

SCHOOL LANE CHARTER SCHOOL
3340 Tillman Drive
Bensalem, PA 19020
Phone: 215-245-6055 Fax: 215-245-6058
www.schoollane.org

October 26, 2023

Board of Trustees Work Session/Action Minutes

Executive Session: Held to discuss student issues, personnel and legal concerns.

Public Meeting: 7:07 pm and Live Streamed via Zoom

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Joe Cummons, Kelly Magee, Heather O'Donnell, Bharvin Patel, Vivek Patel, Surya Vedula, Kevin McKenna, Esq. and Karen Schade, CEO

Pledge of Allegiance

Adjourn the Board Meeting of September 28, 2023

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

Adopt the Agenda

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x

Surya Vedula	x			
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REPORTS:

Administrative Report: Presentation of PSSA and Keystone Data 2023

This presentation will be divided into five sections:

1. 2023 PSSA performance of School Lane vs. PA averages
2. A comparison of PSSA performance in 2022 vs. 2023
3. 2023 Keystone performance of School Lane vs. PA averages
4. A comparison of Keystone performance in 2022 vs. 2023
5. Next steps based on the data and what data is still to come

Students in Grades 3 through 8 take the PSSA each Spring. All Students take ELA and Math. Science is administered in Grades 4 and 8 only. Students score in one of four scoring groups:

- Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

We'll compare the percentage of students in each scoring group by subject and grade for both School Lane and students across the Commonwealth highlighting the percentage of students in the At or Above Proficiency, as well as the size of the Below Basic scoring group.

NOTE:

- Green highlights will indicate places where SLCS outperformed the state average
- Red highlights will indicate places where the state average outperformed SLCS

Part 1 2023 PSSA performance of School Lane vs. PA average

PSSA ELA SCORES

2023 ELA PA vs. SLCS		ELA				
		Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	% At/Above Proficiency
		%	%	%	%	
3rd	State	14.4	31.6	41.9	12.1	54
	School Lane CS	5.8	32.5	45.8	15.8	61.7
4th	State	17.2	31	30.4	21.4	51.8
	School Lane CS	10	41.7	33.3	15	48.3
5th	State	15.4	31	40.4	13.2	53.7
	School Lane CS	12.1	33.9	40.3	13.7	54
6th	State	8.1	36.3	36.8	18.8	55.6
	School Lane CS	1.7	33.1	47.1	18.2	65.3
7th	State	4.5	41	36.8	17.7	54.5
	School Lane CS	1	46.6	37.9	14.6	52.4
8th	State	14.4	32.8	38.4	14.4	52.7
	School Lane CS	12.3	29.6	32.1	25.9	58

For the 2023 ELA PSSA, SLCS outperformed the state average at four of six tested grade levels and had a smaller percentage of students score in the lowest scoring category of "Below Basic" at every tested grade level. Our largest gap is at the 6th Grade level where our students scored nearly 10% points higher than the state average. An opportunity for growth is to increase the number of students scoring in the advanced category. As we work to move students from basic to proficient, our goal is to also move students from

proficient to advanced to bolster that percentage of students at or above proficiency scores.

PSSA MATH Scores

2023 Mathematics PA vs. SLCS		Mathematics				
		Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	% At/Above Proficiency
		%	%	%	%	
3rd	State	24.9	23.4	30.1	21.6	51.7
	School Lane CS	16.7	20	40.8	22.5	63.3
4th	State	25.1	28.5	30	16.5	46.5
	School Lane CS	18.3	39.2	30	12.5	42.5
5th	State	29.2	28.1	26.9	15.8	42.8
	School Lane CS	26.6	32.3	31.1	8.1	41.1
6th	State	33.5	30.1	23.5	12.9	36.5
	School Lane CS	28.9	38	23.1	9.9	33.1
7th	State	39.5	27.3	20.9	12.3	33.2
	School Lane CS	48.5	29.2	18.4	4.9	23.3
8th	State	46.9	27	17.7	8.3	26.1
	School Lane CS	56.2	22.5	16.3	5	21.2

