

Mallard Creek and Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 20 8:00 am
At ZOOM due to COVID-19

Present: Jose Garcia, Christy Condon, Tyrone Harmon, Shelly Domenech, Kellen Nixon, Vishu Cook

Missing: All present

Other: Jennifer Lucas (Managing Director), Deanna Smith (MCSA principal), MCSA community members, Shekeria Barnes (SCSA principal), several MCSA community members via Zoom

8:10 Call to Order

Mr.Garcia called the meeting to order. Welcomes the group to the meeting.

8:11 Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Mr. Garcia opened up discussion about March's minutes. No additions or deletions were suggested to be made to the April 2020 minutes. Ms. Domenech made a motion to approve the April minutes. April seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Board tally: 5/5

8:15 Principal Reports: Ms. Deanna Smith, MCSA

Enrollments: We have not had any changes with enrollments. Several families have moved; however, they are still participating in online learning. At this time our current enrollment is 897 and the 2020-2021 anticipated enrollment is 945. Staff is looking at creating virtual opportunities to interact with rising Kindergarten. Effort is being placed on keeping strong connections with the MCSA community even when not on campus.

Distance Learning: Working on updating our distance learning plan. It was a broad plan with expectations on how MCSA would communicate with families and what general expectations for time students should need to be working. After experiences, etc. MCSA has worked hard to update the plan. Google Classroom will use K-8 for consistency. The leadership teams are working with the parent and teacher surveys to update the support and program. The state is requiring MCSA to submit this plan. The current plan is acceptable; however, the newer plan will reflect lessons learned, platform, and programming. The state is requiring embed 5 distance learning plans into the calendar. Schools are intending to begin on August 17th. An A Day/ B

Day calendar. Full day schedule on A Day and B Day is distance learning. Teachers would work their normal days of the week. Working with the procurement director to acquire necessary safety equipment. The work that Ms. Smith's team is looking into gaps and necessities for the first 10 weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Lucas added that there will be extensive Google Classroom and distance learning professional development. Looking ahead, she will be offering training to parents and students on these resources as well. Ms. Cook has asked about metrics with regard to students participating. There are a handful of students who have not participated at all. The teachers are submitting information about their students participating, etc. These students may have gaps that teachers need to target. Ms. Cook would like to be sure that MCSA is monitoring these students for successful reentry. Mr. Harmon asked about how distance learning platforms might work for younger students. Ms. Lucas and Ms. Smith explained that they have recognized that this is an area of concern and are working hard to create a plan that will be best for kids.

Staffing: Two first grade teachers are relocating. Interviewing is ongoing.

EC: Staff is offering whatever services that they can possibly offer to meet compliance. Families who are not taking advantage the staff is locating

Athletics: Currently awaiting guidance from the state. There will be a phase-in of sports next year beginning with lowest contact sports. There will be very specific guidelines given to school as the time draws closer.

Charter Renewal: There are no new updates to report.

Budget: Presented by Ms. Lucas. Both schools are both in good net financial positions. Because of COVID some of the allotments of the state were reallocated. Additional funds are available for at-risk students. Both schools are owed local funding at this time. CARES ACT tax relief is being utilized. Not using our custodial contracts. Curious to see the vendor pricing for these services next year. Looking at some form of agreement with our bus company. Ms. Lucas stated that there needs to be a review of food service-related items to maximize efficiency in cost and service.

8:52 Principal Reports:

Ms. Barnes would like to acknowledge our teacher of year. She has done a remarkable job this year. SCSA celebrated the teachers last week.

Academics: Ms. Barnes drafted a survey to send to parents to gauge how the remote learning is going in order to capture the needs to best meet the families' needs. Google Classroom is being

used and within it the teachers can embed Freckle or other platforms/ programs. There is a general consensus that teachers and children are looking for more interaction to connect them to their teachers and peers. Ms. Barnes has created a task force to help address learning needs for remote learning.

Staffing: SCSA has been in discussions with internal movement and then by June 5th there will be an announcement about new teams.

Enrollment: No students changes are noted at this time. The current enrollment is 605, an increase of about 30 students since the last board meeting.

EC: The team has done an incredible job with their work and responsibilities with students and families. They've worked hard to focus on compliance.

Building: Plumbers are in the building addressing the issues presented in a prior board meeting.

Celebration: A June 5th drive-by parade is being planned to close out the year for families.

Other: June 1st-5th Teachers will be working to connect with parents about the school year progress.

9:02 Public Comment

A parent asked a question with regard to using a program to better track the participation of the students during remote learning. Ms. Lucas stated that Google platform does allow for tracking. This will be a priority moving forward for attendance, grading, etc. A first grade parent voiced concern about support for parents who might not have the background in education to assist effectively in remote learning. Ms. Lucas explained that this is going to be a focus of the task force and the schools are working hard to support both families and students in current and future remote learning. An MCSA parent thanked the board, faculty, and staff for the positive and smooth transition home for students. A first grade parent stated that she has been very impressed with the remote learning and thanked all involved for their efforts.

9:08 Updated Enrollment and Construction Report: Both of these agenda items were discussed in the principals' reports. Ms. Lucas stated that items that were not yet addressed included: MCSA will be adding outside items such as picnic tables and SCSA will be focusing on fields and outside spaces. There will be virtual tours and interactions with teachers/ staff to encourage additional enrollment at SCSA and MCSA.

9:11 Adjourn

Ms. Condon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Domenech seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned. Vote tally: 6/6. The meeting is adjourned.