

APPROVED



METROLINA REGIONAL  
**SCHOLARS  
ACADEMY**

## Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

### Minutes

#### SA Monthly Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Monday September 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM

**Location**

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

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**Date and Time**

Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm

**Location:**

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilFI7gPicZo>

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**Directors Present**

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

**Directors Absent**

*None*

**Ex Officio Members Present**

A. Pieper (remote)

**Non Voting Members Present**

A. Pieper (remote)

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**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 Sep 27, 2021 at 6:31 PM.

### **C. Read Mission Statement**

E. Womer read the Mission Statement.

### **D. Administrative Meeting Review**

S. Dasu reviewed the procedures and rules regarding the Zoom Webinar meeting platform.

### **E. Approval of Prior Minutes 8/23, 2021**

A. Young made a motion to Approve.

N. Morrison seconded the motion.

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

A. Young made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Emergency Board Meeting on 09-01-21.

S. Schroeck seconded the motion.

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

### **F. Approval of Prior Minutes 9/1, 2021**

### **G. Adoption of the Agenda**

C. Lewis made a motion to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.

A. Farooqi 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 public who wished to make a comment.

## **III. Director's Report**

### **A. General Items**

A. Pieper gave the director's report.

- Community conversation about SEL program was recorded and added to the Scholars Academy website
- BOG- 3rd grade
- iReady- test results will be shared with families next week
- Early release days are intended for staff professional development
- Fall conferences will begin as early as next Monday, though Friday is specifically reserved for conferences. Friday will be an asynchronous instruction day.
- All students K-4 eat outdoors. 5-8 alternate weeks. Parents can join for lunch if their child is eating outside.
- Many volunteers this year so far- library, lunch, clubs

- Fall festival has been postponed. Book fair will occur in October. Further information will be in the newsletter.
- Presented weighted lottery application to CSAB in September. Application was approved and will go to the State Board in October for approval.
- Bus ridership- demand exceeds capacity level. A. Pieper would like to provide the opportunity for all children to have transportation to school. Finance committee will make recommendations for what is financially viable so that the Board can discuss at next month's Board meeting.
- Reminder that Board must vote each month on universal mask usage
- Covid testing- There is a cost involved though SA receives the tests for free from the State. There is opportunity to apply for additional funding for these additional costs. There is need for more nursing capacity.

#### **B. SA Indoor Mask Usage**

S. Schroeck made a motion to Approve continuance of indoor universal mask usage.

C. Lewis seconded the motion.

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

#### **IV. Expansion Committee**

##### **A. Status Review**

S. Korrapati gave the Expansion update.

S. Korrapati reported that the Expansion Committee meetings are generally ad hoc, so the Committee has not held its first meeting yet. The board has previously voted to pursue expansion of the school in terms of our facilities as well as students per grade level. The expansion committee is currently seeking opportunities and remains committed to its goals. Our current building is on the market at this time and as we have done in the past, we will update the community as much as possible going forward. We do have a link on the school website with information on expansion. We will be updating that again this year and sending information regarding the first expansion committee meeting.

#### **V. Governance Committee**

##### **A. Status Review**

C. Lewis gave the Governance Committee update.

The Committee met on September 9 and reviewed with new members the purpose and objectives of the Committee itself, which includes grievance reviews, Board member orientation, annual evaluation of the ED, and the 5-year strategic plan for the Board. Other matters discussed:

- Last year was year 1 of the 5-year plan
- Discussed adding another bus to fleet
- Changes in staff observations
- Staff feedback loop
- Personnel matters will be discussed in closed session

#### **VI. Whole Child Committee**

##### **A.**

## **Status Review**

S. Schroeck gave the Whole Child update.

The Whole Child Committee met on Thursday, September 2. The Committee received an update about the activities of the staff-based SEL/Whole Child Committee which meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. The staff committee is tasked with meeting SEL curricular goals, Mental Health goals, and Health and Safety goals. In service of these goals, several in-school programs have been thoughtfully reworked this year, including SEL Buddies and the Middle School advisory period for grades 5-8. The staff committee will continue to report on their meetings and activities each month.

