



METROLINA REGIONAL  
**SCHOLARS  
ACADEMY**

## Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

### Minutes

SPECIAL Board Meeting 03/29/21

---

**Date and Time**

Monday March 29, 2021 at 6:30 PM

**Location**

LIVE STREAM: <https://youtu.be/DOnIB3Df10M>

**Directors Present**

A. Farooqi (remote), A. Starling (remote), A. Young (remote), C. Lewis (remote), M. Dixon (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 (remote)

**Non Voting Members Present**

A. Pieper (remote)

**Guests Present**

K. Ely (remote), Karen Pietrafesa (remote), Megan Vespa (remote), Noelle Zagorski (remote), Sharon Tam (remote), Silviya Petrova (remote), Stacy Rogers (remote)

---

**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 Monday Mar 29, 2021 at 6:35 PM.

**C. Read Mission Statement**

S. Dasu read the Mission Statement.

**D. Adoption of the Agenda**

S. Schroeck made a motion to adopt the 3/29/2021 agenda.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

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

**E. Administrative Matters**

M. Dixon went over the rules and the procedures of the Zoom Webinar Meeting Platform.

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

**A. Community Comments - guidelines**

There were no members of the community who wished to make a comment.

**III. Director's Report**

**A. General Items**

A. Pieper gave the Director's Report.

There are proposed changes to the COVID-19 Response Plan as a result of a change in legislation. Elementary schools have been required to move to Plan A and there has been a change to the COVID response toolkit.

- K-5 is required to move to Plan A (at least 4 days of in person instruction.

Plan A: minimal social distancing is required, 3 feet recommended.

- 6-8 grade: Plan A or B allowed.

Plan B: 6 feet social distancing maintained in classrooms.

- Full remote option remains available
- Health screenings are no longer required.

Proposed Plan, **Beginning April 19:**

- All K-8 hybrid attend on M, T, Th (full days) and F (until 1:00pm)
- Virtual option remains for those who do not choose hybrid instruction.
- Grades K-5: all students who desire to attend in person may do so under Plan A
- Grades 6-8: additional students will be able to attend in person under Plan B as social distancing allows

Health and Safety:

- Continue wearing masks at all times indoors and when within 6 feet outdoors
- 6 feet of social distancing to greatest extent possible

-Grades K-5 May need to move to 3 feet based on class attendance  
-Grades 6-8 Remain at Plan B - 15 student max per classroom

- Continue to eat outdoors
- Continue with all cleaning protocols
- Continue health screenings and temperature checks at drop-off

#### Proposed Attendance Schedule

- K-4: No changes to attendance schedule
- 5-8: Move to 4 days of in school instruction (M, T, Th, F)
- Friday dismissal - 1:00 PM
- Wednesday - remote for all students K-8
- **EOG/EOC week - see newsletter 3/26 for schedule**

#### Daily Schedule Changes

- 1-4: No changes to daily schedule
- Grades 5/6: Friday added - All core (Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts) plus foreign language
- Grades 7/8: Mon, Fri Added - new schedule to include all core plus one enrichment on Monday and all core classes on Friday
- K: Currently the only class in a split model (one teacher virtual/one teacher hybrid) - needs adjustment to accommodate more students in person.

#### Kindergarten:

- 21 In-person students currently and at max capacity expect that to increase
- Solution:

-Return to a 2 classroom model by moving children back to Ms. Walsh's room

-Ms. Walsh - remain 100% virtual

-Ms. Balley - up to 15 students

-Ms. Kramer (currently a TA - Certified teacher with K experience) - in person in Ms. Walsh's room.

-Ms. Vespa - in person TA

-Ms. Ervin - virtual TA

-Both in-person classrooms will run identical instruction with the planning support of the kindergarten teaching program.

Most grade levels are currently nearing or surpassing 60% hybrid students.

#### Full Remote Students:

- One additional and FINAL option to request a return to in person instruction OR a return from hybrid to full virtual beginning April 19th.
- **Form will open at 8:00AM Wednesday March 31st and will close at 3:00 PM April 2nd.**
- K-5: All students requesting in person given a space
- 6-8: Spaces dependent on class capacity will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis to those who fill out the request to return to in person instruction form. After a grade level has reached maximum capacity, students will be placed on a space available waiting list

\*Current in-person students may elect to return to full-virtual at any time.

Cautious but Optimistic

- Continue to maintain NO cases of COVID-19 among staff or students
- Staff have begun to receive vaccinations
- Warmer weather for outdoor eating
- More students in the building = gradual return to normalcy
- Exciting end of year celebrations
- Looking forward to next year!

#### **IV. Community Comments (Second Opportunity)- subject to guidelines**

##### **A. Community Comments-guidelines**

There were no members of the community who wished to make a comment.

#### **V. Closed Session**

##### **A. Closed Session**

S. Dasu made a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11: (a) To prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information; (e) To discuss contract negotiations; (f) To discuss personnel matters involving an individual employee or prospective employee.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

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

#### **VI. Closing Items**

##### **A. Vote on any items from Closed Session**

S. Dasu made a motion to approve the amendment to the COVID-19 response plan as proposed in the Director's Report.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

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

S. Dasu made a motion to approve the budget amendment for personnel matters as proposed in closed session.

M. Ramasamy seconded the motion.

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

S. Dasu made a motion to approval of the commercial liability insurance contract as recommended in closed session.

M. Ramasamy seconded the motion.

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

##### **B. Adjourn Meeting**

S. Dasu made a motion to adjourn.

A. Farooqi seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** 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 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Schroeck