There were mixed results on the 2023 Math PSSA. While 3rd Grade outperformed state averages, our other tested grade levels did not with the largest gap at 7th Grade where there is a 10 point departure from the state average. The 3rd Grade cohort outperformed the state average by 11.6 points which shows that instruction in the primary grades is effective and we hope to see that growth continue as that cohort, and cohorts behind it matriculate through our program. SLCS did have a smaller number of students score in the below basic category in most grade levels compared to the state averages. We have to acknowledge the fact that there is a problem with math education nationwide, and you can see that here in PA where only 26% of 8th Graders across the state are able to score at least proficient on this exam. We have been working for a number of years to bolster students' conceptual understanding of mathematics. That approach is becoming more widespread and we're now seeing textbook publishers adopt that approach as well. We introduced new math resources at the Elementary Campus this year providing a consistent course of study across K through 6 in our Core program as well as intervention programs- both for extra support and acceleration. This is the first year that accelerated math sections are offered in Grades 4 through 9, allowing those sections to challenge students in ways that we haven't before, and reducing the class size in non-accelerated sections allowing for more individualized attention for students in those courses. The IB Math team continues to get more comfortable with new resources that were introduced last year in this, their second year of implementation.

PSSA Science- Grades 4 and 8

2023 Science PA vs. SLCS		Science				
		Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	% At/Above Proficiency
		%	%	%	%	
4th	State	7.8	18	38.9	35.2	74.2
	School Lane CS	1.7	26.9	50.4	21	71.4
8th	State	24.5	18.4	30.8	26.2	57
	School Lane CS	17.3	14.8	44.4	23.5	67.9

PSSA Science overall shows positive results. While 8th Grade outperformed the state average for proficiency, 4th Grade did not. However, both grades feature a smaller percentage of students scoring below basic compare to the state. We are in our third year with our current Science resource. As PA begins to shift the state science standards to match the Next Generation Science Standards in the coming years, we are confident that the instruction our students using these resources is already aligned to NGSS.

Part 2: 2022 Performance vs. 2023 Performance

- Last year in this presentation, we made comparisons between pre-pandemic and post-pandemic test results and clearly showed that there was a regression in performance at SLCS and across the Commonwealth during that time.
- Neither SLCS nor the Commonwealth are back to pre-pandemic rates.
- We now look at 2022 as our new baseline as we project we will feel the effects of the pandemic for years to come.
- The next section will cover the percentage of students at or above proficiency for SLCS and students across the Commonwealth in each subject area for both 2022 and 2023.
- A change in performance between each years will be reported.
- Red highlights indicate a larger negative change for SLCS compared to the state
- Green highlights indicate a larger positive change for SLCS compared to the state.
- In ELA, on average, there was a drop in the percentage of students at or above proficiency: -.78 for the state and -4.3 for SLCS.
- In Math, on average, there were increases in the percentage of students at or above proficiency: +4.9 for the state and +8.4 for SLCS.
- In Science, on average, there were increases in the percentage of students at or above proficiency: +3.2 for the state and +9.1 for SLCS.

2022 vs. 2023 Comparison		Year	ELA % At/Above Proficiency	Mathematics % At/Above Proficiency	Science % At/Above Proficiency
3rd	State	2022	52.3	47.7	
		2023	54	51.7	
	Change		1.7	4	
	School Lane CS	2022	54.7	49.6	
		2023	61.7	63.3	
	Change		7	13.7	
4th	State	2022	52.2	42.3	73.7
		2023	51.8	46.5	74.2
	Change		-0.4	4.2	0.5
	School Lane CS	2022	56.7	38	74.4
		2023	48.3	42.5	71.4
	Change		-8.4	4.5	-3
5th	State	2022	53.6	35.4	
		2023	53.7	42.8	
	Change		0.1	7.4	
	School Lane CS	2022	69.5	31.4	
		2023	54	41.1	
	Change		-15.5	9.7	
6th	State	2022	56.1	32.3	
		2023	55.6	36.5	
	Change		-0.5	4.2	
	School Lane CS	2022	58.8	20.9	
		2023	65.3	33.1	
	Change		6.5	12.2	
7th	State	2022	57.2	27	
		2023	54.5	33.2	
	Change		-2.7	6.2	
	School Lane CS	2022	62.4	25	
		2023	52.4	23.3	
	Change		-10	-1.7	
8th	State	2022	55.6	22.6	51
		2023	52.7	26.1	57
	Change		-2.9	3.5	6
	School Lane CS	2022	63.6	9.2	46.6
		2023	58	21.2	67.9
	Change		-5.6	12	21.3

