

SCHOOL LANE CHARTER SCHOOL
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Bensalem, PA 19020
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www.schoollane.org

November 16, 2023

Board of Trustees Work Session/Action Minutes

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

Public Meeting: 7:00 pm and Live Streamed via Zoom

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm

In Attendance: Joe Cummons, Ed Guster, Pete Hyams, Kelly Magee, Heather O'Donnell, Bharvin Patel, Vivek Patel, Rachel Wilcove, Esq. and Karen Schade, CEO

Pledge of Allegiance

Adjourn the Board Meeting of October 26, 2023

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 7-0

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 7-0

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:

Academic Report: School Lane Charter School's 2023 PVAAS Results

Mr Munizza began the report with an explanation of PVAAS which is the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. These scores provide analyses based on existing student assessment data and it measures student growth from one year to the next using Pennsylvania's state assessments and reports whether a group of students maintained, exceeded, or fell short of the growth standard based on their prior testing history. It is important to understand that achievement results (PSSA & Keystones) and growth results (PVAAS) must be used together to obtain a complete picture of student learning.

SLCS 2023 PVAAS Summary

Growth Color Indicators



Well Above

Significant evidence that the school exceeded the growth standard.



Above

Moderate evidence that the School exceeded the growth standard.



Meets

Evidence that the School met the growth standard.



Below

Moderate evidence that the School did not meet the growth standard.



Well Below

Significant evidence that the School did not meet the growth standard.

Much like the Achievement scores presented last month, PVAAS scores indicate mixed results that highlight our strengths in some areas and opportunities for growth in others.

Our students demonstrated meeting or exceeding the growth standard at:

- 3 of 5 levels in PSSA Math
- 3 of 5 levels in PSSA ELA
- 1 of 2 levels in PSSA Science
- 3 of 3 levels in Keystones

Furthermore, analysis of subgroup performance (Asian, Black, Economically Disadvantaged, English Language Learner, Hispanic, Lowest performing 33% of students, Students with IEPs, and White) show:

- All subgroups met or exceeded the growth standard for ELA except English Language Learners

- Just 3 of the 8 subgroups met or exceeded the growth standard for Math
- All subgroups met or exceeded the growth standard for Keystone Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.

SLCS 2023 PVAAS Scoring- Legend & Glossary

Growth Index: An indicator of the amount of evidence that the group of students met, exceeded, or fell short of the growth standard.

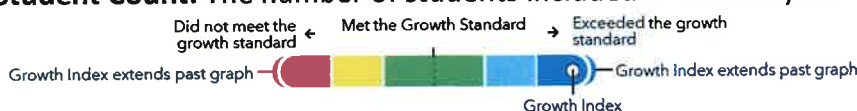
Effect Size: An indicator of magnitude and practical significance.

Growth Measure: A conservative estimate of growth that students made.

Standard Error: A measurement that establishes a level of certainty around the growth measure.

Achievement: The average of the students' Normal Curve Equivalent (NCEs)

Student Count: The number of students included in the analysis.



SLCS 2023 PVAAS Scoring- PSSA ELA

Grades 4 through 6 met or exceeded the growth standard in ELA last year. 7th and 8th Grades fell within the “Below” group for growth in ELA. For the all grades group, the entering NCE was 53.1 and that moved to a 52.7 as exit achievement which remains in the “Meets” group.

Subject	← Year	← Grade	Growth Color Indicator	Growth Index	Effect Size	Growth Measure	Standard Error	Achievement Enter → Exit	Student Count
PSSA English Language Arts - 4-8	2023	4	✓ Meets	0.36	0.03	0.4	1.1	50.7 → 51.1	120
		5	⬇ Below	1.20	0.10	1.3	1.0	50.1 → 51.3	124
		6	✓ Meets	-0.11	-0.01	-0.1	1.1	54.1 → 53.9	121
		7	⬇ Below	-1.69	-0.16	-2.0	1.2	53.2 → 51.2	103
		8	⬇ Below	-1.12	-0.13	-1.5	1.4	57.4 → 55.9	81
		Across Grades	✓ Meets	-0.76	-0.03	-0.4	0.5	53.1 → 52.7	549

SLCS 2023 PVAAS Scoring- PSSA Math

Grades 4, 6, and 7 met or exceeded the growth standard in Math last year while Grades 5 and 8 fell in the below and well below groups. For the all grades group, the entering NCE was 50.2 and that moved to a 49.1 which moved us just to the cut off between Below and Well Below. There was some conversation about the math at grades 7-8 and how covid impacted this group of students and some of the things we have put into place that will be discussed further at the end of the presentation.

