

Minutes – November 12, 2025
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

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

Members Present:

In Person: Chris Schafer, Kathy Linhardt, Matt Szalkowski, Jen Mack
Virtual: Anne Marie Tryjankowski

Members Absent: Carine Merritt

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: SBCS Website by Andrew Huff, Chief Information Officer. Review of new website. Issues presented: parent portal could not be accessed; only a sports calendar, but not a sports page; and teachers will need support to set up their teacher pages.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting.
- Academic Committee – No meeting.
- Facility Committee – Met. Held joint meeting with Finance Committee re: snowplow contract recommendations.
- Finance Committee – Met. No issues. Finances are in order. Annual audit on the docket. See above re: joint meeting.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – Met to review non-ISA handbook and ready to make recommendation for board approval.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on October 8, 2025, was made by Matt Szalkowski; seconded by Anne Marie Tryjankowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent’s Report – See attached.
- Motion to approve Lumsden & McCormick June 30, 2025 Audit was made by Matt Szalkowski; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Snowplowing Contract to Buffalo Snow Plowing, after review of three quotes and based on the recommendation of the Finance and Facility Committee, was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; 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 2025; and the 154 South Ogden, LLC Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures/Income Statement for October 2025 was made by Matt Szalkowski; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.
- Anne Marie Tryjankowski recognized Gina Dudkowski and the rest of the administrative staff for their professionalism in handling the school during Mr. Erhle’s absence.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Enrollment Summary – As of 11/3/25 – 2025/2026

K – 90

1 – 95

2 – 102

3 – 101 (+2)

4 – 104

5 – 100 (+2)

6 – 99

7 – 97 (-4)

8 – 101

Total = 889

Total by District:

NY1402 Amherst Central School District	
0	1
NY1406 Buffalo City School District	
0	745
NY1407 Cheektowaga Central School District	
0	17
NY1407 Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School D	
0	19
NY1407 Cleveland Hill Union Free School District	
0	5
NY1407 Depew Union Free School District	
0	4
NY1416 Frontier Central School District	
0	4
NY1416 Hamburg Central School District	
0	2

NY1418	Lackawanna City School District	63
0		
NY4004	Lockport City School District	<u>2</u>
0		
NY1407	Maryvale Union Free School District	5
0		
NY1423	Orchard Park	1
0		
NY1428	West Seneca Central School District	21
0		
		889



November Superintendent's Report

Fall Fest was held on October 10. The weather was beautiful for hay rides, a pumpkin patch, outdoor games and the pumpkin launching trebuchet. Students enjoyed donuts and cider while decorating pumpkins and participating in a coloring contest. Our first round of Unity Games were held as part of Fall Fest. Every student was able to compete homeroom vs homeroom in a series of games (tug of war and jousting to name a few!) against each other. The winning homerooms were given the Unity Trophy to proudly display in their classrooms.

Mental Health night was held on October 15th. There were representatives in attendance from a variety of community organizations. Teachers also staffed activities in the small gym including yoga, making a calm down kit, and family games. A therapy dog was present as well. Daily mental health messages were provided by students during morning announcements.

The PTO hosted a 3rd and 4th grade glow dance Friday October 24th, the event was well attended and everyone had a great night.

Spirit week was held the last week of October leading up to Halloween. Spirit week was held in honor of Red Ribbon week. This year's theme was Life is a puzzle: Solve it drug free. We had daily morning announcements from students about living a drug free life and making positive choices. Spirit week days were chosen intentionally to support this theme. Halloween was the culminating day of this week. PTO sponsored trunk or treat. Due to the weather, this had to be held in the gyms. All students dressed in costumes and had an opportunity to parade through the building trick or treating at various teacher lead stations and through the PTO sponsored event in the gyms.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Kick off red ribbon week!	I'm too "bright" for drugs!	Show your spirit to be drug free!	Team up against drugs!	Say "BOO" to Drugs!
				
Wear a RED shirt with uniform bottoms and pledge to be drug free.	BRIGHT/NEON Color Shirt Day! With uniform bottoms.	Wear your SBCS spirit day shirt with uniform bottoms.	Wear your favorite SPORTS TEAM shirt/jersey or team colors with uniform bottoms	Dress down day! Wear a school appropriate costume.

Dave Thomas, Dave Ehrle, Thomas Wheeler, Christine Petrie and Gina Dudkowski attended the NYCSC in Rochester on Oct 15 and Oct 16. Throughout the two days they attended different breakout sessions.

Gina Dudkowski and Gina Palermo attended a BOCES training on the NYS Numeracy Briefs on October 22. This led to a connection with a Buffalo State University Professor, Dave Wilson, who will be working with us on implementing the Numeracy Briefs into our school in a similar way that we are working with the Literacy Briefs and Jen Reichenberg, also from Buffalo State.

On Nov 4th the Literacy Liaison team provided professional development to the staff. . The goal of the day was to establish the routines and culture of a professional learning community- both school wide and grade level. Through this process the staff engaged in curricular and pedagogical renewal. The Literacy Liaison team worked with a partner to take a deep dive into one area of the following areas: oral language and vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, phonemic awareness and phonics, and writing. The teachers were asked to pick one hour long session to attend, and then in the afternoon, all teachers met with their grade level teams to discuss what they learned and then pick one area to focus on for the remainder of the school year and create an action plan.

The Community Connection committee hosted a "Friendsgiving pot luck" where all staff members were invited to attend. All grade level teams and departments were asked to choose a dish to share. The committee decorated the cafeteria with Thanksgiving decorations, and everyone was able to enjoy a meal together as a whole staff.

Soccer and volleyball seasons ended at the end of October. The soccer team ended with the season with 1 win and 4 losses and the volleyball team ended at 3 and 3. Cross country has been practicing for about a month, with their first and only meet on Saturday, here at SBCS, at 10:00 am. Basketball and cheerleading will start in the next two weeks.

Seth Crane is attending -New York Association for Computers and Technology in Education- NYSCATE Conference on November 23rd-November 25th.

He was asked to present at the conference due to his usage of Book Creator.

Below is what he will be presenting on.

Curiosity-Driven Classrooms: Elevating Core Content with BookCreator

In this interactive session, I'll share how I use BookCreator to design curiosity-driven lessons that deepen student engagement and elevate core content in both ELA and math. As a STEAM teacher, I've seen firsthand how BookCreator empowers young learners to take ownership of their learning through creative expression, multimedia integration, and collaboration. Together, we'll explore real examples of student work that demonstrate how this tool can transform traditional assignments into dynamic, personalized learning experiences. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a live demonstration where we co-create a sample BookCreator project, showcasing how easy it is to implement in any classroom setting. Whether you're tech-savvy or just getting started, you'll walk away with practical strategies, ready-to-use ideas, and a fresh approach to using digital tools to spark curiosity and support academic growth. Main objectives: Demonstrate how BookCreator enhances engagement in ELA and math. Showcase student-created work that reflects voice, choice, and creativity. Provide hands-on experience with BookCreator's features and classroom applications. Inspire educators to design lessons that build on students' natural curiosity.