

**Mallard Creek and
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
September 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm
At MCSA 9142 Browne Rd. Charlotte, NC 28269**

In attendance: Kellen Nixon, Leonard Roebeck, Tasia Colbert
Absent: Jose Garcia, Shelly Domenech, Shekeria Barnes
Also present: Deanna Smith, Clay Sanders, Courtney Heikela,

7:00 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01

7:05 Approval of Minutes from the August meeting

The Board minutes were reviewed. Kellen made a motion to approve the August Board minutes. Leonard seconded the motion. There was no more discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

7:05 Public Comment (moved to last item of the agenda)

Kellen made a motion to move the public comment to the end of the meeting. Second by Leonard. No discussion and the motion passed. The agenda item public comment was moved to the end of the posted agenda.

7:06: Principal Reports

MCSA- School reached its target enrollment of 950 for the 1 PMR and 20 day ADM.

All students have completed IReady, WIDA and other required assessments. The data reports for Fall will be shared when Case21 is completed.

Accreditations: MCSA is working towards the accreditation as well as a STEM Certification. MCSA will be sending our fall surveys for parents staff and students as another data point required for the final reports on climate, academic data and engagement and improvement.

Board Question: Bus challenges- how do we communicate to parents and provide transportation for families in need? Bus driver shortages is a national crisis. We continue to support them and communicate to families. The School and Vendor are communicating every day with any challenges and get transportation going, even if the schedule is delayed.

Board commendation: Special that we offer the healthy options for lunch for students. Amazed that all students eat for free and that we prepare all the food on site. Working now on the farm to school connection to build the partnership.

SCSA- School almost reached its targeted enrollment of 850. The School currently has 840 students and a few new applications for students in K-2. The School has a waitlist for grades 5-8 which are completely full at this time.

Board Question: Tell us more about the coaching model and how it was brought in and pushed out to the staff. Last Spring the leadership teams from both schools met to discuss the high number of novice teachers and agreed that instructional support is needed full time at each school to provide feedback and coaching for struggling teachers. Multiple coaching models were reviewed and recommended, but the team ultimately selected the model based off Uncommon Schools and a book called Get Better, Faster. A coaching and leadership cohort is offered in NC that follows this same framework. The leadership teams had professional development in June and again during pre-planning. The school leadership team is attending monthly training sessions and bringing that back to the schools. All the coaches are following a framework with a quarterly scope and sequence.

Board Commendation: Kellen noted that he is proud of the work in coaching and supports the full time, scripted coaching model that supports new and inexperienced teachers to build capacity.

7:45: Facility update: Received a new quote to build the field at MCSA. New plans need to be submitted that show the best position of the field. Making small adjustments of the position of the field so students have the best experience. Next step is to try to find the space for a field house and restroom. The process is taking longer than preferred but it is moving forward.

Safety Update: The Halo program for vape detectors for the bathrooms and increased safety and security in the schools. Both schools have hi-def cameras and security in all areas as legally allowed. The bathrooms have a new Halo system. The primary purpose is to detect smoke/vape in the school. The HALO system also includes a distress component, it alerts SRO or staff if there is a loud noise in the bathroom, a call for help or other disturbance. The HALO distress system will be on line in the next couple weeks.

7:55 Financials: Enrollment counts are now complete so budgets will be updated based on the revenue and the new budget was passed finally (instead of May or June). Schools should get the first revenue stream in October. All schools will show deficits at the beginning of the year and then the school cash position will build during the year.

8:00 The board shared the School's public comment policy. The Board heard public comment from 2 parents. The Board assured the parents that the school leader will respond in a timely manner.

8:16 Kellen thanked the parents for attending and sharing their thoughts and made a motion to close the meeting. Leonard second ed the motion. No further discussion, and the motion was passed unanimously.