The Whole Child Committee also discussed the continuation of social media outreach to the community, restarting in-person community conversations, and the continuation of the Eagle Vision Awards program.

Future conversations will include student service learning projects. The October meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7 at 8:15 AM, when the discussion will include trends observed from the School-Wide Mental Health Survey.

Individual family responses will not be discussed, but the committee will hear general information about responses in order to evaluate next steps in support of the School-based mental health program.

## **VII. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates**

### **A. Status Review**

K. Neal gave the DEI update.

The DEI Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month. K. Neal reported that A. Pieper's draft of the Equity and Action Plan was used to decide what to focus on and to get the Committee's feedback. Reviewing and diversifying teaching materials will be a major focus. This Committee will work with the Educational Excellence Committee and the staff DEI Committee regarding the teaching materials.

S. Dasu added that this year liaisons from the staff committees work with the Board committees

## **VIII. Educational Excellence Committee Updates**

### **A. Status Review**

A. Young gave the Educational Excellence update.

N. Zagorski discussed the 2021-2024 plan that she and A. Pieper developed for the school, as well as focus items for the 2021-2022 AY:

- Mental health policy (approved at last Board meeting)
- New staff orientation: training has already occurred for the 2021-2022 AY
- 9/24/21: differentiation, critical thinking. Educational Excellence staff team will present according to grade level.
- Gifted teaching models conference will take place 2/21/22. K-2, 3-8 teachers, and teachers from CMS will be invited to attend.
- iReady testing: Goal is for parents to understand that it isn't cause for concern if their child isn't working ahead of their grade level during kindergarten or grade 1
- 3rd grade camp was a success for the children
- Checking in with families to see how well they understand K-8 pathways

- Need to work on discussing integration of research-based assessments of gifted curriculum. Need to figure out a framework for assessment practices, which new teachers need in their “toolbox.”
- Re-engaging parents: Utilizing parent support group, teachers will have their own Zoom sessions

## **IX. Foundation**

### **A. Status Review**

A. Farooqi gave the Foundation update

- The Foundation meets every two weeks. Focusing on alignment of policies with trustees.
- New branding and content on website under Foundation.
- Annual Campaign- October pledge drive starts on Friday, October 1.
- Total pledges and funds received: \$109,867 (includes LY TBD).

## **X. Finance Committee Update**

### **A. Finance Recommendations**

A. Starling gave the Finance Committee update.

The Finance Committee met in September and spent the majority of the time discussing the budget amendment that will be further discussed in closed session.

- The main item of discussion was the NC Access Grant. This year SA will receive \$107, 000, which is specifically allocated to items approved by the Grant, including additional transportation service.
- The Committee also discussed the Foundation and how funds will be transferred from the Foundation to the School
- The Finance Committee needs to update the Expansion Committee
- School needs a new HVAC compressor. Due to the cost, Board approval is required in order to purchase this.

## **XI. Policy Committee Updates**

### **A. Policy Updates**

E. Womer gave the Policy Committee update.

The Policy Committee met in September for the first time this academic year and discussed the policy structure of the School. During the 2020-2021 academic year a review of the all SA policies was begun based on the advice of the School's legal council. Sabrina Liner, Scholar's Academy Finance Manager, discussed various inconsistencies in spending policies. The Committee will work to align these policies as well as other policies.

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

### **A. Agenda Item Summary**

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

## **XIII. Closed Session**

### **A.**

### **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 employee or prospective employee.

A. Farooqi seconded the motion.

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

### **B. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions**

A. Starling made a motion to approve the adjustment to the employment contract.  
W. Ning seconded the motion.

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

K. Neal made a motion to authorize repair to the HVAC system up to \$11k.

A. Starling seconded the motion.

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

A. Starling made a motion to approve contract for the auditor as recommended by the Finance Committee.

S. Korrapati seconded the motion.

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

E. Womer made a motion to approve the budget amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee.

K. Neal seconded the motion.

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

## **XIV. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

S. Korrapati made a motion to adjourn.

S. Schroeck 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 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Young