Subject	← Year	← Grade	Growth Color Indicator	Growth Index	Effect Size	Growth Measure	Standard Error	Achievement Enter → Exit	Student Count
PSSA Math - 4-8	2023	4	✓ Meets	0.07	0.01	0.1	1.0	51.3 → 51.4	120
		5	⬇ Below	-1.79	-0.15	-1.8	1.0	50.6 → 48.8	124
		6	✓ Meets	-0.75	-0.06	-0.8	1.0	50.6 → 49.9	121
		7	✓ Meets	0.56	0.05	0.6	1.2	46.1 → 46.8	103
		8	⬇ Well Below	-2.37	-0.27	-3.4	1.4	52.2 → 48.9	80
		Across Grades	⬇ Well Below	-2.06	-0.08	-1.0	0.5	50.2 → 49.1	548

SLCS 2023 PVAAS Scoring- PSSA Science

8th Grade met the growth standard in Science last year, while 4th grade did not. The 4th Grade measure does seem to fluctuate as it is not an exact prediction for Science, instead it takes into consideration a student's performance on the 3rd Grade PSSA ELA & Math to make a prediction for Science.

Subject	← Year	← Grade	Growth Color Indicator	Growth Index	Effect Size	Growth Measure	Standard Error	Achievement Enter → Exit	Student Count
PSSA Science - 4,8	2023	4	⬇ Well Below	-4.13	-0.36	-38.0	9.2	1419.2 → 1378.4	114
		8	✓ Meets	-0.68	-0.07	-7.6	11.1	1343.7 → 1334.1	79

SLCS 2023 PVAAS Scoring- Keystones

Last year, we met the growth standard for Biology and far exceeded the growth standard for Algebra and Literature, nearly a repeat of the prior year's performance in these areas.

Subject	← Year	← Grade	Growth Color Indicator	Growth Index	Effect Size	Growth Measure	Standard Error	Achievement Enter → Exit	Student Count
Keystone Algebra I	2023	N/A	Above	1.58	0.17	5.0	3.1	1470.2 → 1475.4	70
Keystone Biology	2023	N/A	Meets	-0.17	-0.02	-0.5	3.1	1489.8 → 1489.1	75
Keystone Literature	2023	N/A	Well Above	2.43	0.29	9.4	3.9	1510.9 → 1521.6	54

Next Steps

- Utilizing Student Projection Reports
 - Helpful in identifying students who could benefit from enrichment or acceleration to ensure our high achieving students still gain at least a year's worth of learning.
 - Targeting students that are on the cusp of proficiency to ensure they have all the support they could need heading into state assessments.
 - Examples include learning labs and accelerated classes which should help all groups increase their growth. Which we are currently seeing which should help to close some of the achievement gaps.
- Professional Development
 - While the leadership team has looked at PVAAS data for a few years, teachers have not had as many opportunities to get into the system in the past. We started doing that this year. It is really helpful for the teachers to have information about the students they have in front of them rather than just continue at the pace they are used to moving. That is an area we look to grow this year as we share some teacher-specific reporting with our teachers.
 - The PVAAS team offers webinars, training, and resources throughout the year to ensure looking at PVAAS data does not become just a one-a-year process

Act 13 Building Level Scores

PDE publishes a Building Level Score for each school across the Commonwealth annually. The Building Level Score provides a quantitative academic score based upon a 100-point scale to represent the overall academic performance of each school. The calculation is as follows:

Academic Achievement	Academic Growth	Other Academic Indicators
ELA 15 points Math 15 points Science 10 points	ELA 15 pts Math 15 pts Science 10 pts	Attendance Rate 10 pts Graduation Rate 10 pts *Absent a Graduation Rate, Attendance Rate is 20 Points.

