

**Mallard Creek and  
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 4th at 6:00 pm  
Via ZOOM**

In attendance: Deanna Smith, Shekeria Barnes, Kellen Nixon, Tasia Colbert, Leonard Roebuck

Also in attendance: Daryl Williams, Krystle McKnight, Bob Schaffer

6:00 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05

6:05 Approval of the Minutes from the November meeting

Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes and Tasia seconded the motion. No further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6:06 Public Comment

6.15 Principal Reports including school fall data and NC STAR for approval were presented. Mrs. Barnes presented her report first. Barnes provided enrollment updates and an assessment update and then introduced Mr. Williams to share the fall data. Daryl presented the fall assessment data for IReady and Case21. It showed fall to fall growth each year. Preliminary data shows we have increased every single grade level in all 3 subject areas. School is very encouraged by the data. School is fully staffed. PD is focused on differentiation. Barnes invited board members to visit school and shared a calendar for clubs, academic events and athletics.

SCSA are the Reigning Champions in soccer and volleyball for 2<sup>n</sup><sup>d</sup> time! Barnes thanked the Board for their support at the renewal meeting and shared a slideshow of students in STEM. Each month, Mrs. Barnes shares a link to videos and pictures that support the STEM program.

6:30 Action item: NC STAR for board approval

NC STAR plan for improvement was shared and discussed with the Board to highlight key areas indicated for improvement and strategies and timelines for expectations.

Kellen made a motion to approve the plan. Tasia seconded the motion and there was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6:30 Principal Smith presented her report. Enrollment is steady at 951. Fall data showed positive growth. Most grade levels were already higher than the data from last fall. School is implementing assessment period 2 next week. That data will drive the next round of interventions, after school tutoring camps and daily support. Smith reminded the board that afterschool tutoring is also ongoing and started early fall this year and then a session will begin by February with new groups of students. One staff position is open for 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies. Deanna presented the positive results of the coaching model and how well it works and how well MCSA is supporting teachers this year. Deanna also invited the board to tour/visit during the day and see how great the school is doing. The MCSA Parent Partnership committee is raising funds through dress down days for teacher appreciation week. This was very appreciated by the staff!

Basketball began and is off to a great start. MCSA is in the lead already! MCSA Instructional Coach is running a new EmpowerHER STEM club for girls. Great new club to encourage girls to participate in STEM challenges and look into a Science Olympiad. Math Counts club is ongoing during the day and math challenges. On Saturday the students competed in their first competition and they earned a silver recognition. These are very exciting math and science areas for the school. The Cyber Hedgehogs is the school's robotics team and they will be competing in February in the VEX robotics competition.

6:45 Presentation from the Nutrition Director and request for board approval of café procurement policies

Bob presented café updates at each school. MCSA currently has over 400 breakfasts per day and 650 lunches (up 69% from last year) significant growth in food serving. Received 100% in their inspections and recently ordered another freezer and milk cooler. Great strides in this program. MCSA will be creating a culinary council with staff and students to help improve and refine menus and food choices so that ALL students want to eat. Afterschool snacks will begin in January. Today was day 1 of the NCDPI audit and it is going great. Staff is amazing. SCSA averaging 525 lunches (a 50% increase) breakfast at 350 per day (a 50% increase) SCSA got 100% on its inspection again and the café has added 6 pieces of new equipment: freezer, cooler, milk containers SCSA team is also developing a food council for students to participate in the council.

Motion to approve the updated procurement plan was made by Shelly. The motion was seconded by Leonard and there was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

6:50 Financials – Revised Budgets (post ADM) and Audit presentation

Financials from October were shared. SCSA has been using cash reserves as we wait for the revenues stream to catch up. You can see on the financials that the School is completed 1/3 of the school year. Trends show that SCSA has begun to catch up on funding and CMS is 60-180 days behind schedule but the school will eventually catch up on revenue. On the expense side, you will see that Salaries and Benefits are in the correct spot and trending in line with the budgeted allotment. School is spending the correct amount on curriculum and textbooks.

MCSA has also utilized \$750,000 in cash reserves until the state and local revenue follows. MCSA is currently poised at a \$5-million-dollar net position. Before and After school care is running as planned according to target. Salaries are also running exactly as they should be.

Both schools' budgets are in alignment with the principals' reports and spending between curriculum and not technology, and referenced comments noting they will need a new technology order for new programs next year.

Board received an in-depth workshop on state revenues and the budget. Kellen made the motion to approve the updated budget and Shelly seconded the motion to approve the updated budgets. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Board Commendation: Kellen made a comment that this is one area of a bright spot for the Board and appreciated the budget workshops and the confidence they have that the Schools and leadership are good stewards of the funds and wanted to commend and acknowledge the work that has been done all these years. And the more opportunities they get to review the budgets in depth is very important and appreciated. Ongoing board training is very much appreciated.

Last note, MCSA and SCSA have one of the most competitive compensation packages for staff and intend to continue to be competitive to recruit and retain the best staff.

#### 7:00 Audit

First and foremost a clean audit. Both schools have had 100% clean audits every year. No concerns, comments or exceptions. Both schools net positions increased substantially. This means schools property and FFET lose value over time, but the schools continue to show grater revenue and added assets that offsets those items so continued to build cash reserves.

Page 9 is the highlights and most important items about the audits.

Pages 18 and 19 are the year end balance sheets and year-end balance. Page 27 has the financial covenants for bond issuances. Page 37 details how strong the schools' financial requirements are. These are specific highlights that showcase the schools' financial performance.

7: 20 Kellen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Shelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.