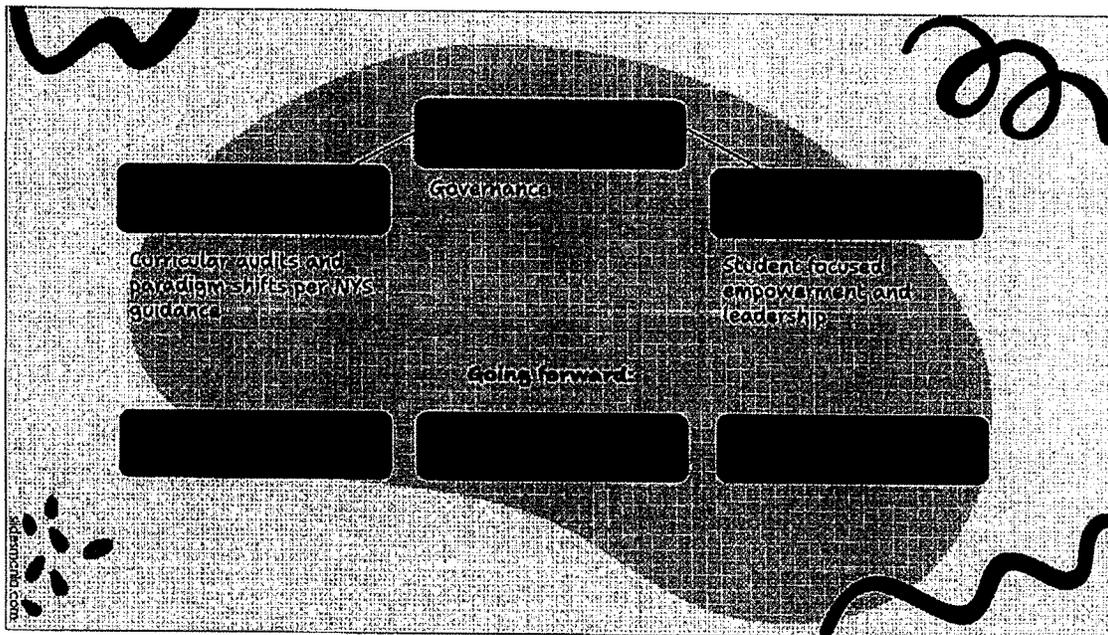
-Develop conceptual capacity

-Monthly @Heart school PE

-Spark interest and buy-in with staff through climate survey data

### Leadership

-Solidify leadership structures



## Highlight some Members

<p><b>Sam Kankiewicz</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hispanic Heritage Month</li> <li>-Literacy Night</li> </ul>	<p><b>Carole Taggart</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fearlessly Girl</li> <li>-Winter Holiday Drive</li> <li>-Mental Health Night</li> <li>-Choose Love Curriculum</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gina Dudkowsky</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Teaching and Learning Chair</li> <li>-'Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain' whole staff book study</li> <li>-Vertical planning</li> </ul>
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## Highlight some Members

<p><b>Andrew Huff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DEI Website tab</li> <li>-Staff facilitator</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jonathan Nguyen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ho Dinh author visit</li> <li>-Where Wildflowers Grow</li> <li>-Winterfest &amp; Lunar New Year</li> </ul>	<p><b>Madelyn Reed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student Supports Chair</li> <li>-Student DEI Committee</li> <li>-Staff facilitator</li> </ul>
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# Goals for next year



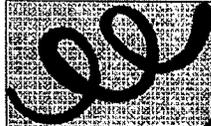
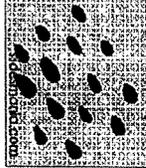
Continue to determine student support from survey data

Establish Family & Community Engagement

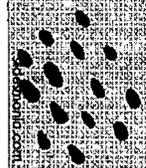
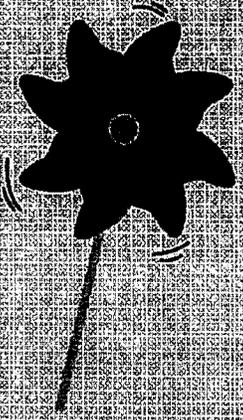
Establish Policy Change

