

Mallard Creek STEM Academy/ Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
Meeting via ZOOM

Board Members Present: Christy Condon, Shelly Domenech, Tyrone Harmon, Kellen Nixon

Missing: Jose Garcia

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

6:34 Call to Order

Ms. Condon called the meeting to order. She extended a welcome to the board and on Zoom.

6:35 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Condon called for any additions or edits to the minutes from the last board meeting. No additions or deletions were suggested. Mr. Harmon made a motion to approve the April minutes. Mr. Kellen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Board tally: 4/4

6:40 Principals' Reports

SCSA Principal, Ms. Shekeria Barnes
Student Enrollment and Projections

Nothing much has changed in enrollment from the last meeting. This is being updated carefully.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

EOG testing is currently underway. You can look forward to updates on the scores at the June 2021 BOD meeting. Summer Camp, 80 students have enrolled in the summer program. Ms. Lucas asked about staffing of the program. Ms. Barnes said that she will be finishing next week. Mr. Nixon asked a question about priority students and whether there is a maximum capacity; is there enough support for this. There is a concern that some teachers may be needing a physical and emotional break.

Summer Goals:

In June and July, SCSA has set goals as a school. July 23rd is the deadline for hiring. PD will focus on immediate needs for students. Emphasis will be placed on enrichment for third graders. There will be data diving into the EOG numbers.

Staffing

- K-4 teachers
- 1-4 teachers
- 2-4 teachers
- 3-3 teachers
- 4-2 teachers
- 5-4 teachers
- 6-4 teachers
- 7-4 teachers
- 2 EC Teachers (A K-4 teacher was recently hired to replace the resignation we had in late Feb.)

Support Staff

- Counselor
- 1 ELL teacher
- 1 part time EC compliance facilitator (shared with MCSA and Ridgeview)
- 1 part time Math facilitator (shared with MCSA)
- 1 secretary/registrar
- 1 K support person to help with more students transitioning to campus.
- 1 4th grade support person to help with the sole face to face 4th grade class.

Specials

- 2 teachers that work in multiple roles due to a change in plans after COVID. The other two went back into content roles (1st grade and 5th grade Math)

Administration

- Principal
- AP
- Dean

Compliance: No compliance issues to report at this time.

Celebrations/ Other:

- There is an epic end of year outdoor event scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd on

SCSA's campus!

- Teachers had a grand-scale week of Teacher Appreciation Week activities!. SCS parents did an impeccable job hosting activities.
- Our Orbit Around the Sun Enrichment camp has been planned, communicated and now we are ready to begin on Monday, June 14th at 8:30 am. This camp will run for 6 weeks for students in grades K-8.
- We partnered with Atrium to offer 15 students in grades 3-5 a FREE week of camp for the Kid Doc program. This will happen the week of June 14th as well on our campus. This will provide opportunities for students to explore becoming a doctor.
- Principal Barnes has been accepted into the inaugural NC Practitioners' Network (PN) through the NC Principals and Assistant Principals Association. The Practitioners' Network is fully funded through a partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction, the NC State Employees Credit Union Foundation and the NC Alliance for School Leadership Development. the program focuses on the below goals:

- 1. Leadership for instructional success focused on raising achievement in the areas of reading and math literacy.*
- 2. Leadership for equity focused on equitable instructional access and high expectations for every student while reducing and eliminating disparities in outcomes of student success.*
- 3. Leadership for social and emotional well-being focused on creating an educational environment in which all students, their family members, and school staff can thrive.*

MCSA, Principal, Ms. Deanna Smith

Student Enrollment and Projections: Enrollment has increased from 130 new families to 210 new families since last month.. We continue to receive paperwork from families as well as new applicants. MCSA is working with new families to be sure all application packets are in. Tours are at capacity weekly. These have been very positive and productive.

Target ADM: 950

802 returning students + 210 New = 1,012 total

Target=960

Academics

This week we will complete all regular EOG assessments. 65% of students are still virtual so testing has needed to be all month long for logistics reasons. Make-ups and Read to Achieve are scheduled for next week. Despite the high number of virtual learners participation has been good. 95% of students, at this time, are scheduled to complete all of their EOG assessments. Preliminary results show a dip in proficiency levels which we fully anticipated.

Reading results for grades 4-8 will not be back until the fall. We will address how the new test format affected our results and how to prepare students in the coming school year.

Staffing: We are adding several intervention positions to help support teachers and students. The summer school program is going to be fully staffed.

Summer Learning Program: 250 students are enrolled for summer school. We are almost fully staffed and teachers will meet to discuss data and instructional plans on June 1st.

Compliance: MCSA is currently in full compliance.

Technology: 130 of our first year computers will be phased out of circulation. We will look at our tech needs to determine what, if any, additional machines we will need. 40 computers are still outstanding which is not a lot based on the 250 computers given out. Ms. Smith stated that they have done a great job at purchasing this year.

Student from the 8th grade, Dr. Bloodworth's son, Code Green program was created to teach running a business and will be speaking at the NC Charter School breakout session. They will talk about how the curriculum and business academy will be rolled out. They will be the first school in North Carolina using the Empowered program.

COVID-19 Update: Students are no longer required to wear masks on the playground. Families have the choice to instruct their children to keep their masks on. Mask wearing continues in the building.

7:30 Budget Updates

Ms. Lucas presented to the board. The local districts are behind in their payments. Excellent news to report MCSA and SCSA had approval for full amounts for summer school programs. Any money left over can roll over to the next year for tutoring or other support programs. Between last and this school year, there may be multi-year catch up and need to be realistic about what might need to be done to support students and families. Ms. Lucas in the middle of putting together a regional support team and leadership growth cohort. EC director would work with both schools. The Math coach may push into the classroom for side-by-side lessons. There will be an additional counselor for social and emotional health, etc. The regional level position can support the principals and the teachers. They will be able to work directly with students. Serving the students is imperative.

Southwest was awarded to the NC Access Grant. Worth \$500,000 and can be used over three years. MCSA will become eligible for Ms. Lucas applies for this grant when they fall into the categories. The schools will be able to share resources.

There is an emphasis on bringing in strong professional development for teachers for diversity and equity. Both schools will be looking for marquis for outside the schools.

Both schools will retire some debt. MCSA will retire one of the initial debt services.

Facility/ Field SCSA

Mr. Harmon to share information about finishing turf fields at the SCSA campus. The work is only about 2 days away from completion. Nets, etc. will be put up next year. Duke is a little behind in getting their work done. Work is done just in time for Field Day.

At MCSA, kick off repairs to classroom esthetic repairs beginning on June 1st. The legs of the stairs will be relocated to help the front lounge area flow better.

7:12 New Business

Ms. Lucas shared that the food services groups earned about \$20,000 in grants for food service equipment. Next year there should be a full service kitchen.

7:15 Public Comment

Ms. Lucas asked those on the Zoom call who would like to make a public comment to reach out in the chat box or use the raise hand feature. A community member wanted to know if there will be gluten free and allergies food options. The answer was that there would be. Ms. Lucas has asked the parent to reach out to her so that she can connect her directly with their food service coordinator. Question about laptop collection. Will the

students be required to complete work on Zoom, etc.? Ms. Smith stated that the teacher will be reaching out to parents directly.

7:25 Adjourn

Mr. Harmon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Domenech seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, Board Tally: 4/4 Ms. Condon thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.