We are looking at different cohorts of students we tend to like to look on the diagonal so we are looking at groups of kids over time.

Part 3 2023 Keystone performance of School Lane vs. PA averages

Keystone Exams are administered at the conclusion of Algebra I (Typically 9th Grade), Biology (Typically 9th Grade), and Literature (Typically 10th Grade) courses. Beginning with last year's graduating class of 2023, students need to pass all Keystone exams or an alternate assignment as a state graduation requirement. Students have opportunities to retake the exams multiple times if they do not pass. There is a Summer wave as well as as Winter wave in addition to the traditional Spring wave. Students retaking the exam participate in a Keystone Boost class during their WIN period.

Just like with the PSSA, on the Keystones students score in one of four scoring groups:

- Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

The scores combine students that are taking the assessment for the first time with those that are re-testing as well. Just like with the PSSA, we'll compare the percentage of students in each scoring group by subject and

grade for both School Lane and students across the Commonwealth We'll highlight the percentage of students in the At or Above Proficiency, as well as the size of the Below Basic scoring group.

- Green highlights will indicate places where SLCS outperformed the state average
- Red highlights will indicate places where the state average outperformed SLCS

2023 Keystone Algebra I	Year	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	% At/Above Proficiency
		%	%	%	%	
State	2023	24.5	46.2	17.1	12.2	29.3
School Lane CS	2023	19.7	59.2	10.5	10.5	21.1

2023 Keystone Biology	Year	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	% At/Above Proficiency
		%	%	%	%	
State	2023	30.2	31.2	22.9	15.8	38.6
School Lane CS	2023	26.8	42.3	21.1	9.9	31

2023 Keystone Literatures	Year	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	% At/Above Proficiency
		%	%	%	%	
State	2023	14.6	32.2	44.3	8.9	53.2
School Lane CS	2023	7.7	26.9	51.9	13.5	65.4

SLCS outperformed the state average for Literature by 12.2 percentage points, but fell behind the state average in Algebra I by 8.2 percentage points and in Biology by 7.6 percentage points. In all subjects SLCS had a smaller percentage of students in the Below Basic category than the state. We are working in the Algebra and Biology courses to implement new strategies to reverse this trend including a new diagnostic assessment that aligns directly with the style and program students use to take the Keystones and a greater emphasis on formative assessment and tracking as students work through units. We will meet with teachers of these courses regularly to ensure students are set up for success headed into the assessment this Spring. One of the key pieces of CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Test) is that it is perfectly aligned with the Anchors and Eligible content and it groups kids so we can use diagnostic features as well as formatively for instruction. We also discussed the impact of our changing population as kids don't stay through and we bring on new students. This impacts the scores as they adjust to SLCS way of learning. We also discussed other graduation pathways such as composite scores (where student must be proficient in one exam and basic and above in the others with a certain composite score), IB exams, Career technical exams, IEP and waivers

Part 4 A comparison of Keystone performance in 2022 vs. 2023

SLCS outperformed the state average for Literature by 12.2 percentage points, but fell behind the state average in Algebra I by 8.2 percentage points and in Biology by 7.6 percentage points. In all subjects SLCS had a smaller percentage of students in the Below Basic category than the state. We are working in the Algebra and Biology courses to implement new strategies to reverse this trend including a new diagnostic assessment that aligns directly with the style and program students use to take the Keystones and a greater emphasis on

formative assessment and tracking as students work through units. We will meet with teachers of these courses regularly to ensure students are set up for success headed into the assessment this Spring.

