

**Mallard Creek and
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 30, 2023 at 5pm
7945 Harbor Master Court, Denver, NC 28037**

5:00 Call to Order

Present: Deanna Smith, Shekeria Barnes, Kellen Nixon, Christy Condon, Jose Garcia, Tyrone Harmon, Shelly Domenech

Absent: none

Also Present: Bob Schaffer, Jennifer Lucas, Justin Matthews, Jeremy Thompson, Krystle McKnight, Daryl Williams

Meeting began at 5:15

5:20 Approval of Minutes from last meeting-

Kellen made the motion to approve the minutes and Christy Condon seconded the motion, No discussion so the motion was passed unanimously

5:20 Public Comment – none

5:30

Principal Reports: see attached

Deanna Smith

Enrollment: Projected 960 for targeted enrollment and we have nearly 1100 fully enrolled with all documents and final commitments. We also have a waitlist. Families are getting group and personal tours. One of the tours had over 100 families! We are using social media, mailers and info session as well as meet the principal events. Another piece of news coming up led by Michele Pierce. Michele received an award from Amazon as an educator award again! It is a confidential award until in the press release. 😊

Sports: newest sport that is growing huge and is a great draw for families is flag football.

Other activities: Math Counts club is a competitive math club, Yearbook club. They plant a tree for every book they sell. Girls Who Code expanded into middle school so we have 2 groups now. This group ran the “hackathon” and these girls and another group of girls got to participate in Girls Day Out with Discovery Place for STEM day. Chess Club and Bricks for Kids are 2 huge draws for students as well. Lots of Virtual field trips and special NASCAR partnerships for STEM field trips with the Hall of Fame, IFly, Whitewater Center, Tiger World and 7th graders went to Atlanta and that was a huge hit as well as variety of theater events.

Community events: New event was Hackathon (Robotics, AI, VR, coding), STEM Fair, Back to School

Honor Roll: Large groups of students who received this each quarter

A new MCSA ward stands for Mastery, Conduct, Scholarly and Attitude.

Data: Please refer to the 3 AP scores benchmarks data. There is significant growth in all subjects and growth in the level 5 4 and 3 as the year went on.

This year we have 418 chances for students to increase their chances to get a better score and increase the school's proficiency percentage. We only need over 130 points.

Many thanks to the parent partnership team who have supported the school and taken lead on community and school events and have volunteered all year for many events like field day, teacher appreciation and fundraisers. Volunteerism has increased and we are happy to see these new opportunities to get involved.

Review of the teachers of the year. Other notable events. Brianna participated in Teach like a Champion and will help us move forward on instructional practices in the classroom. Our greenhouse, garden beds have exploded. Two teachers are taking lead on the agricultural and stem movement. Two teachers who ran Seussical the Musical organized students to attend a full day at the Blumenthal and work with other schools and professional theater.

PD and growth for teachers are working with Staff and Principals are managing growth plans and building instructional capacity. Training teachers in tandem with SCSA to develop continuity, common language and similar effectiveness goals. Will continue to provide teacher awards and recognition.

Feel great about the summer program. Have 316 fully enrolled in the summer school program. We may have more students show up during the first week. We are looking forward to helping them grow and retest.

Lots of thank you and appreciation for the staff, the new principals, and support team

Board feedback: Great year, great report and excited to see the growth!

Shekeria Barnes:

First thank you goes to Carin Lawyer who works as the registrar and works on enrollment and she doing great and has been doing a great job and follows up with parents.

Enrollment: School projections are strong. Target is 959 students. We are close to these numbers with our enrollment and a waitlist of 246 students. We check in every other day on enrollment.

We also have not had nearly as many withdraws and they found that this year those families who withdraw have found a school to go to a K12. This was 4 families this year.

Marketing: Similar to year one digital media, community events, very word of mouth school and we get most of our new students from word of mouth. Onsite tours go so great with Mac, Williams and team. They have it down to a science and it a 45 minute run through the building and they are very effective and they run them 2 times per month all year. Our school improvement team was a helpful tool this year and those families on the team have done a lot of marketing for the school.

Sports program: Such a great program! This took off so well! This increased school morale, school spirit, parent support and helped that Mr. Pulley, a teacher, was a photographer and took great pictures of these events and shared them and continued to build the pride and showcased in the school and community. Cheerleaders performed for no limit Larry and it was a GREAT experience.

