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# SRCA School Report



**August 20, 2023**

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**Shining Rock Classical Academy**  
**Joshua F. Morgan**  
**Head of School**



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# Enrollment Update

Enrollment for the 23-24 school year has settled below the anticipated projection. A couple of factors that have placed pressure on the enrollment number have included:

- A late break from the historical trend of continued applications into August.
- Families being pressed into moving out of the region in the last half of the summer. 23% of all withdrawals have been for students that have moved out of state. This does not include students who have identified as homeschooled in anticipation of a move in the next month.
- A similar pattern occurred with accepted applicants. These students do not present as withdrawals, but would be a no-show. The reason for the no-show has been noticeably high in the self-reporting of moving out of the region.

## Relation to Budget

A final ADM will not be available until we have passed the 20<sup>th</sup> day of school. There continue to be a couple of additional variables that make it challenging to provide an accurate assessment of the final impact. The most significant factor is the lack of an approved budget from the state. Once this is reported, it will become possible to assess the impact of increase staff salaries and potential increases in student ADM funding.

# Legislative Report

## Education Overrides

The NC Legislature took up a number of bills that had been initially passed earlier in the summer and subsequently vetoed by Governor Cooper. With the Override votes completed by both chambers of the legislature, these bills have now become law. These laws have a varying degree of impact with SRCA and all public schools in the state. These new laws will require at minimum a review of procedures to affirm compliance, with the possibility that the board will need to consider approving new policies for compliance. A summary of the new laws and potential next steps are as follows:

### **SB49 – The Parent Bill of Rights**

This new law has a significant amount of expectations that will need to be treated in a variety of different ways. A fair portion of the bill is to simply codify in procedure and policy practices that are already in place. However, there are a number of topics in this law that will require the board to establish and approve policies for compliance. There are parts of the statute that address LGBTQ+ students and education. As written, nothing in the law indicates anything that is a change from established SRCA procedures on this topic. However, both the state charter school association (NCAPCS) and the NCDPI are crafting guiding documents for Public School Units to achieve compliance.

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## **HB574 – Fairness in Women’s Sports Act**

This law bans the participation of athletes who are born male to participate in female athletics. There is an exception in that the sport must be classified as coed. The law applies to all schools both public and private. A review of the athletics handbook by the athletic directors is underway and guidance from professional state organizations for further board action will be monitored.

## **HB618 – Charter Oversight Board**

At the local level, this bill will have minimal impact on SRCA initially. This law restructures and amends the oversight roles of state level boards for the initiation of charter schools. No action from SRCA is recommended at this time, however administration will be monitoring the implementation of these boards and the impact of future charter renewals.

## **HB219 – Charter Omnibus**

This law has several amendments regarding enrollment caps being lifted. The most significant portion of this law is that there is now a pathway for local counties to directly fund building and facility projects for charter schools.

## **Legislative Summary**

Each of the above laws have a varying amount of direct impact to daily operations. The board should remain engaged as there will likely be a need to approve policies to affirm compliance, even if the procedures are already in place in accordance to the law.

# **Operations Update**

## **Beginning of Year**

The school year has begun with a reasonably smooth transition into routines and procedures. A special note of praise needs to be given to the kindergarten team and their ability to get the kindergarten class into the building in an efficient manner very quickly. The middle school team has also performed well in helping all students adapt to the freedoms of middle school. The high school team along with Nest worked to conduct their second annual Welcome Week activities to set the collaborative and supportive tone for everyone.

## **Initial Assessments Underway**

3<sup>rd</sup> grade BOG assessments have been completed. These took place during the week of August 14. Also, the window for mClass assessments has opened for reading in grades K-4. Students are currently being assessed to determine their reading levels and establish a baseline for their learning.

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# Items for Board Approval

## Job Descriptions

Presented for board approval is a new job description for Facilities Director. This is a role that has been a part of the growth plan for staffing for a period of time.

An additional job description for approval is a revision to roles completed currently by Mrs. Gresham and Mr. Matthews. Each of their roles have expanded since they initially took their positions and the job descriptions needed to more accurately reflect their responsibilities.

## Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> Read

A revision to policy 7500 *Technology Student Use* is presented to address Artificial Intelligence use among students. The revision is the addition of text on page 2, Section B(3).

# Financial Update

Please refer to the SRCA Financial Report 7.2023.