



METROLINA REGIONAL
**SCHOLARS
ACADEMY**

Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

Minutes

Emergency Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday March 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Location

Board Meeting call-in number: 980-224-1999 (local) or 1-805-309-2350
Conference ID: 996-0029

Directors Present

A. Farooqi (remote), A. Gozycki (remote), M. Dixon (remote), M. Mittal (remote), M. Ramasamy (remote), S. Dasu (remote), S. Korrapati (remote), S. Liner (remote), S. Schroeck (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Ex-Officio Members Present

A. Pieper

Non Voting Members Present

A. Pieper

Guests Present

K. Ely, N. Reynolds, N. Zagorski, T. Chavel, T. Miller

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance and Guests****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

M. Dixon called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy to order on Friday Mar 13, 2020 @ 3:05 PM at
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C. Read Mission Statement

M. Dixon read the Mission Statement.

D. Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Korrapati made a motion to approve the minutes from. Board Meeting on 02-24-20

A. Gozycki seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Adoption of the Agenda

S. Korrapati made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Community Comments (First Opportunity) - subject to guidelines

A. Community Comments - guidelines

There were no comments from members of the community present in the room or attending remotely.

III. Director's Report

A. Emergency Response Plan

A. Pieper presented the emergency response plan.

All Professional Development plans for the day today were changed to remote learning plans. The school is prepared to move to remote learning as soon as Tuesday. There will be a practice day for the remote school day format on Monday. Students will bring their technology to school on Monday so that they can learn how to use the virtual learning tools under the supervision of their teachers prior to the full roll-out of at-home virtual learning.

Members of the Board have received copies of the COVID-19 Emergency Plan document. The document outlines three phases of emergency response. Phase One preventative measures have already been implemented. Phase two restriction of non-essential activities has also been implemented. Preparations for Phase Three virtual and remote learning preparations have been made.

Ms. Pieper spoke about Staff and Teacher expectations during a possible Emergency Alternative Educational Plan.

- Full-time teachers must be available and responsive via school email during the remote school day of 8:30AM to 3:00PM each day. 12:00PM-1:00PM is a break for lunch. Part-time teachers must be available during the days/hours that they are typically at work.
- Teachers have the choice to work from home or from school.
- Counseling and student support services will be available through email request on the Virtual and Remote Learning Website.
- Teachers must provide at least one time per day for real time communications with students.
- Teachers must post assignments for students by 8:45AM to be ready for the school day including step-by-step instructions.
- All lessons should include an activity that a child should complete as evidence of instruction.

- All teachers must respond to emails from parents and students within two hours during the established school day.

Noelle Zagorski spoke about expectations for students and parents for remote learning.

- Students will be required to have an internet-connected device (either their own or provided by the school) and a distraction free work area.
- Students are expected to dedicate 5 hours to school work during the day.
- Parents are expected to supervise and assist students at an age appropriate level.
- Parents/students are expected to reach out to teachers via email with questions.
- Parents/students are expected to dial into video conferences offered by the teacher.
- Students should complete all assigned tasks and turn in work as required. Non-digital work completed should be collected into a portfolio of work and brought to school upon re-opening.
- Parents should report absences of their child from remote learning due to illness using the online absence form as usual.

Nicole Reynolds spoke about the technology plan.

- Students in need of a device for remote learning have been identified and will be assigned one for checkout.
- The school computer lab will be open daily from 9:00AM to 12:00PM for students who need access to the internet.
- A Virtual and Remote Learning Website has been created to allow all students a single place to access all assignments.

Karen Ely spoke about iReady. IReady has offered their instructional program for free for the remainder of the year. Scholars Academy teachers have been given the option to use resources from iReady for online teaching. This will primarily be used in K-3.

A. Pieper spoke about resources for the care and caretaking of children during the implementation of the emergency plan.

- The PTO created a document for families to help manage childcare difficulties created by the long term closure of school. The document is organized by neighborhood location.
- The Superlative Club is prepared to assist families with full day childcare provided in a small group setting.
- There will be individual and group counseling sessions offered throughout the week by the counselor.
- Parents should create schedules that allow for frequent brain and movement breaks throughout the day.

A. Pieper spoke about the plan for community communications.

- Newsletters will continue as usual.
- The front desk and main school line will be staffed from 9:00AM to 12:00PM each day.
- Parents and students should use email communication as the primary method to connect with teachers and administration.
- Regular updates will be provided to the community.
- Zoom video conferencing will be used by teachers to communicate with students. Lessons may be recorded by teachers. Parents who do not want their child's image to be on video should make sure that the camera is turned off in the Zoom conference.

Alternative dates have been proposed for NOTA and for the 8th Grade field trip, but as of now, those events have not been rescheduled and will proceed as planned until further notice.

EC, Speech, and OT can be provided in an alternative method, but a video conference is preferred because these services often require face to face interaction. Karen Ely and the other teachers will communicate with those families which are affected regarding the plan for alternative programming.

A. Pieper recommended that Scholars Academy goes to the virtual learning format as outlined in the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Emergency Plan Phase III: Activate Alternative Educational Plan for Virtual and Remote Learning starting this Tuesday, March 17, 2020 until March 27, 2020 upon which the school will reevaluate and decide whether the Virtual Learning period will need to be extended.

IV. Community Comments (Second Opportunity) - Subject to Guidelines

A. Agenda Item Summary

There were no comments from members of the community.

V. Closed Session (if necessary)

A. Closed Session

S. Liner made a motion to convene in Closed Session pursuant to "Permitted Purposes" under N.C.G.S. §143-318.11: (a) To prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Closing Items

A. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

S. Liner made a motion to accept the Emergency Plan as proposed by the Director.

A. Gozycki seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Adjourn Meeting

S. Korrapati made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Schroeck