Extracurricular: less clubs, but we plan to have even more clubs next year through a partnership to choose 7-8 after school programs so we need to look into the partnership to build these activities with staff and space. DJ training and other exciting events that kids really want. Digi Bridge is a huge program that is very successful and target schools that are economically struggling and support this school and so our kids stayed in and the students love this partnership. Looking to have 2 more partnerships in STEM for next year.

School events: Tons of events and activities, so many field trips. This year our biggest trip was to Washington DC, This was a great opportunity. Thinking about how we can offer all students the opportunity to attend trips and find ways to increase attendance,

We will be working on rebuilding and rebranding the Ricket Parent Association to make sure it is inclusive and welcoming for all parents and new parents. Gove parents more way to get involved and offer volunteer opportunities for new and long term families.

So many major events on campus: 2 book fairs, MS dances, Turkey Trot, STEM night, back to school events, glo-party and Egg Drop!

Academics: review the data you have on the graphs attached. You will see great positive movement in both reading and math each assessment period. You can see constant growth in almost every grade level and subject area. You will also see growth in the data proficiency whereby level 5 4 3 continued to increase and the below or significantly below students continued to decrease. Introduced the New Principal award! This was a special way to recognize children for a combination of attendance academics and character.

Strong focus on data and focusing on the student growth pending. We have focus for all students coming in to the camp for remediation and retesting. We feel great about the advantage to offer summer camp and Barnes ran a little pep rally for the teachers to feel excited about it.

We had a good tutoring program, but we need to find ways to get more students involved in after school tutoring events and camps. Looking for creative ways to make this happen for more students and possibly work with parents as after school tutorial. Will work on this with RPA. SCSA had hired 12 new staff members. Many spent the year learning the culture and my take away for this is this: I am passionate about coaching these teachers. The teacher shortage is critical and many ed programs have collapsed at colleges and universities. We are working on a robust coaching model to help grow our own teachers and develop them and minimize the turnover and impacts in morale, culture etc.

Celebrations: We had 4 babies at SCSA this year! RPA increased parent involvement with teacher appreciation week was wonderful and they single handedly took lead on kinder and 8th grade moving up plans! It was great and helpful and they ran. Two students in the school are 2 voice over actors and they got awards at national events! It was so exciting!

Feedback from Board: recognition and applause for staff determining that the coaching model and coaching cycle is critical. It is a great benefit for teachers and helps with teacher attrition. What does the framework look like and how will we implement the coaching model and the PLC you approach. Barnes answered on behalf of the schools about the program we are building on. Shared, side by side observations with the team and then they debrief, and they share their notes and action steps to support the teacher. Then these teachers are coached up and supported for the next 2 weeks and then revisited.

Good discussion on observations, feedback and review from the board and leadership. Very well received.

6:05: Financials

The April financials were presented and show that SW currently running a \$1.3 mm dollar surplus. We are rapidly drawing down state funds which are restricted funds, so if you don't acquire or pull them down, the funds revert back to the state. This just causes us to spend money in specific ways, so accounting firm is on this right now and pulling funds then disburse them before the end of May. It won't (the surplus) be that high at the end of the School year. Local funding remains on track.

MC, running a surplus of \$800k and would have been more but they are 2 payments behind from CMS but they are doing great. They won't carry over that high of a surplus at the end of the year either after final AP packs and accruals are paid. We are looking at making sure that MCSA has all the excess cash needed to deploy a number of facility improvements and updates.

Fully functional playground on SCSA now!! Thanks to everyone who has helped. At MCSA moved forward the outdoor lighting system with 2 different firms to select from. Heard back from the civil engineer and putting together a site plan for review as well. MCSA is working on a vape system/detector systems. Also MCSA is looking at installing a state of the art PA System. All hallways will get repainted this summer and get the cork boards back up to keep the interior real nice.

Both schools are able to pay all staff commensurate with CMS schedule so we can remain as competitive as possible with any other school.

From a facility standpoint, during walk throughs we have had such great experience on the past 2 months and the facility, the culture and the behavior looks great at both schools and it demonstrates such positive outcomes and growth.

6:30 New Business: none

6:00 Motion from Christy Condon to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Tyrone Harmon. No discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15