

Minutes – March 11, 2026
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Members Present:

In Person: Chris Schafer, Jen Mack, Kathy Linhardt

Virtual: Anne Marie Tryjankowski

Members Absent: Matt Szalkowski, Carine Merritt

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: Title Funding – See attached.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting.
- Academic Committee – Met and reviewed data from NYS Assessment and iReady.
- Facility Committee – No meeting. HVAC rollout started. Will be meeting next week.
- Finance Committee – Met. No issues. Reviewed bank requests. All in order.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – No meeting.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on February 11, 2026, was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent’s Report – See attached.
- Discussion to change date of April Board Meeting because it falls during SBCS’s spring break. As board members are available it was decided to keep the regular meeting date on April 8, 2026.
- 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 February 2026; and the 154 South Ogden, LLC Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures/Income Statement for February 2026 was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

TITLE FUNDS

@SBCS

TITLE I

- What can Title I funds be utilized for?
- Title I funds are federal resources used to improve academic achievement in high-poverty schools. Key uses include hiring additional teachers, coaches, and paraprofessionals, purchasing educational technology (laptops, software), and implementing after-school or summer programs. The teachers hired would be for specialized purposes such as intervention, reading specialists, and areas that improve academics in core areas.
- How does SBCS utilize its funding?



SBCS TITLE I FUNDING = \$389, 879

- **\$317,379** is utilized to pay a portion of salaries for 7 Intervention Teachers
- **\$35,000** is utilized to pay for benefits (health / dental / etc.) for the 7 teachers
- **\$35,000** is utilized to pay for NYS TRS for the 7 teachers
- **\$2,500** is reserved for students that qualify for McKinney Vento. SBCS utilizes these funds to assist families with clothing through McKay's and/or Walmart.

TITLE II

- What can Title II funding be used for?
- Title II, Part A (Title IIA) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal formula grant program aimed at improving teacher and principal quality, increasing student achievement, and boosting access to effective educators for low-income and minority students. Funds support professional development, recruitment, retention, and class-size reduction.
- How does SBCS utilize these funds?

SBCS TITLE II FUNDING = \$43,396

- SBCS continues to partner with Erie 1 BOCES. This school year we have reserved \$31,396 for professional development for teaching staff and leadership.
- This includes Classroom Management Strategies, Math Strategies, ELA Strategies, Science Strategies, Art/Music Strategies, Administrative retreat.
- Professional Development from ACASE @ \$12,000. Test development, assessment development, data analysis.

TITLE III

- What can Title III funding be used for?
- Title III funds (Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students) are designed to provide supplemental resources to improve the education of English Learners (ELs). They are used for language instruction programs, professional development for teachers, family engagement, and purchasing specialized instructional materials or technology. These funds must supplement, not replace, state and local funding.
- How does SBCS utilize Title III funds?

SBCS TITLE III FUNDING = \$1,607

- SBCS has joined a consortium with the other local charter schools. To qualify for Title III funding a school must have more than 50 students that are ELL. SBCS = 18
- If a school falls below this number they may partner with other schools to form a consortium, which would put the number above 50.
- SBCS is part of a 15 school consortium. The monies from all schools are pooled into one allotment and then the consortium orders books, plans professional development, purchases resources, etc., for all the schools.



TITLE IV

- What can Title IV funds be used for?
- Title IV, Part A funds are used by schools to improve student academic achievement by supporting well-rounded education, safe and healthy initiatives, and the effective use of technology. LEAs with an allocation of \$30,000 or more must use at least 20 percent of the allocation to support well-rounded educational opportunities; use at least 20 percent to support safe and healthy students; use a portion of funds for the effective use of technology with no more than 15 percent for technology infrastructure.
- How does SBSCS utilize its Title IV funding?

SBCS TITLE IV FUNDING = \$31,868

- \$6,000 is utilized for salaries of those qualifying under safe and healthy students. \$1,200 each for 2 social workers, 2 school counselors, 1 family engagement community outreach.
- \$2,002 is utilized for Electrical work of running new lines and bracketry for technology.
- \$1,500 After school YOGA class for students.
- \$3,900 to build community connections through relationship building skills, through restorative practices, student clubs and committees.
- \$11,598 for STEM Classes grades 5-8 (Drone, lumber, sanders, saws, graphing software, editing software, smart projectors).
- \$6,868 for Music instruments for band.

