

**Mallard Creek and  
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Via Zoom at 6:00 pm**

In attendance: Deanna Smith, Teddy McIlwain, Leo Roebuck, Shelly Domenech, Tasia Colbert, Kellen Nixon (6:27)

6:08 Call to Order

6:05 Approval of the Minutes of the August meeting

Leo made a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Shelly seconded the motion. There was no other discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6:08 Public Comment

Sherika Robinson end of meeting

6:09 Principal Reports:

MCSA: Deanna shared current enrollment, hasn't changed since the last meeting. Have 944 students. They have had some movement with students relocating out of the area and a few new students who are moving into the area. New students will be starting soon. Students are doing really; we are in mid-quarter assessments, and we are seeing academic growth. This is the first year MCSA has the NJHS! Ms. McKnight is working on the program, and this will be launch of this program! Students will be selected and celebrated in January and will be shared in a future meeting. Our students and teachers have been working so hard on STEM fair! The projects consume a lot of time and energy, and we are seeing a significant improvement as students learn how to handle these independently/ Dec 18<sup>th</sup> STEM will be open in the Gym and announcing awards and prizes. We have folks from the board meeting as well as local community members coming in to help judge the projects. Another program that is aligned with academics to help make learning fun. Tasia and Coach Clay are organizing a school wide spelling bee. This will get kicked off with watching the movie Akeela and the Bee. The next item is community partnerships. The Titan Parent University. Last night was the first event and today the team completed the activity in response to the feedback received from the SIT with the parents. We heard that parents wanted more information and specifically in how to understand student data assessment reports and how to read it and understand them and help their students. The Titan University is in place to help parents help their students. Ms. Heikkila put together a website of collated resources for parents and we have posted it on our website under parent tab. Looking forward to getting survey responses after the event to build on future events.

Board Comments: Shelly commended Deanna for this program and is excited about the parent engagement. MVCSA had a lot of attendance on campus for National STEM Day. We are so excited that we have so many people present about their careers and share how STEM can apply to them and in the future. We thank all the parents who came out and shared their time with our students. Titans Together is another community service program spearheaded by Dr.

Bloodworth. Students are encouraged to collect needed items (over 800 cans of items) and pajamas and socks for those in need. Dr. B has a partnership with Coca Cola who will lend us a trailer to haul all the items to the donation center and students are excited and proud of this effort. The culinary committee had its first meeting with students who gave feedback on the café items and menu options. They also learned from the staff about menu items and dietary

restrictions, and it was a good learning experience. Our food service program has come so far, and we are extremely excited about it. We have a Titan Tribune, the student newspaper which has been documenting this meeting too and it has been a great movement in our school community.

**Board Comments:** Tasia joined in to share about the movie kickoff for the Spelling Bee and how we are providing students with opportunities they may not always get. This is for students to enjoy and make the Spelling Bee an annual tradition. They are very excited about this program!

SCSA:

SCSA enrollment has been consistent since last month although we have invited a few more students in the grade levels that we have space, and we have 4 families who will be joining soon. Lottery for applications has just opened and we already have 67 new applications. We have been doing a lot of work with marketing and using digital media and social media.

SCSA is still moving full steam ahead with our scope, sequencing and pacing for the Case 21 benchmarks in December. Teachers are staying at pace and doing a respectable job to address any gaps and deficiencies we saw from the first benchmark. This is seen in a lot of small groups and interventions. We also sent out progress reports for families in grades 3-8 communicating where students are in the quarter. Teachers are setting up conferences with parents that are needed, and all parents can reach out to teachers to request conference anytime. We also hosted a culinary council and saw the students work with the café and learn about the NSLP. The students had an enjoyable day with the café directors (Bob and Lester)

Social committee and activities going on the school- SCSA has had NJHS for the past few years and we will host a Spring induction. Parents will get information about the selection process about this soon. Students in grades 6-8 ran our first student government election day on Election Day. The students are selected and already working on their first service initiative and community service donation for the holidays.

Staffing: We had only 1 opening and we have finally found a suitable candidate and have an offer out. MS Ranieri is still working on the school murals, and she is doing wonderful work in our school. We are extremely proud of the student athletes. The girls Volleyball team won the championship last week against Bonnie Cone. Tomorrow we will play for the soccer championship against MCSA! Our student athletes are fantastic, and we can't say enough about these extra-curricular activities and how important they are for our families and community.

Athletics: Presented by Clay: MCSA is making their first appearance in the soccer championships. We had 11 honor roll students on the MCSA Volleyball team. For the soccer team we had 6 honor roll students on the team. Many of these are straight A students so shout out to those students and families as well as coaches and teachers. For SCSA, Volleyball won its 3<sup>rd</sup> championship in a row and this year we saw some stellar competition. 12 students were on the honor roll and on the soccer team 9 students were on the honor roll.

6:40 Monthly Financial Review

SCSA: Balance sheet is showing just under 5.4mm and assets far exceed their liabilities. As the board has heard hundreds of times, this is the time of year we begin to see the funds/revenues that is owed to them from the local counties in the next couple of months. Because we have such strong cash reserves the schools are in good shape for operations. We are about 1/3 way through the year and feel like we are right on track with revenues and expenses as planned in the budget. SCSA has spent their funds on books and supplies for classrooms and insurances are also paid out. Staff salaries and benefits are in line as are transportation and rent.

Board Question: Did we do anything new about technology for students. Yes, 4 meetings ago schools asked for more technology, and it was board approved. The schools did purchase new technology, and it is in and already deployed to students. The board had approved \$200,000 from their operating accounts beyond the technology line.

MCSA: Has about \$6.25 mm net asset position. Its liabilities are lower than quarter 1. MCSA operating expenses are still a bit higher in operating expenses with the multiple buildings. Since schools only get about 20% of funds by this time of year and MCSA trails more in expenses due to this. The good news is they are operating on a very temporary net deficit. But you may remember that the number on the bottom line was worse last month and has already resolved \$50,000 in that cash flow and expect to see that over the next couple of months. Mallard also carries expenses for certain staff that is shared between mallard and southwest so those sources will help us see MCSA resolve its deficit rerun to a surplus. Expenses are in line with appropriate spending for the students and they are right in line with where they should be. Happy to see Mallard trending where they should be. Mallard is owed \$2m from state and local sources.

Board Comment: Kellen thanked Leo for standing in as Board chair until he was able to join in.

Parent comment: Asked whether parents are allowed to interrupt a board meeting or join or what is the process? The board explained how Public Comment works in Board meetings and how to sign up for public comment in advance. The parent shared a positive comment about what a very excellent school year it has been for her son. This has been. very good year for him and he shares what he is learning and she is so excited and proud to be part of the school community.

6:52 Shelly made the motion to adjourn, and Leo seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:52.