

Minutes – April 8, 2026
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent: Matt Szalkowski

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: Smart Technology – Following the meeting board members were given a presentation in a classroom reviewing two options for smart boards; administration will provide the board with additional information; board will reconvene at next month’s meeting with any questions; Anne Marie Tryjankowski would like teacher input at that meeting.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting.
- Academic Committee – No meeting.
- Facility Committee – Met regarding smart boards and camera upgrades. Funding is available for the projects, waiting on proposals.
- Finance Committee – Met. No issues. Paperwork for unclaimed funds has been submitted to the State. SPED rate being checked by Lumsden McCormick. Waiting on NYS to confirm receipt of amended tax returns that were submitted for June 2024.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – No meeting. Update on personnel matters was received.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on March 11, 2026, was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent’s Report – See attached.
- 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 March 2026; and the 154 South Ogden, LLC Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures/Income Statement for March 2026 was made by Kathy Linhardt; seconded by Jen Mack. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Enrollment Summary – As of 4/1/2026

| GRADE | 2025/2026 | 2024/2025 | 2023/2024 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| K | 87 | 98 | 95 |
| 1 | 95 | 98 | 99 |
| 2 | 101 | 101 | 100 |
| 3 | 97 | 99 | 100 |
| 4 | 102 | 98 | 100 |
| 5 | 99 | 101 | 100 |
| 6 | 100 | 94 | 98 |
| 7 | 90 | 98 | 95 |
| 8 | 96 | 97 | 94 |
| TOTAL | 867 | 884 | 878 |

I failed to subtract the Sweet Home students from above but did write down in this category that we lost students to Sweet Home. Grade 7 students were behaviors that we received withdrawal notices last month. These fights were multiple student v one, planned fight and executed.

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 |

Applicants 26-27

- K-85
- 1-12
- 2-13
- 3-9
- 4-8
- 5-11

6-19

7-6

8-6

Total:169

As far as adjustments to the budget I am putting together a budget for the 900 students, budgeting for less. We will continue to work on various avenues to continue to attract students (we met this week with a representative to partner with a daycare, secured another free WNY Living, working with Bengali/cricket for advertisements and ENL students). If we are not closing in on 900 I'll work on adjustments during summer.

April Superintendent's Report

- We had our first Liveschool Top 20 breakfast on Friday, February 13th. Liveschool is a behavior incentive tracking program for students in 7th and 8th grade. Teachers in grades 7 and 8 give three students a Liveschool point each period. The top earners were rewarded with breakfast!
- Unity Games were also held on Friday, February 13th. Unity Games are held quarterly and are a series of academic and athletic competitions, homeroom vs homeroom, within the same grade level. The goal of Unity Games is to promote the strength and togetherness of each students' homeroom. The winning homeroom gets to bring the Unity Trophy back to their classroom to proudly display.
- On Thursday, April 2nd, we will have our annual 3 on 3 March Madness Basketball Tournament. This event takes place during the school day, giving every 5th - 8th grade student an opportunity to participate. Interested students create their own teams, pay an entry fee (which goes to trophies, water, snacks, etc.) and play in a double elimination event.
- On Thursday March 26th, Gina Dudkowski and David Thomas toured Persistence Prep Charter School through our partnership with the Cullen foundation to see some of their programs they are administering at Persistence Prep. Also through this partnership SBCS will have Reach Academy coming to SBCS to see our Early Literacy program shortly after Spring Break.
- The PTO hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt and Vendor Craft fair on Saturday March 28th. The turnout was incredible and many pictures were taken with the Easter Bunny.
- STEAM night was held on March 18. Over 100 students attended with their families. Vendors in attendance included The Buffalo Science Museum, Penn Dixie, Explore and More, The Buffalo Geological Society and Checker's the Inventor. Teacher Created Materials was here handing out STEAM books to students. Our staff also facilitated events including making your own lava lamp, marbled paper, planting, the planetarium, lego car races and train building from recyclable materials. Positive feedback was heard from the families that attended.
- On March 12, our admin team attended a dinner at Kleinhans that was put on by the Boys and Girls club. This was a fundraiser for their program and features music performed by students and their staff. Our students represented the majority of participants in this display of musical talents.
- 5 week reports went home on March 13.
- Gina P and Gina D attended the Buffalo Math Collaborative at Sweet Home School District. They worked with teachers involved in the Master Teacher Program through

Buffalo State University. As a group, lessons were planned, taught to students and observed in the school, then debriefed. These ideas are based on Math in the City, a teaching model piloted by Kathy Fosnot out of NYC. This was the basis for our professional development on March 23.

- On March 23, we had a full day of professional development. Anyone who teaches math was involved in Thinking Classrooms, facilitated by Dave Wilson from Buffalo State University. This method of teaching math has a low floor so it is accessible to all but can also have a high ceiling. It fosters mathematical thinking and discourse as students work through problems together. Other professional developments that day included: Discovery Ed facilitated by our staff, Seth Crane and Steven Pritchard, Relationship Building Facilitated by Gregg Rosowski from BOCES and a counselor training presented by Thomas Wheeler.
- The school play, Alice in Wonderland, Jr., was held on March 27, with all SBCS students getting to see it during the week at dress rehearsals. Mr. Anable, Mrs. Kulesz and Mrs. Harwood did an outstanding job with the cast of students involved. Their hard work payed off and the play was amazing!
- <https://www.southbuffalocs.org/district/admissions-enrollment>
The above link is a NYS released guide for resources for the Personal Finance curriculum requirements starting next school year for NYS schools.

Verification of the Identification of Migrant-Eligible Children (attachment)

- To ensure that migratory children have been accurately identified and served during the 2025-2026 school year, the State Education Department (SED) is requiring each school district to verify students coded as Migrant-eligible in its student information management system against an official list of students that have been issued Certificates of Eligibility (COE) for participation in the Migrant Education Program (MEP).
- New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) works directly with the MEP to code migrant-eligible students for all public and charter schools located in NYC. Therefore, this memo does not apply to NYC schools.
- For more information, including instructions and timelines, please refer to the attached 2025-2026 SIRS Migrant Student Data Reconciliation Memo.

The above is information released by NYS for Migrant Students. At this time SBCS does not have students classified as migrants, but as always we have to prepare for this to occur at any time.

- March 31 and April 1 - Team meetings to review and instruct on all NYS test protocols with those administering the test are being completed. Most staff are familiar and this is a refresher course, but SBCS wants all to be prepared and ready for the various possibilities that arise with state testing.

- Special Education Data:
 - Total number of IEP = 115
 - Total number of Speech IEP = 58
 - Total number of 504 plans = 32
 - Special Education referrals 24/25 = 25 total, 25-26 = 13
 - 504 Referrals 25/26 = 8, 3 pending

- <https://www.nysed.gov/facilities-planning/news/new-charter-school-handbook>
 - The above link is an updated/new handbook for charters as a guide for operation. I wanted to share this with the Board as a form of reference.