

Welcome to the Latest Edition (🙌) of Public School Ventures' School Bulletin!

In this month's 'Bulletin' you will find:

1. A '[Principal's Address](#)' on an exciting new initiative
2. '[Homeroom Highlights](#)' featuring news and accomplishments from my portfolio
3. Thought leadership highlights in '[Teacher's Lounge Talks](#)'
4. Some amazing '[Required Reading](#)' on navigating the future of VC and AI
5. A few community asks in the '[Extra-Credit & Extracurriculars](#)' section
6. A little Thanksgiving in '[Closing Bell](#)'

1. Principal's Address: Updates from [Earnest Sweat](#)

Greetings to all our investors, and supporters of the Public School Ventures community! This month, we're back with more updates, insights, and opportunities. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of venture capital, our commitment to sharing knowledge and fostering connections remains steadfast.

This week marks the launch of one of our most pivotal initiatives towards achieving this mission: **the debut of our brand-new podcast, "[Swimming with Allocators](#)," which premieres tomorrow, November 15th.**



Check out the trailer [here](#) 🖱️

Co-hosted by myself and [Alexa Binns](#), each episode will feature insightful conversations with seasoned Limited Partners (LPs). Our inaugural episode welcomes [Alifia Doriwala](#), CIO and MD at RockCreek. Alifia brings a crucial perspective to the table, offering a discourse that is an essential listen for any venture capitalist or allocator striving for excellence.

Revisiting this conversation last week, I was struck by how closely it mirrored the wealth of knowledge I've accumulated over my 8+ years in venture capital. It also resonated with my educational experiences, highlighting the power of mastering fundamentals that others often overlook. In academia, nailing these basics might be the subtle difference between an A- and an A+. In the venture ecosystem, however, such advantages could mean the disparity between raising \$1M or securing hundreds of millions for your fund.

Alifia shed light on several common pitfalls she observes both emerging and established VCs making as they build relationships with LPs. These include approaching LPs prematurely or failing to grasp an LP's investment thesis – mistakes that are surprisingly avoidable. The key to standing out? Do your homework.

As this is a school-themed newsletter (which you've likely noticed by now 😊), the advice couldn't be more fitting. **So, make sure to do your 'homework' and tune in to hear Alifia discuss other mistakes she sees VCs (and allocators) making during the fundraising process.**

Be sure to tune in tomorrow and subscribe to 'Swimming with Allocators' to glean insights from top LPs every Wednesday on [Apple](#), [Spotify](#), or [Youtube](#).

2. 'Homeroom Highlights': Current/Past/Anti Port-Co Updates

Since I started my venture capital career in 2016, I've made over 20 early-stage investments for corporate VC, institutional VC, and pledge/angel syndicate funds. Below are a few updates from my portfolio:

- **Lula's Leap Forward:** We're overjoyed to report that Lula has excelled in their recent endeavors, showcasing their innovation and hard work. Their recent achievement, as chronicled in [this blog post](#), is a vivid illustration of how our investments are generating tangible impacts in the real world.
- **Flexport's Strategic Acquisition:** In a significant move, Flexport has recently acquired the tech of the once-celebrated digital freight unicorn, Convoy. This acquisition is a game-changer in the logistics tech space. You can read more about this development in [TechCrunch's article](#) and my commentary on the implications [here on LinkedIn](#).
- **Other Class Acts:** The roster of our portfolio (and anti-portfolio) companies continues to impress and innovate in their fields. For instance, [Enable](#) is revolutionizing the way businesses handle complex rebate management processes, while [Turing](#) leverages AI to tap into unexplored human potential. These 'graduates' are not merely passing the test; they're redefining success and setting new industry standards.

3. 'Teacher's Lounge Talks': Thought Leadership & New Initiatives

- **Panel Ponderings at the Alloy Summit:** Last month, I had the incredible opportunity to moderate a panel at High Alpha Innovation's annual [Alloy Summit](#). This conference was a convergence of ideas and experiences, bringing together a diverse group of founders, corporate innovators, venture capitalists, and university leaders. Our panel dove into the current state of the venture landscape, unpacking trends and challenges with fervor. For a snapshot of the spirited discussions and key takeaways, check out [this LinkedIn post](#).
- **Podcast Premiere - 'Swimming with Allocators':** As previously mentioned, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our new podcast, 'Swimming with Allocators.' This series is dedicated to exploring the dynamic between General Partners (GPs) and Limited Partners (LPs) - a critical aspect of the venture ecosystem. The inaugural episode features a deep dive into these relationships and offers indispensable insights for allocators and investors alike. Be sure to catch the first episode and subscribe for more [here](#). This is a must-listen for anyone looking to gain a deeper understanding of the nuances in GP-LP interactions.

4. 'Required Reading': Industry Insights

- **Mastering VC Branding:** The art of branding and positioning in the venture capital world is not just important; it's a nuanced art form. To help demystify this critical aspect, Signature Block has put together an enlightening article that acts as a comprehensive guide on the subject. For anyone involved in VC, this piece is an invaluable resource. Delve into the masterclass on VC branding [here](#).
- **VC Strategy Unveiled:** In these tumultuous times, understanding the currents of the venture capital industry is more crucial than ever. [Sam Lessin of Slow Ventures](#) has penned an insightful and comprehensive strategy guide that lays bare the realities of today's VC landscape. This is a crucial read for those seeking clarity amidst the chaos of the current market. Explore the in-depth strategy guide [here](#).
- **Weekend at GenAI's:** For a glimpse into the future of technology, don't miss this fascinating article on GenAI and its potential implications. As we stand on the brink of a new era in tech innovation, understanding the developments in AI and how they intersect with our daily lives and business practices is key. This piece offers a thought-provoking look at the future shaped by GenAI. Read the full article [here](#).

5. 'Extra-Credit & Extracurriculars': Opportunities and Requests

In the spirit of collaboration and growth, we invite you to participate in our journey:

- **Seeking Podcast Guests:** Are you connected with Limited Partner (LP) investors who would add value to our podcast, 'Swimming with Allocators'? We're always on the lookout for insightful guests who can share their experiences and perspectives. If you know someone who would be a perfect fit, please introduce me or tag them in our posts on [X](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

- **Subscribe and Follow 'Swimming with Allocators':** Our podcast is not just a series of conversations; it's a platform for learning and growth for LPs, angels, and both new and established fund managers. Help us reach a wider audience by subscribing to the podcast on your favorite [platform](#). Also, follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) for regular updates and insights
- **Senior Enterprise VC roles:** Our community is a rich tapestry of talent and opportunity. If you come across any leads or openings for Senior Enterprise VC roles, please let us know. Your insights and connections are invaluable in helping our community members find fulfilling and impactful opportunities.

6. Closing Bell: Final Thoughts from Earnest Sweat

As we wrap up this edition, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued engagement and support. The world of venture capital is more than just transactions; it's about building a community of innovation and growth. Let's keep the conversation going – I'm always here for discussions, feedback, or just a friendly chat about the market.

Warm regards,

Earnest Sweat
Public School Ventures