

Mallard Creek STEM Academy/Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
January 15, 2020 at 7 pm

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

Missing: Vishu Cook

Other: Jennifer Lucas (Managing Director), Deanna Smith (MCSA principal), MCSA community members, Shekeria Barnes (SCSA principal), Anntoinette Duncan (SCSA AP) (Mallard Creek Parents: Michael Pierce, Ms. Khourasmy, SCSA Parent: Liz Sturgill

7:00 Call to Order

Mr.Garcia called the meeting to order.

7:05 Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Mr. Garcia opened up discussion about last month's minutes. No additions or deletions were suggested to be made to the December minutes. Ms. Condon made a motion to approve the December minutes. Mr. Harmon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Board tally: 5/5

1:43 Principal's Report

Ms. Deanna Smith, MCSA

Enrollment: There has been some fluctuations due to moving at MCSA. 41 students have moved and comprise less than 4% . 75% of students moved out of state and the rest of the movement is attributed to homeschool, return to district schools, etc. As of today there are over 500 open applications for next year. The largest opportunity for growth will be in Kindergarten. There will be less movement in the rest of the grades. MCSA no longer needs to fill 150 or more seats and very excited about that. At this time there are 4 homeroom sections for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Lottery closes on January, 31st and the lottery will be held on February 20th. .

Academics: MCSA students are due to complete the *NC Check Ins* in later January and Ms. Smith will report when she has those results. MCSA is offering two book studies to teachers: *Disciplining with Dignity* and *Visible Learning in Mathematics*. At this point, Ms. Smith is in the middle of the mid-year teacher observation cycle and

notes school culture growth in the faculty and staff. The administration observes teachers to be very positive and supportive of each other.

Staffing: Improving the teacher community was one of the school's goals this year. The administration is deliberately planning activities to support teacher interactions and this seems to be successful. More work can always be done; however, progress is being made.

Facility: The MCSA facility is 100% finished, fixed, etc. MCSA administration is looking forward without facility development or expansion.

Compliance: At this time, MCSA is in compliance with our EC policies. Staff continues to monitor.

Clubs: Clubs are meeting regularly. MCSA basketball teams are amazing. Feedback from parents about clubs and sports is positive. MCSA's Lego Robotics club participated in its first competition. They are continuing to meet as a team.

Activities: MCSA's Science Olympiad group finished fifth and continues to grow. A parent-partnership group is working on Father-Daughter dance arrangements.

Charter Renewal: Chanda Miller and several MCSA staff were on the phone going through its self-study document. It was approved and the school is moving forward in the process. March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. is when the board must be there for interviews. Leadership will be at the end and an agenda will be provided to the board. The administration is planning student-led tours that day for the guests.

Celebrations:

7:29 Jennifer Lucas reports for SCSA and MCSA financials. The state does not have an education budget and we operate on a worst case scenario and that the budgets will remain flat. The school is up to date with district reimbursement. Hitting next year's enrollment targets allow us to retire some debt. SCSA bonds will allow the school will have money left over to allocate toward fields, lights, and other projects.

7:36 Principal's Report

Ms. Shekeira Barnes, SCSA

Enrollment: Ms. Barnes reported that SCSA applications are higher than 227 at this point. The school is Intentionally tracking absences and tardies to make sure they get

students the help they need. SCSA's main competition during lottery season is a CMS magnet school, another school just down the road. The administration and staff are focused on growing the SCSA student numbers.

As it stands today, there 393 new applicants in waiting. Ms. Barnes explained that to generate more interest in the school, they are hosting meetings for parents to come visit the school. Ms. Barnes explained that SCSA staff is working on re-enrollment and lottery applications with American Enrollment Specialists, Inc.

Academic Performance: I-Station data was presented by Ms. Barnes. This year SCSA is using *NC Check-Ins*. There are Check-Ins in grades 3-6 in Reading and Math. Ms. Barnes held a meeting and had a "State of the School Address". She explained how SCSA was doing in terms of goals met already and goals that they are setting moving forward. Ms. Barnes used solid data points to share.

Community: ParentSquare is 100% updated. Weekly messages go out Parent communication is done two times a week—generally Wednesday and Friday. These things are also transitioned to Facebook and website. Cafeteria—less than 23 student applications for free and reduced lunches. The afterschool program has been uneventful and running well. Email sent to Olympic Transportation to thank them for the bus service.

Professional Development: Ms. Barnes explained that there is focus on professional development around Teachers College of Columbia curriculum. SCSA is also doing a book study, *Discipline with Dignity*, which follows with PBIS model.

Staffing: There have been no changes in staffing at this point. SCSA will be adding an additional teacher in the next few days to better meet the needs of student, Ms. Jones. Ms. Jones is a Kindergarten teacher.

Facility/ Operations: Ms. Barnes reported that SCSA is looking for cameras for the middle school and outside of the building. SCSA's building had three leaks after Christmas break. There were some holes after welding during the building process that caused this. At this time, there is a partial tree plan. One other thing that SCSA is focused on is the median; there are already holes for the next phase of tree planting. There was discussion about the need for better lighting on the school campus. Duke lighting is \$500-\$600 for safety. Waiting on a quote to proceed.

Compliance: At this time, SCSA is in compliance with EC policies. Ms. Barnes explained that they had a great visit from the state and positive comments about

SCSA's processes the programs. No changes in ESL or EC programs were made. There are 28 ESL students and 21 EC students .

Character Education: Ms. Barnes explains that the school is focusing on a growth mindset this month. This focus is interdisciplinary; one example is that ELA classes were focusing on their growth mindset goals.

Budget: Ms. Lucas gave a budget update earlier with MCSA and SCSA's financial report.

Sports: SCSA will partner with i9 Sports to provide athletic opportunities for students. The I9 programming started last Saturday; a fee is charged for the space the program uses. As soon as field facilities are available i9 would like to rent as soon as it is possible. The school is working to start up organized sports teams for next year. Some of the clubs being offered at this time include: Legos, piano, dance, chess, Girls on the Run, and Foreign Language League.

Cafeteria: Cafeteria had a small issue with an outlet and it was fixed quickly. Ms. Lucas added that there will be a full audit taking place at SCSA to be sure that the school is not losing money. It looks like there may be a deficit that the school doesn't need to have.

Care Program: The average number of students in the care program is 80-100 students daily. It fluctuates. The program seems to be running well at this time.

Bus: SCSA now has a third bus, and the buses are running very smoothly. There is a person tracking bus issues and handling by day's end. The carpool line is fantastic.

Technology: No updates at this time.

Safety: Awarded \$35,000 that will go toward cameras, school safety officer.

Celebrations: Over 80% of students were on honor roll; National Junior Honor Society at the 6th grade level.

Public Comment: There were no public comments at this time.

New Business: March 3rd is mandatory for board members. Spirit Rocks are being added at SCSA.

Meeting Adjourned: Ms. Condon makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harmon seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned. Vote tally: 5/5. The meeting is adjourned.