Our BLS is reported as a combination of the Elementary and IB Campuses since we are technically one school. Public Schools have specific scores for each building. For comparison purposes, building scores were averaged to create a district score. When comparing our Building Level Score, we rank 5th out of the 10 districts we pull students from. Included in parenthesis next to the name of each district is the number of students we draw from that district. For 97.8% of our population, School Lane's building level score is higher than their district

of residence. This means they have a higher score by being at School Lane than by being in their district. We also included our building level score compared to other comparable charter schools in Philadelphia where we are right in the middle of the pack as well.

Local Districts	
School (# of Students @ SLCS)	Score
Council Rock SD (2)	79.7
Pennsbury SD (4)	78.0
Centennial SD (3)	74.1
Neshaminy SD (20)	69.9
School Lane CS	69.2
Bensalem Township SD (965)	68.6
Bristol Borough SD (14)	65.1
Philadelphia City SD (197)	64.0
Bristol Township SD (136)	63.3
Morrisville Borough SD (3)	58.8

Local Charters	
School	Score
Philadelphia Academy CS	79.9
New Foundations CS	78.2
Franklin Towne CS	75.3
MAST Community CS	73.7
School Lane CS	69.2
Tacony Academy CS	67.8
Mastery Charter Schools Philadelphia	66.3
Community Academy of Philadelphia CS	65.2
First Philadelphia Preparatory CS	64.5
Mariana Bracetti Academy CS	64.0

Mrs Schade shared some of the other takeaways. One was that our achievement is higher than Bensalem but their growth is higher so our focus on Rigor and helping students to grapple with information is going to really help push students and get us back into that space of continued growth. One of the the things we built into our comprehensive plan is getting kids to set goals for themselves based on their work and how they can use these goals for growth.

Financial: Nothing to add and no questions

Personnel Report:

- New hires: 3
- Resignation: 1
- Change in pay rate: 0
- Other: 2 return from FMLA

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

MOTION ITEMS

1. Accept Board Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2023

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 5-0-2

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

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 7-0

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 7-0

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 7-0

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. Approve the Mathematics Curriculum K-6th Grade

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 7-0

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

8. Energy rate cost agreement for electric & gas

Discussion Current contract Hudson and Constellation is up as of 2025. The best bids were with Constellation and Freepoint. Constellation had the best price with 48 month contract. Freepoint offered only 36 month. The idea is to lock in the rate now for contract starting in 2025 our broker has advised us to lock in when the rates are lower and can save us money in the long run. The concern is any time you lock yourself into the contract now is it is a roll of the dice. What the board needs to decide is if we want to lock in now as well as who we're choosing. Kelly Magee asked if we are happy with the service which we have been. Ed Guster pointed out that rates are most likely going up. The big question is whether they are likely to go down. Bharvin asked if we could consider solar which is currently available for non-profit. Mrs Schade countered that we can't put panels on our roof based on our HVAC so the concern is where to put them. She doesn't want us not to investigate but the we need to keep in mind that where we put them will be an issue. Ed Guster said he'd be more inclined to lock in now and spend the time in the interim investigating keeping in mind that new technology will be evolving over the next few years that we may need to take advantage of. Bharvin also asked if there would be a penalty or a minimum kwh that we need to use. Joe shared a scenario of how it wouldn't prevent us from going solar, but locking in tonight is just locking us in the rate if we need to use it which until we went solar we will. Mrs Schade said we would be sure to check the contract to make sure there would be no penalty or minimum. If we wait another 4 weeks the rates will change. Our approval would be based on no penalty

MOTION

Approve the Energy rate electric Cost agreement with Constellation for 48 months

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 7-0

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

Gas we currently don't have any contract so that would go into place in 2025. 36 month is at a lower rate than 48 months

Approve the Gas rate cost agreement with UGI for 48 months

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 7-0

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 None

Recess Meeting of November 17, 2023

MM: Joe Cummons

SM: Kelly Magee

Action: Approved 7-0

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, December 14 , 2023, at 7:00pm.

Minutes recorded by:

Kristin Hokanson

Attested by

Kelly Magee

Date: _____