- In Algebra there was a drop in the percentage of students at or above proficiency: -1.7 for the state and -11.5 for SLCS.
- In Biology there was a drop in the percentage of students at or above proficiency: -2.1 for the state and -7.8 for SLCS.
- In Literature there was a drop in the percentage of students at or above proficiency: -1.9 for the state and -1.3 for SLCS.

2023 Keystone Algebra I	Year	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2022	31
State	2023	29.3
School Lane CS	2022	32.6
School Lane CS	2023	21.1

2023 Keystone Biology	Year	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2022	40.7
State	2023	38.6
School Lane CS	2022	38.8
School Lane CS	2023	31

Part 5 Next steps based on the data and what data is still to come

The data looked at above focuses on achievement.

The next set of data from the state, PVAAS (Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System), takes into account anticipated student growth as well. The anticipated receipt of that data is late October or early November.

As part of our Comprehensive Plan goals, we plan to continue to grow our culture for using data at SLCS:

- Student data analysis at leadership team meetings, department & grade level meetings
- Disaggregating data to analyze performance by subject, reporting category, and standards
- Comparisons to neighboring districts when that data is publicly available
- Bringing in new assessments to provide additional information for teachers to make informed instructional decisions
- Centrally locating student achievement data for easier review

We've also bolstered our Professional Learning opportunities for staff as we look at data FOR learning:

- Training on new curricular resources
- Structured personal professional development plans
- Strategic deployment of human resources to allow teachers to be more focused in their planning

2023 Keystone Literatures	Year	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2022	55.1
State	2023	53.2
School Lane CS	2022	66.7
School Lane CS	2023	65.4

Financial Report: added Medical Benefits, 403B Plan, Plumbing checks as well as 2 checks for assemblies

Personnel Report:

- New hires: 4
- Resignation, reduction in force, termination: 6
- Change in pay rate: 2
- Other: 2

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

MOTION ITEMS

1. Accept Board Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2023

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

2. - 4. Accept Administrative, Financial, and Personnel Reports

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

5. Accept October & November 2023 payments to vendors

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

6. Accept October & November 2023 payments of hourly, per diem, and salaried employees

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x

Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

7. Request for Proposal #2600-001 Snow and Ice Management

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

NEW BUSINESS

The Nutrition Group Presentation- by Nancy Ryan and Sarah Bieger

Big focus areas: Cost control and procurement, increasing participation, nutrition education, and special events. This year the theme is positivity.

2022-2023 Recap – Average Daily Participation 2023-2024 Year to Date

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Lunch	581	648
Ala Carte	206	275
Profit/Loss	(\$38,169)	77,255

ADP	BUDGET	9/1-10/13	10/16-Today
Breakfast	0	0	390
Lunch	653	690	761
Ala Carte	258	345	341

All of the food is grab and go, quick but 2 days a week we still have a hot option like waffles that can also be easily eaten. New items integrated meet the guidelines with reduced sodium, 80% whole grain and smart snack standards. Prioritizing vegetarian options with at least 1 hot vegetarian option each meal such as impossible burgers and plant protein crumbles. Corporately the Nutrition group is working with specialists for food costs, administrative reviews, Primero edge and culinary. They also offer nutrition for life which is a free

lunch for kindergarten students to encourage them to go through the lunch lines. Also offered are some promotional programs to get students to try new foods,

Recess Meeting of October 26, 2023

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 6-0

NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Joe Cummons	x			
Ed Guster				x
Peter Hyams				x
Kelly Magee	x			
Heather O'Donnell	x			
Bharvin Patel	x			
Vivek Patel	x			
Joy Snyder				x
Surya Vedula	x			

Board Meeting:

The next Board of Trustees Public Meeting will be Thursday, November 16 , 2023, at 7:00pm.

Minutes recorded by:

Kristin Hokanson

Attested by:

Kelly McGee

Date:

11/16/2023