Minutes – September 9, 2026
South Buffalo Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Carine Merritt

Public Comment: None.

Presentation: None.

Board Reports:

- Executive Committee – No meeting. Carine Merritt leave of absence request.
- Academic Committee – No meeting.
- Facility Committee – No meeting. Projects moving forward.
- Finance Committee – No meeting. Check registry reviewed and approved. All other financials to be reviewed for approval at October meeting.
- Human Resources/Appeals Committee – No meeting.

New Business:

- Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on August 12, 2026, was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Anne Marie Tryjankowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Enrollment Summary – See attached.
- Superintendent's Report – See attached. Additions: October 27th the school will host three social media presentations for students and at 6:00 p.m. for parents; September 17th a program will be outlined regarding the US Constitution & Citizenship, which is mandatory for all schools that get funding; September 11th has been mandated as a day of observance, remembrance and education on the events that occurred on 9/11 for students.
- Q&A regarding the mortgage transfer from LLC to SBCS – no questions; process to get moving within next few months.
- Motion to approve the Adult and A La Carte Cafeteria pricing was made by Jen Mack; seconded by Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor.
- Motion to approve Michelle Federowicz-Cope as a new board member pending CSI approval was made by Anne Marie Tryjankowski; seconded by Kathy Linhardt. Vote: All in favor.
- Consensus Agenda
    - Motion to approve the SBCS Schedule of Bills for August 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 Matt Szalkowski. Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Enrollment Summary – As of 8/3/2026

GRADE	2026/2027	2025/2026	2024/2025
K	102	88	
1	109 (1)	93	
2	108 (3)	98	
3	108 (6)	92	
4	102 (3)	100	
5	111 (16)	99	
6	108 (11)	101	
7	111 (0)	86	
8	105 (2)	94	
TOTAL	964	863	

**number in ( ) is waitlist for that grade.

Superintendent's Report - August 2026

The August Kindergarten Screening was on Thursday, August 6th. This allowed parents who recently enrolled to SBCS and parents who were not able to make the June screening an opportunity to have their child screened for Kindergarten.

SBCS is going to utilize "LiveSchool" again for 7th and 8th grade students. LiveSchool is a behavioral incentive program in which students earn "dollars" for good behaviors, respectful comments, bullying prevention, etc. At the end of each marking period, students can "spend" their dollars, with the students who have the most appropriate behaviors being able to spend the most!

The administrative team went to Erie One BOCES retreat at Holiday Valley July 20th-22nd to work with other WNY school districts. There were breakout sessions and a keynote speaker on both days. On day 1 the keynote speaker was Brian Miller who is known for his TED talks - How to Magically Connect with Anyone." On day 2 the keynote speaker was Morgan Hardy, the Chief Executive Officer at Leadership Buffalo. This was a very useful retreat as the administrative team got to hear many issues that face schools in the variety of break out sessions that were offered throughout the two days.

Link to agenda for retreat:
https://www.e1b.org/our-services/elevate-together/elevate-together-agenda

The PTO held a Christmas in July carnival in the front parking lot on Wednesday July 22nd. The weather cooperated as this was the June make up date and everyone who attended had a great time. The PTO is creating a schedule for this upcoming school year with lots of events for families.

Cullen Grant information. DIBELS, IGNITE, Tutoring, and From Good to Great teaching program. The Cullen foundation has generously donated to South Buffalo Charter School once again to help with needs in the areas of Early Literacy Tutoring and Professional development. The school will have DIBELS testing in reading next school year for all K-8 students to improve reading and give another data point for academic planning and intervention. The IGNITE program is an online 1 on 1 tutoring program that SBCS will begin this school year that is a quick 15 minute intervention for intervention on a daily basis. The TNTP from a good teacher to a great teacher professional development combines high expectations, deep empathy, and intentional reflection. Key shifts involve listening closely to students, staying flexible when lessons stall, and focusing relentlessly on core instructional goals.

The Summer has given the leadership team time to go over schedule and make sure we are ready for day one. We will be having new teacher orientation on Thursday, August 20th and all staff return on Monday, August 24th with a full slate of professional development and making sure their rooms are ready for the first day on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Channel 7 did a story on the Cricket field behind the school and the clinic they are running to promote interest in the sport. See link below

https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/buffalo/learn-something-new-cricket-clinic-teaches-kids-in-buffalo-how-to-play-the-growing-sport

The leadership team has taken part in a restorative justice professional development over the past two weeks sponsored by the NY courts system. The training has schools coming together that are in the many stages of implementing a restorative justice program in their schools. This was a professional development that we applied to be part of and were accepted into its cohort. The training will help South Buffalo Charter School implement a restorative justice program with sustainability for many years to come.

The school will be holding a gently used clothing sale for families August 17th - August 21st.

The NYS Board of Regents has put together the next phase of NYS Inspires. NYS is moving the K-12 system toward a student-centered, competency based graduation framework. Here is a link to the presentation: https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20NY%20Inspires%20Transforming%20Education%2C%20Empowering%20Futures.pdf

Title 1 allocations for SBCS $383,039. Title III for SBCS is $1,607. Tapestry charter school is the lead for the consortium for title III.

Joint statement on Transgender Students' Rights - NYSED is attached as FYI.
NYS guidance on safeguarding the rights of immigrant students attached as a FYI.