



METROLINA REGIONAL
**SCHOLARS
ACADEMY**

Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday June 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Location

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

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

A. Farooqi, A. Young

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

E. Womer

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned

E. Womer

Ex Officio Members Present

A. Pieper

Non Voting Members Present

A. Pieper

Guests Present

Karen Ely (remote), Megan Vespa (remote), N. Zagorski (remote), Shruti Sundar (remote), T. Hemming (remote)

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 Jun 27, 2022 at 6:32 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

A. Starling read the Mission Statement.

D. Administrative Meeting Review

S. Dasu went over the Zoom Webinar Etiquette and Rules.

E. Approval of Prior Minutes 05/16, 2022

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 05-16-22.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

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

F. Adoption of the Agenda

S. Dasu made a motion to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.

C. Lewis 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.

Staff and Students

- There are some updates to the staff slate that the Board will need to vote on following Closed Session.
- Many Staff members are completing Professional Development this Summer with funds provided by the SA budget. Ms. Reynolds is at a National Technology Professional Development event that the State is providing funds for attendance (SA provided travel funds). Several staff are attending virtual Singapore Math training. Mrs. Gutt will be the Singapore Math lead next year. She will be attending lead training. The Professional Development Plan for the school year will be rolled out at the Board Summer Retreat.
- Summer Camp will be starting on July 11 for new students and some returning Students rising 1st through 4th grades. Camp Invention starts July 18.

Academic Program and Upcoming Events

- August 2 will be the New Student Orientation. The event will be held in-person.
- Returning student open house will be staggered attendance August 25th.
- The first day of school will be August 30th. First day attendance is very important. All students should plan to attend the first day.
- Planning activities for the new school year is already underway this Summer. A newsletter will go out in the middle of July to give an update. New staff and programs information will go out in the August weekly newsletters. Questions about new programs, should they arise, can be directed to classroom teachers.

Operational Topics

- The cleaning contract is up for renewal. There is no price change. This is an auto-renewal contract.
- The Alt HR contract is up for renewal. The recommendation is to reduce the number of hours we contract them for. Specifics will be discussed in closed session.
- AUP, Internet Safety and Technology Policy renewals for the 2022-2023 (3.1b and 3.1c) will be voted on tonight. The Board will affirm the current policies in the vote tonight. Policies need updating now that students have returned to in-person school. Updates to the policies will be worked on over the course of the next school year.
- Ms. Pieper shared a document with the Board regarding cybersecurity at school. The document details the cybersecurity measures in place at the school. It also outlines changes to systems in place. Students will no longer be able to receive emails to school accounts from accounts outside the organization. Google hangouts has also been discontinued on the school computer system. The school has employed a number of different technology applications to monitor and report on student activity on school devices. Information regarding cybersecurity will be given to parents at the start of the new school year.

B. SA Indoor Mask Usage

There will be students in the building for camps this Summer, so the Board will need to vote on mask usage for July.

S. Korrapati made a motion to continue the "mask optional" policy for the month of July.

W. Ning seconded the motion.

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

IV. Expansion Committee

A. Status Review

S. Korrapati gave the Expansion Committee Update.

As mentioned in previous meetings, Scholars Academy will be staying in our current building for the upcoming year, but the Board will be pursuing opportunities diligently throughout the summer. The new expansion chair will be Weiyi Ning and the Board will provide specific updates to the community in the new year. There is

an Expansion page on the school website that has information about expansion activities.

V. Governance Committee

A. Status Review

C Lewis gave the Governance Committee Update.

- The Governance Committee did not meet for the regular meeting in June. C. Lewis thanked Board Members who are rolling off the Board this Summer - Smita Korrapati, Aura Young, and Sarah Schroeck.
- C. Lewis also thanked the community members who put themselves forward as candidates for the Board. Nominations were due at the end of May, and the Governance committee has conducted panel interviews over the past few weeks and will be recommending the new slate in closed session. The Board will vote on new members following closed session.
- The Committee has also been discussing succession planning for officers. After a discussion with the full Board in closed, we will be voting this evening for several of those roles when the Board returns to open session.
- For information purposes, there are no regularly scheduled Board meetings in July or August. However, once the new Board members are installed (over the next week or so), we will be working to find a date over the summer to conduct the Board Retreat - which is our annual orientation session. Once that date is solidified, we will post the date of the summer Board meeting, which typically coincides with that session.
- After researching alternatives, N. Morrison will be presenting recommendations for a vendor for the Board's document and meeting management platform. We will discuss the contract in closed session and vote on the contract this evening.
- Board assessment - a task for Board members. The committee sent our a link to Board members to complete the annual Board Assessment in Board on Track. The surveys will be completed by July 15th, so that the results can be discussed at the Summer retreat.

VI. Whole Child Committee

A. Status Review

S. Schroeck gave the Whole Child Committee Update.

The Whole Child Committee did not meet in June. The Committee will reconvene at the start of the new school year and will focus on supporting the Scholars Academy Mental Health Plan and the SEL curriculum by partnering with staff, parents, students and counselors.

VII. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates

A. Status Review

S. Dasu gave the DEI Committee Update.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan was presented to the Board. The Committee worked with community members via discussions and surveys to gather information in inform the Action Plan. Staff Committee actions will be tied to the action plan. Once the Board votes to approve the document, it will be made available on the School Website to make clear the school's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

VIII. Educational Excellence Committee Updates

A. Status Review

N. Morrison gave the Educational Excellence Committee Update.
The Committee did not meet for the month of June. N. Morrison thanked A. Young for her leadership of the committee this year.

IX. Foundation

A. Status Review

W. Ning gave the Foundation Report. \$494,915 has been received, which is above the fund-raising goal for 2021-2022. Matching funds continue to be received. Three School Board members must be on the Foundation Board of Trustees. W. Ning reminded Board members that although the Foundation is a separate entity, the school Board is still very involved.
For the coming year, the focus will be on marketing in order to attempt to get more donations from outside sources.

X. Finance Committee Update

A. Finance Recommendations

A. Starling gave the Finance Committee Update.
The finance committee met twice in June. Fiscal Policy was reviewed and amended. The Policy discussed a transfer of funds of \$322,000 from the Foundation to the school. There were end of year budget adjustments made. The only addition made was the employee bonus approved by the Board at the last meeting. The budget closed with a surplus between \$80K and \$100K.
The excess cash is moved into Certificates of Deposit (CDs). The Board was notified of the purchase of two CDs in the amount of \$250K each which will mature in 6 months.

XI. Policy Committee Updates

A. Policy Updates

E. Womer was not present to give the Policy Committee Update.
Per A. Starling - Board will vote on Fiscal Policy
Per A. Pieper - Board will vote on Acceptable Use of Technology Policy

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

A. Agenda Item Summary

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

XIII. Closed Session

A. Vote to go into Closed Session

S. Korrapati 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.

A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
E. Womer arrived at 7:29 PM.

B. Closed Session

E. Womer left at 8:30 PM.

C. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the Fiscal Policy as recommended by the Policy Committee inclusive of edits by the Finance Committee.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to Approve Expansion Related expenditures up to the amount recommended by the Expansion Committee.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to Approve staff contract as recommended by Administration.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the renewal of contracts as recommended by the Governance Committee.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to approve Acceptable Use of Technology Policy and Internet Safety and Technology Policy for the 2022-2023 school year.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan as recommended by the DEI Committee.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
S. Schroeck made a motion to Approve new and returning members of the Board and officers for 2022-2023.
A. Starling seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

A. Starling made a motion to adjourn.
C. Lewis 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 9:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Schroeck