

APPROVED



METROLINA REGIONAL
SCHOLARS
ACADEMY

Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday March 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Location

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

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

S. Dasu

Ex Officio Members Present

A. Pieper

Non Voting Members Present

A. Pieper

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

C. Lewis called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy to order on Monday Mar 28, 2022 at 6:35 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

S. Schroeck read the Mission Statement

D.

Administrative Meeting Review

C. Lewis gave a review of the rules and procedures for the Zoom Webinar platform.

E. Approval of Prior Minutes 02/28, 2022

A. Young made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 02-28-22.

S. Schroeck seconded the motion.

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

F. Adoption of the Agenda

K. Neal made a motion to Adopt the agenda for the March 28, 2022 Board meeting.

A. Starling seconded the motion.

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

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

No member of the community wished to comment at this time.

III. Director's Report

A. General Items

- Will discuss a personnel matter in closed
- Hybrid lottery Thursday night. 100 people on Zoom and about 6 families in person. Offered:
 - 36 Kindergarten seats
 - 4 2nd grade seats
 - 5 3rd grade seats
- Can-construction – First school-wide service project was a success
- Counselors have been working to bring outside speakers in, including STEM speakers, Career fair
- Monthly required vote on mask usage
 - 70% of kids wearing masks, less than 50% of staff
 - Recommend to continue to require mask usage on buses
 - Propose moving band inside
- Insurance policy review and renewal
- 22-23 expansion and space considerations –mobile classroom
 - Modular building: 2 classroom modular building with bathrooms
 - Timing: in place for the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Location: Either in the basketball court area or parallel to the building next to the playground
 - Classrooms: 5th grade with students moving inside for some classes
 - Rationale: To provide an extra flex space in the building for reduced scheduling conflicts
 - Discussions with 3rd, 4th, and 5th/6th grade teams
 - Presented to Teacher Leadership Team
 - Quotes from 3 companies. Would like to discuss one option in closed session.
 - Measuring area and feasibility discussions with modular company

- Considerations of resources, additional costs, and time involved (see below)
- Cost considerations for modular unit:
 - 12 3rd graders - \$102,000 (\$8800 per ADM)
 - Modular - \$26,000 (lease plus installation)
 - Modular permitting plus utility hook ups (\$2K)
 - Insurance (Fencing? (\$3-5K?))
 - Teacher - \$63,000 (salary plus benefits)
 - Total Estimate: \$95,000
- Benefits of adding unit:
 - Allows us to offer 12 additional seats in 3rd grade
 - Keeps 3rd grade structure consistent
 - Allows for an additional flex space in the school
 - Moves the expansion efforts forward
 - Allow for additional revenue for expansion financing
 - Moves 5th grade out of middle school
 - More cohesion across the middle school (6-8)
- Challenges of adding unit:
 - Time and resources for getting modular installed
 - Need outside help (architecture, engineering, zoning, etc)
 - Additional unknown costs
 - Security of building
 - If we don't move, need to keep the structure
 - Changes ripple effect to other grades
 - More students constraints on indoor space
 - More students and enrichment classes

B. SA Indoor Mask Usage

A. Farooqi made a motion to maintain the approved mask policy, with the exception to moving the band indoors, as recommended by the Executive Director.

A. Starling 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 the last board meeting, Scholars Academy will be staying in our current location for the 2022-2023 school year. We are still committed to our expansion goals and will be pursuing opportunities for the next year. In the meantime, as mentioned in the Directors Report, the board is discussing the pros and cons of adding a modular unit in order to continue the growth of the school.

V. Governance Committee

A. Status Review

C. Lewis gave the Governance update

- Discussed board Development
- Board Recruitment begins next week and continues through the end of May

- Sub-Committees Goals and status- committees should begin to discuss what to tackle this year
- ED Evaluation- still underway. Waiting for our consultant to provide summary memo.
- Staff Contracts & Personnel Matters to be discussed in Closed Session
- Third party HR group has been engaged with staff and admin and has been very effective so far. Will join our Governance meeting next month.

VI. Whole Child Committee

A. Status Review

S. Schroeck gave the Whole Child update

- Discussed mental health plan in response to Covid-19 pandemic
- Last year the committee had been hard at work defining goals of SEL program
- Counselors plan to develop school resource guide, but students are already aware of resources through SEL classes
- Middle school students now have a space upstairs where they can rest and recharge
- Social Media Coordinator Alicia G continues to post resources, many of which are timely and in response to current events
- Tentative schedule for Grandpeoples' Day has been discussed. Thursday, May 5. Early dismissal. Program will occur during lunch periods. Sign up will be provided in the newsletter. Same day as Night of the Arts program (in the same church as the last time it was held).
- Parents should pay attention to the newsletter during this busy time.

VII. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates

A. Status Review

K. Neal gave the DEI Committee update

- The curriculum review has been completed
- Planning next steps and how to format the results of the curriculum review for the teachers and for the community to read that will be easily-digestible
- Reviewing what materials should be ordered in May for the next year
- Working on DEI plan and mission statement to share with the community

VIII. Educational Excellence Committee Updates

A. Status Review

A. Young gave the Educational Excellence update

- Have brainstormed questions for our focus groups.
- Groups will include current students, alumni, current parents, and parents of alumni
- Questions will be shared with teachers ahead of time so they can give feedback and so that they'll know what the point of this whole project is and won't feel left out/threatened

- Discussion of middle school curriculum is ongoing: the middle school is more like early high school than it has been in the past. Used to be low-stress, low pressure, more service work, outdoor activities such as stream clean-up.
- Need board members to volunteer to help with focus groups, and need parents to attend our meetings
- Natesha researched other gifted schools and found a focus on extra-curricular activities such as robotics clubs, theater, dance, STEAM/STEM activities, as well as differentiated reading levels

IX. Foundation

A. Status Review

A. Farooqi

Total funds received: 388K including \$3000 technology restricted gift
141K outstanding pledges including roughly 68K that is the match gift
After spring break need parent ambassadors to volunteer.
Communications regarding this to come

Gifts of stocks and how to formulate that process for the coming year
Building grant-prospect list

X. Finance Committee Update

A. Finance Recommendations

A. Starling gave the Finance Committee update

- Insurance contracts (General liability, workers' comp, property, auto, crime, accident, inland marine)
 - currently \$29k per year. Increasing to \$33k (14% increase). Board is asked to vote to approve this. This is a competitive rate as assured by SA's broker.
- Discussed modular classroom
- Rising fuel costs- will probably go over budget a manageable amount for bus fuel
- State providing grant for cyber security software that will allow us to renew subscriptions to Gaggle and GoGuardian at no cost to the school

A. Starling made a motion to approve the insurance policy renewal as recommended by Finance.

K. Neal seconded the motion.

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

XI. Policy Committee Updates

A. Policy Updates

E. Womer gave the Policy Committee update:

- Finished going through the financial policies as a committee. Sent additional questions to attorney. Will continue conversation next week.

- Anticipate having a draft for a first read April 19. Deeper dive at May 3 special meeting.
- Vote at end of May.

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

A. Agenda Item Summary

No community members wished to comment at this time.

XIII. Closed Session

A. Vote to go into Closed Session

S. Korrapati made a motion to enter into closed session in order to discuss personnel matters involving a prospective employee; to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of the school.

A. Farooqi seconded the motion.

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

B. Closed Session

C. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

A. Starling made a motion to approve the employment contract as recommended by the Executive Director.

A. Farooqi seconded the motion.

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

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Young