



**Mallard Creek STEM Academy/Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 29th at 7:00 pm
MCSA Middle School STEM room**

Present: Jose Garcia, Christy Condon, Tyrone Harmon, Shelly Domenech, Vishu Cook, Kellen Nixon (call-in)

Missing:

Other: Jennifer Lucas (Managing Director) and Deanna Smith (MCSA principal), Anntoinette Duncan, MCSA community members, 6 amazing students, and Ms. Shekeira Barnes, SCSA principal.

7:00 Call to Order

7:02 Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Ms. Condon made a motion to approve the April minutes. Ms. Domenech seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with 6/6 board votes.

7:45 Presentation

Gear-reat! MCSA Presentation

Six representatives at Girls from STEM presented their STEM Fair projects to the board. They were invited to present at Duke Energy Explorium. Verity Morgan (6th grade) presented to the board about her invention—the Pet Packer that solves the problem pet owners have when they want to take their pets on fun adventures with them. Board member, Mr. Harmon, and new SCSA principal, Ms. Barnes couldn't wait to be a part of the presentation. The second presenter was Morgan Guilliland (5th grade) who invented the coat of magnets, replacing those pesky buttons. She invented the coat because of friends who have difficulty unbuttoning jackets when they have a broken arm. Mia George presented a Home Security System because of her desire to deter home break-ins. She used a PIR sensor to detect motion and link it to a command terminal on her smartphone. Suhani presented the next project and the effects of how radiation affects marigold seeds. The plants not exposed to any radiation had 100% germination rate. The more radiation the seeds were exposed to caused negative effects. She explored ionizing radiation and nonionizing radiation. Kiera Hoy (7th grade) was testing how age affected reaction time. Her hypothesis was that the older the participant (she used ages 10-58 years old) had a slower reaction time. Her results showed the opposite result. Ages 10-19 had a reaction time that was about 1 second. Older participants reacted on average 2 milliseconds. Kiera concluded that people can improve reaction time through activity and exercise. The final presenter was XXX in XX grade who explored how to get rid of stains. She used several different brands of popular stain removers. The best stain

remover was actually her homemade stain remover using: Dawn dish soap, hydrogen peroxide, and baking soda.

Introduction of Ms. Barnes

Ms. Lucas formally introduced Ms. Shekeira Barnes for Southwest STEM Academy to the board. She has been holding parent meetings.

7:15 Principal Report:

Enrollment: 29 students short of our 920-student enrollment target. Postcards are being dropped in the 5-mile radius. There is an average of 10 applications per week. We have wait lists at most grade levels. Ms. Cook asked about the attrition rate of students. We invited 75 students for 6th grade. 6 sections of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades.

Events: Family Information session tomorrow night. Tiny Titans (rising Kindergarteners) come in to visit. Ms. Croft spearheaded our Family Code Night, inviting several new families to join us, and it was successful.

Feedback from Ms. Smith's Communication Roundtable: There was an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings about communication at the school. There was a morning and evening session. They were not well-attended. Based on the discussion as a group, we would send out the weekly newsletters as main communication. Ms. Smith put out a parent survey to the community. That definitely supported the need for reminders for weekly events. There were 30 responses to the survey. Overall respondents feel that the ParentSquare platform is the unifying tool for communication. Many parents responded that they appreciate the effort faculty and staff put into improving overall communication.

Discussed security concerns and consideration of using the school resource officer until 6 p.m. rather than 4 p.m. Considering an outside contracted person.

Enrichment and Sports: Tony Smith, former NFL player, coming as guest speaker at the first annual sport banquet. Our sports teams have been working hard and performing incredibly well this year.

Academic Performance:

The data shows that the ELA scores increased from the middle of the year. The Math scores increased tremendously across grade level which is where our PD focused. We have 5 Math 1 students in 8th grade and all of them proficient. Next year we are moving to NC Check-Ins for 4th through 8th grade. Next year we have a staff member who will be sharing data reports in a more timely manner. Summer reading camp for our younger students. Some ideas are being tossed around about creating a summer book club. Next year we will be moving to online EOGs.

8:27 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8:30

Updated Enrollment Report SCSA

We have 900 applications and 469 confirmed students.

Discussion of Performance Framework MCSA

Discussion RTO Docs

About 1,000 documents were submitted. We've updated BT and Licensure Renewal and need to call for board approval. Ms. Condon makes a motion to approve the Beginning Teacher and Licensure Renewal. Mr. Harmon seconded the motion. The documents were approved unanimously with 6/6 board votes. The SCSA Uniform Policy for 2019-2020 will be posted to the SCSA website.

Budget Update MCSA and Financing: We were able to course correct. CMS still owes us a quarter of a million dollars. The school will end up in great shape financially. We are going to move to a different accounting firms to use between the two schools. In line with our projections. We will still end up with a surplus. Facility lease vs. bond: 1.6 million dollars and 2% escalator but when we bonded at a great rate and \$1.2 million and years 2 through 30 the full payment is over \$1.6 million. The bond will save us about \$32 million over 30 years. SCSA is the first school in NC to open with a bond.

Monday, June 17th Board Dinner in lieu of board meeting in June.

Construction Update SCSA

There is a live construction link that updates every half an hour. Construction is still on target for delivery in the early part of August. Ms. Barnes will use community space to reserve for back up for opening.

8:46 New Business

Signatures needed for the Beginning Teacher and Licensure documents.
Mr. Garcia signed the Beginning Teacher and Licensure documents.

8:47 Adjourn

Mr. Harmon makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. The meeting is adjourned. We will be breaking for June and resume meeting in July.