Enrollment Summary – As of 3/2/2026

GRADE	APPLICATIONS			
	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023/2024	2022/2023
K	87	98	96	76
1	95	98	99	10
2	101	101	100	11
3	98	99	101	6
4	103	98	100	6
5	99	102	100	9
6	100	95	99	14
7	94	98	96	5
8	97	98	95	5
TOTAL	872	887	881	154

Grade K – 1 student enrolled/moved to Lakeshore School District
 Grade K, 3, and 4 – Family moved to Sweet Home school district where they previously attended.

Total by District:

- 1 NY140201 Amherst Central School District
- 2 NY141601 Hamburg Central School District
- 1 NY142301 Orchard Park
- 2 NY400400 Lockport City School District
- 4 NY140707 Depew Union Free School District
- 4 NY141604 Frontier Central School District
- 5 NY140702 Maryvale Union Free School District
- 5 NY140703 Cleveland Hill Union Free School District
- 18 NY140701 Cheektowaga Central School District
- 19 NY140709 Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District
- 20 NY142801 West Seneca Central School District
- 64 NY141800 Lackawanna City School District
- 732 NY140600 Buffalo City School District

March Superintendent's Report

The Black History Month Committee took February as an opportunity to teach our students about as many prominent figures in Black History as possible. From the poster projects, to daily trivia to a "Black Legends Search," our students were immersed in knowledge that they wouldn't obtain from the traditional curriculum. The work done by the committee has moved to a SBCS Cultural Day, which will be on March 19th. The goal of this day is to celebrate as many cultures as possible here at SBCS through performances, dances, events and assemblies.

An area of focus at SBCS is always parent engagement. With so many new families joining us every year, we are going to host quarterly "Parent Meetings." This would be separate from our PTO, as this group would be to help and support the parents here at SBCS. We would treat them like a true "Professional Learning Community" and take the time to review handbooks, expectations, policies, procedures, answer questions, etc. We truly want to give all families an opportunity to be stakeholders in our future.

The finals of our annual Spelling Bee were held in conjunction with our Perspective Student Open House on Tuesday, February 24th. Over 300 students took the first round quiz, with 56 making it to the finals. This PTO sponsored event provided medals for the finalists and trophies for the winners!

Our 2nd quarter awards assemblies were moved to Friday, March 6th. Hundreds of awards were given out! Students were honored for their academic achievements, I-Ready growth and character education development.

Gina Dudkowski and Rachel Puccio traveled to Arlington Virginia to present our Literacy work with Dr. Jen Reichenberg at the NASUP conference as part of our partnership with Buffalo State University.

On February 24th we welcome 7 ELA method students for the Spring semester.

K-2 teachers had training on iReady Classroom which is our math program.

Brian Peck, Amy Carloni, Chandler Benedict, Gina Palermo and Gina Dudkowski traveled to Paddy Elementary, in Greece, NY to see iReady Classroom in action after a district has use if it for several years.

The chorus and band students had their mid winter concerts before the students went on break. We had two great performances and a packed auditorium for both events. Thanks to Mr. Fletcher (chorus) and Mr. Anable (band).

NYSED has released updated guidance for conducting School Safety Drills. Attached is the link for these updates. SBCS will utilize the memo to update any processes and procedures that require updating.

<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/best-practices-for-conducting-school-safety-drills.pdf>

SBCS is entering into agreements with the Boys and Girls Club of Buffalo to offer full day summer programming to 100 of our students and to continue the off site after school program for 26/27 school year.

I will attend a webinar hosted by NYSED about the dangers of lead and the requirements in testing. - Lead in School Drinking Water 2026-2028 Program Updates, Wednesday, March 18, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

March 4, 2026, Lobby Day in Albany. SBCS representatives will be C. Schafer, T. Wheeler and D. Ehrle. We'll have items to report on at the Board Meeting.

March 12, 2026, SUNY Charter Schools Institute Regional Convening: Buffalo. This event will be a discussion on the common challenges facing your schools and the strategies being used to address them. SBCS attendees: C. Schafer and D. Ehrle