Continue staff PD with turkey lessons

Vertical planning with DEI curricular audits



# Thank you



## Enrollment Summary

As of November 4, 2024, we have the following:

K 102

1 98

2 103

3 99

4 102

5 103

6 102

7 101

8 99

Total = 909

Enrollment by district: Updated at Board meeting

Buffalo	748
Lackawanna	72
Sloan	21
West Seneca	21
Cheektowaga Central	13
Frontier	7
Maryvale	7
Depew	5
Cleveland Hill	4
Sweethome	3
Gowanda	2
Hamburg	2
Lockport	2
Amherst	1
Lancaster	1
	909

## November Superintendents Report

November 12th, 2024

Thursday, October 24th was our fall Pokemon Night. Over 200 students and parents attended and were provided pizza and pop by 716 Sports Cards and Collectibles. It was an awesome event as students spent the evening interacting, talking, trading with each other.

On Wednesday, October 23rd, SBCS was treated to an author visit by Ha Dinh. Ha is a teacher, presenter and author of the book Where the Wildflowers Grow. Each grade level had an opportunity to see a presentation about what goes into being an author and how Ms. Dinh finds inspiration for her work. Students who purchased books ahead of time were able to get them personally signed. Great job to Jill Tefft on this!

On Friday, October 11th, we have a Staff Development day. One of the components of this day were teacher presentations. Miss Garlick, Mrs. Willard, Mr. Hahn and Miss King each presented various methods and engaging classroom management strategies. Teachers were given the opportunity to choose three of these four workshops to attend. Teachers also participated in DEI training and spent time vertical planning.

In response to student survey data a student DEI Committee has been selected AND the FearlesslyGirl program has started to empower students to be part of their community and grow.

On Friday, November 8th, SBCS held our annual Veterans Day Parade. We were able to honor over 30 Veterans with a parade and brunch. Maritime Charter School's Drill Team joined the procession, which was lead by Mr. Anable on drums and bagpipes at the end. This is always a favorite event here at SBCS!

Timon and Mount Mercy Leadership classes have started! We have six girls and nine boys involved in the programs.

The month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. We had a dress down day to raise money for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk that some of our teachers participated in on October 19. We also did a coin drive that raised \$800. All money was donated to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and The Hope Chest.

Tuesday November 5th was Parent Teacher Conference Day from 11:00am to 7:00pm for the entire school.

PTO presented book fair bingo on November 8. The book fair will run in our school from November 12-15. Book Fair bingo is a preview night for families.

Professional Development:

6th, 7th and 8th grade worked with Jeanne Tribuzzi on reading and writing units.

3rd, 4th, and 5th grade had another math training for iReady Math Classroom. The trainer answered any questions that the teachers may have with implementing the program and she also showed other tools that the program provides for them and their students.

Walk-throughs were conducted in 2 of the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms during Phonic instruction. This allowed the trainer from Magnetic Reading to see how the implementation is going.

Several teachers in grades 3rd-8th grade received training in eDoctrina on assessment building and data analysis.

David Ehrle, David Thomas, and Gina Dudkowski all attended the 2024 New York Charter Schools Conference in New York City on October 23rd and 24th. They got to conference with Charter School leaders from many parts of New York and attended many seminars on Artificial Intelligence, community mapping, teacher recruitment, legal issues, and many more items. The agenda is attached to the superintendent's report.

Nate Boorman worked with Dan Lynch from Erie 1 Boces with implementing more digital resources into the the Art Curriculum.

Gregg Rosowski from BOCES worked with several teachers on engagement and behavior strategies throughout the month.

NYS schools are required to have a Temporary Housing Policy, forms for guardian completion, and a coordinator. SBCS is in the process of completing a policy. A team was created to review. Once completed LEA's are required to post on their website. Our McKinney Vento Liaisons are Thomas Wheeler and Nicole Krysztofowicz.

NYS, in a memorandum dated 9/25/24, re-issued their Fingerprinting of Perspective School Employees mandates. These mandates require schools to continue the practice of requiring fingerprints and criminal history background checks done prior to covered school employment. SBCS has required that all staff receive these requirements. A list of who must be fingerprinted is charted for quick reference.