

APPROVED



METROLINA REGIONAL
**SCHOLARS
ACADEMY**

Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday November 29, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Location

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEVHO5vOxDPKvqIkc8Tp04g>

Directors Present

A. Farooqi, A. Starling, A. Young (remote), C. Lewis, E. Womer, K. Neal, N. Morrison (remote), S. Dasu, S. Korrapati, S. Schroeck, W. Ning

Directors Absent

None

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

S. Dasu called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy to order on Monday Nov 29, 2021 at 6:33 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

S. Schroeck read the Mission Statement

D. Administrative Meeting Review

S. Dasu gave a review of the rules and procedures for the Zoom Webinar platform

E. Approval of Prior Minutes 10/25, 2021

A. Young made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 10-25-21.

A. Farooqi seconded the motion.

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

F. Adoption of the Agenda

S. Dasu made a motion to Adopt the agenda.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

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

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

- Approval of PE position candidate to be discussed in closed session
- 12/10 Early release day for staff professional development and service learning, as well as discussion of non-punitive consequences for student behaviors (according to educational research-based evidence lunch detention is being eliminated, moving towards restorative practices)
- Staff survey results- staff wants more collaborative time to work with peers. Some professional development training will be asynchronous. Pending additional discussions with staff, there will be some student schedule changes in the second half of the year.
- PTO support has been great- "We've Got You Covered" working well, and coffee truck coming up next week
- Another successful PTO initiative: refurbished middle school girls' restroom
- Bus survey results: more than enough demand for a new bus route. Moving forward with an additional southern route
- Purchased a new bus. Will arrive 1st week of January. Will begin January 10 at the earliest.
- There is pending additional funding for nurse support and technology.
- First meeting of parent advocacy group was November 15. Includes staff and parent input in order to help ensure that SA has systems in place to support low income students and fulfills an NC Access Grant requirement.
- Request vote for mandatory universal mask usage to continue through January
- COVID update: a few more cases than last month, but nothing significant. 1-2 new cases per week. No instances of spread within the school (other than 1 child).
- Basketball team is the only team in the league playing in masks, and they are undergoing weekly on-site testing.

B. SA Indoor Mask Usage

C. Lewis made a motion to vote that universal indoor mask usage continue through January.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

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

IV. Closed Session

A. Closed Session

A. Starling made a motion to move to closed session in order to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, to discuss material terms of a contract or proposed contract, and to discuss or consider employment contracts.

W. Ning seconded the motion.

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

V. Expansion Committee

A. Status Review

S. Korrapati gave the Expansion report

The Board of Directors and Administration are pursuing opportunities to expand our school facilities and would like to provide an update regarding the current expansion goals. The timing of selling our existing building and purchasing a new facility did not align in time to make a move for the current school year (2021-22). Since our last update, we have engaged a new brokerage firm to represent the school in the sale of our current building. We have a potential future building under consideration and will be able to share the details as soon as the plans are finalized. We understand that many families have decisions to make during this time and we ask for your patience as we continue to work towards our expansion goals. We hope to finalize plans in the coming months and commit to sharing a decision by March 2022 whether the school is moving to a future site or remaining in our current location for the 2022-23 school year.

VI. Governance Committee

A. Status Review

C. Lewis gave the Governance report

The Governance Committee collaborated with Ms. Pieper and the Teacher Leadership Team to develop the Fall Staff Survey, which went out earlier this month. Thank you to the staff for taking the time to provide valuable input. The full results were shared with the whole Board. Results will also be disseminated to staff next week through several lunch discussion sessions. Feedback will be referenced throughout the year for decision making.

The committee is evaluating a 3rd party HR vendor to support staff and administration.

VII. Whole Child Committee

A. Status Review

S. Schroeck gave the Whole Child report

- Eagle Vision awards ongoing
- Service projects ongoing

- Staff report needing more support vis-a-vis challenges with scheduling and kids coming back from being home during the pandemic. PTO working to support staff.

