



**Mallard Creek STEM Academy/Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
December 11 at 1:30 pm**

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

Missing:

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

1:42 Call to Order

1:42 Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Mr. Harmon asked that the October minutes be amended to reflect that he was a call-in presence last month; the current minutes. Ms. Condon made a motion to approve the October minutes. Ms. Domenech seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Board tally: 6/6

1:43 Principal's Report

Ms. Shekeria Barnes, SCSA

Enrollment: 427. Currently enrolling students as students move.

Academics: SCSA students completed the NC Checkins. Ms. Barnes reports that she was pleased with the first set of data.

Jennifer Lucas reports seeing the same data trends at other charter schools in the area. The schools will be able to partner with other high achieving charter schools.

Next steps for SCSA will be data analysis with the teachers and admin team.

Staffing: 26 classroom teachers. Kindergarten teacher left to start a family business. A new teacher has been hired to start after winter break. 11 teachers are in the 1st -3rd year Beginning Teacher category; 15 teachers obtain a NC teacher license.

Facility: The facility is 100% finished, fixed, etc. We are still awaiting the turf fields and some trees. The gym floor has . Looking into adding additional lighting

Compliance:

Student Support: SCSA has an EC and ESL Coordinator to reflect the growth in students: 28 with IEPs and 21 ESL. The school counselor goes into classrooms present social skill and character development classes. She also does a monthly recognition

program with parent volunteer, Tanisha Harmon. Students get recognized for their outstanding character traits. This month she is working with students and focusing on Anti-Bullying and the Kindness Project.

Up to date in EpiCenter. Budget Report sent to board

General Operations: 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.

McKinney Vento - Parents needs to self report

Professional Development: Partnering with MCSA for Lucy Calkins.

Athletics: Saturdays are open gym for basketball with Coach Bethel. Working on fundamentals with the games.

Clubs: Clubs are meeting regularly

Activities: All students and staff chromebooks are up and running. Awaiting the filters to be added to them for additional safety. The Book Fair is in full swing. Book Drive going on until November 16th. Just drop off new and gently used books. Unity Day wear orange to raise awareness of bullying. They are also having Pink Out day to donate to local cancer center. Kids are decorating pumpkins.

Celebrations: Junior Honor Society Grades 3- 6 had surprise STEM 4 teachers accepted into NCCAT program. Mr. Nixon inquired about the Professional Development that the teachers would be

For a brand new school, sounds like everything is going very well.

2:03 Jennifer Lucas reports Ms. Smith is actively engaged with a monitoring visit and will join the meeting momentarily. Meanwhile, she has a few updates. She has been reaching out to other schools with similar backgrounds and finding out that charters are willing to partner and share information.

Operations - Still waiting on final approval from the state for SCSA Free Lunch program. The school is providing lunch to students while waiting. McKinney Vento update; the state has been proactive in identifying who the families are. Families are encouraged to self-report their status.

SCSA recently found out it qualifies for funds that can be used for interventions and tutoring. Readers coming from economically disadvantaged homes can take advantage of these opportunities.

Budget- Schools have not received their local dollars as of yet. The local agency will kick back the invoices if there are any errors while reporting. If schools have needed any money, Alliance has provided a cash advance and then the school reimburses. The state is still operating without an operating budget so cannot

predict what the end of the year will look like. Schools are looking to be okay. MCSA has continued to increase the overall net value. The initial long term debt will be bought out and we will continue to show overall net value.

Climate - Both schools actively working on teacher of the year. They will recognize top performers. In February or March we will put out a climate survey. xThey will report on their experience with leadership teams, how families feel when they walk in the building, support, professional development, etc.

Spring Board Retreat - strategic plan for the board to meet in the Spring. The board can use the data from the surveys when they meet in the Spring. Ms. Domench wonder if there was a time frame for the retreat. The board can put together a google poll to determine a good time to meet. Ms. Lucas asked Mr. Nixon if he could help put together spring retreat.

Both schools are openly advertising for the lottery for next year. A google form was sent out to current families. Students with siblings will get preference. MCSA has commitment from other schools that will accept the 8th graders from MCSA Mountain Island Charter, Bradford Prep will offer preference from students coming from another charter. Ms. Smith is meeting with 8th graders and parents and how they can transition into high school.

Our #1 goal is to provide something to the 8th graders who are graduating. Ms. Condon thanked Ms. Lucas for the support in finding high school homes for the 8th graders at MCSA.

Ms. Domenech feels that putting a high school together is something that we shouldn't rush into. If we're going to offer a high school it should be something that is really well thought out.

Ms. Lucas said yes that's more of a 5 year strategic plan, but our focus should be preparing the students during their K-8 students then.

2:28 Principal Report: Ms. Deanna Smith MCSA

Enrollment: Steady at 908 students; 920 students was our goal. Some kids have moved out of state, but have filled spots with students on and normal attrition. We are completely full in all grades but 1st, 2nd, and 8th grade. We added many seats in 1st and 2nd grade.

Academic Performance:

Istation data presented. NC Check-Ins are being used this year. Grades 4-8 in reading Grades 3-8 in Math. Math scores are low and that's because teachers were using a different pacing guide.

Professional Development:

Writing professional development from the Teachers College of Columbia. Book Study, Discipline with Dignity follows with PBIS model.

Staffing:

Fully staffed and currently advertising for substitutes. Many staff members have been out with Flu/Pneumonia.

Facility:

Looking for cameras for the middle school and outside of the building.

Ms. Domench asked about needing cameras for the hallway and offered ceiling mounted cameras that could be activated. Exterior: Michael Olkes asked if they would want a playground that is being removed from another site. Ms. Smith said they would need to provide mulch for the playground.

Compliance:

Looking for additional ESOL support. Ms. Vaughan has been conducting the ESOL assessments. There is a significant increase in EC students.

Today, MCSA had a monitoring visit. The team came to tour MCSA and they will provide feedback within the next 30 days.

Safety:

Active shooter training 10/16/19. There will be a focus on “Say Something” which is a crisis hotline for students to report anything dangerous that they see in school. This is a program that all schools will be participating. Teachers will see the rollout in November and the presentation to Middle School students in December.

Budget: Ms. Lucas gave a budget update.

Operations: Various fundraising efforts are being made to raise money for tech and playground. Met with parent partnership committee to discuss whether or not to reinstate PTO.

Enrollment: Lottery: 393 new applicants. Holding meetings for parents to come visit the school. Working on re-enrollment and lottery applications with American Enrollment Specialists, Inc.

Athletics and Clubs:

Basketball teams are amazing. Feedback from parents is positive. Lego Robotics club participated in first competition. They are continuing to meet as a team.

Technology: 47 new Dell Chromebooks arrived. They will be used for the iStation testing.

Charter Renewal: Site visit on March 3rd at 9:30 am.

2:51 Michael Pierce stated that it might be a great idea to restart a new PTO. Feels it will be more beneficial than it was in the past.

2:53 Meeting Adjourned:

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