VIII. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates

A. Status Review

K. Neal gave the DEI report

- Still looking at curriculum review in accordance with strategic plan
- Teachers are already turning in their reviews of their teaching materials. Initial reviews are due December 16

IX. Educational Excellence Committee Updates

A. Status Review

A. Young gave the Educational Excellence report

1st quarter report cards and K-2 pathway review- complete

- Report cards sent to parents on Friday, November 11
- Revising of K-2 testing data: 1st graders are now being tested on grade level. Intention is for them to be above grade level by the end of 2nd grade. Testing on grade level will give teachers more info, identify what students are missing at grade level. We took the assessment information based on the tested grade level and updated the requirements for each pathway level. This information is especially pertinent given the Covid situation and the fact that kids weren't in school last year.

K-3 Vertical alignment meeting and future multigrade curriculum meetings - goal to develop scope and sequence for K-3 ELA

- Tuesday Nov. 9: Homeroom teachers will gather to go over the curriculum and standards being taught for each grade level. Coming up with scope and sequence for ELA for K-3. We have many new teachers in K-3, therefore historical knowledge that has usually been passed on is getting lost. There is a need to make sure new teachers know the scope and pacing of language arts topics without the school enforcing a set curriculum. Simply providing them with standards hasn't been enough, especially for younger teachers who have never taught anywhere else. If we have new teachers next year we'll have something to hand them (we already have this for math- Singapore Math) Work will continue on over the course of the year.

Review of school wide homework expectations - go through handbook description

- Making sure lower ones are practicing reading and math facts. A lot of graded work is being done at home, though this has been removed from the report card for K-6 students. Need to clarify for teachers what is appropriate for school vs. home. Homework should be something kids can do independently to reinforce skills, or it could involve finishing what they began at school, because graded homework ends up being the parents' work. Ms. Zagorski and Ms. Pieper are going to put together material in order to give teachers more guidance. The goal is for this to go into effect

immediately once they receive the staff's feedback and understanding (by January).

Gifted Education plan - we need to write one this year

- 2022-2025 is the new AIG cycle for creating a 4-year gifted plan. Need to document and show the State how we serve our students. Ms. Pieper will work to prepare this.

X. Foundation

A. Status Review

AJ Farooqi gave the Foundation report

- \$344,231 in pledges and donations. Up by nearly \$100k from this time last year.
- This year we have the largest group of parent ambassadors.
- Giving Tuesday begins at 8 am 11/30.
- Partnership with Sealed Air- focus on employee engagement

XI. Finance Committee Update

A. Finance Recommendations

A. Starling gave the Finance report

- Budget amendment to recommend: \$18k in additional exceptional children supplies. Part of grant money we already received for EC supplies, but one of the grant stipulations is that SA also contribute our own money towards EC supplies
- Discussed the bus we just purchased and NC Access grant (We have grant money for next year to buy a fourth bus. The bus we just purchased was purchased with our own funds, while the next bus can be purchased with grant funds. The NC Access grant will not reimburse us for the bus we just purchased.)
- We still have a solid surplus despite the purchase of the bus
- Discussed the school expansion and the financial projections regarding the funds that would be necessary for that
- Discussed Foundation, which incurs expenses that the school pays for. Each quarter the Foundation reimburses the school so that the school isn't operating at a deficit. The transfer is itemized.

XII. Policy Committee Updates

A. Policy Updates

E. Womer gave the Policy report

- Discussed revisions of policy manual, staff handbook, student handbook in order to make everything consistent
- Discussed implementing policies for the Foundation that should be in alignment with school's policies

- Received quote from attorney Lisa Gorden Stella

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

A. Agenda Item Summary

There were no members of the community who wished to make a comment.
S. Dasu made a motion to not enter into closed session.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to authorize the Expansion Committee to negotiate on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.
K. Neal seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
A. Farooqi made a motion to approve the employment contract as recommended by administration.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
E. Womer made a motion to approve budget amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee.
W. Ning seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

S. Schroeck made a motion to adjourn meeting.
K. Neal 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 9:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Young