

THE METROLINA REGIONAL SCHOLARS' ACADEMY, INC.

Open and Closed Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Conference Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Voting Members Present

David Saye, Chair

Renee Alsop

Lee Keel

Makila Scruggs

Eileen Woodward

Karen Cleary

Michael Matthews

Jen McClave

Noelle Sproul

Rob Watson

Krista Newkirk

Call to Order and Mission Statement. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Adoption of the Agenda.

Action: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Scruggs and seconded by Ms. Sproul.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2015.

Action: A motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2015 meeting was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Ms. Cleary, and approved by the board.

Director's Report.

Mr. Yodice started by addressing his resignation. He explained to that had tried being an administrator, but realized it wasn't his calling. He's excited to get back in the classroom, but could not do that at Scholars Academy because there were no openings.

Total enrollment/withdrawals: According to the Intent to Enroll forms, 6 students will not be returning next year.

- 2 moving out of state,
- 3 moving to private school.
- One due to difficulty with commute and new job.

He explained the new framework that the Office of Charter School has instituted. Scholars Academy is noncompliant in three areas:

- 1) **Nepotism** policy (The board plans to address the nepotism policy later in the meeting)
- 2) Lack of formal **graduation requirements** (He is drafting graduation requirements), and
- 3) **Enrollment** is below the state's expectations, based on the amount of growth allowed (He is in discussions with the OCS, explaining that Scholars Academy does not have any plans to grow, even though the legislation states that we can).

Development Update

Ms. Ellis updated the Board. The school is still expecting to receive pledge payments and matching gift payments from employers. Mr. Moschel will provide Mr. Keel weekly reports of where the funds stand. Some Board members volunteered to make calls for pledges and thank you calls.

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Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. McClave updated the board on the report distributed by Mr. Watson prior to meeting.

Policy Committee

Ms. Newkirk presented a nepotism policy.

Action: Ms. Newkirk moved to approve the nepotism policy as provided to the Board. Ms. Alsop seconded, and the Board approved.

Committee on the Board

Ms. Alsop updated the Board on COB issues.

- There are four applications to the board for the three open positions.
- She recommends retaining consultants Brian Boone and Dr. Tom Miller for facilitation of board retreat and ongoing policy help. Ms. Scruggs asked for pricing on a la carte numbers. Ms. Alsop asked for approval to discuss hiring Dr. Miller for the retreat.
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Action: Ms. Scruggs moved to authorize discussion with Dr. Miller for an amount of \$1500 to help facilitate the board retreat. Mr. Watson seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Financial Committee

Mr. Keel updated the Board on the proposed amendments.

Action: Ms. Sproul moved to approve the amendments. Ms. Newkirk seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Auditor engagement letter:

Mr. Keel discussed engaging the auditor for the annual audit and tax return. The rate of \$9700 has stayed the same.

Action: Ms. Cleary moved to approve hiring the auditor at the rate of \$9700. Ms. Scruggs seconded and the Board approved.

Phone system/PA system

The technology director has researched quotes and has made a recommendation for new phones and horns. The current budget has \$23,000 in capitalized items that have not been spent yet. The recommended provider quoted \$22,300.

Action: Mr. Keel moved to approve the contract for new phones and PA system. Ms. Newkirk seconded and the Board approved.

Other issues:

Acadia contract due to be extended. Will need to vote at next board meeting.

Community Comments

- Teacher liaison shared responses from teachers. Teachers request Jessica Cuneo due to her leadership, and experience and because she is well-respected by the staff.

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- Ms. Miller noted the amount of money spent on past search. She strongly supports Ms. Cuneo.
- Ms. Moschel asks board not to waste time, money on someone who doesn't have experience with gifted students and charter schools. She noted that Ms. Cuneo is hard-working and not easily intimidated.

Hiring Committee

The Board discussed the creation of a Hiring Committee. The major issues to discuss are:

- Identifying a leader of the search committee and creation of search committee
- Creating strong statement of what we want in a leader
- Employing a search firm
- Getting stakeholder feedback
- Potentially hiring an interim director to give the Board time to be diligent

Items to consider:

- We don't want any new director to come into the position with a cloud over her head if we do not go through a national search.
- Search firms charge 30% of first year's compensation.
- How do we change culture to provide for succession planning, so we do not always have to go to a search firm? We should consider how to build talent from within and educate stakeholders about the strength of our bench.
- First step is to form search committee. They must meet quickly, then have emergency Board meetings to move things through.

The Board will try to be transparent and will send updates regularly with non-confidential goals and status. The Board will share with community what the committee's specific tasks will be.

- Plan is to elect chair of committee tonight,
- Form committee of 5-8, develop mission statement for the search committee.
- Board will make resolution to accept the committee and update community

May need to consider interim ED due to time constraints.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session. A motion to convene in closed session pursuant to the following statutes was made by Ms. Scruggs, seconded by Mr. Watson, and approved by the Board:

- a. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(1), to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, such privilege or confidentiality arising under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g) or N.C.G.S. Ch. 126, Art. 7, and
- b. to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(6).

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CLOSED SESSION

The closed session minutes are filed in the office of the Executive Director of the Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy, Inc.

OPEN SESSION

Action: Ms. Sproul moved to compile Hiring Committee for an ED to be composed of 7 members, including a minimum of 2 board members, to be chaired by Renee Alsop. Ms. Scruggs seconded the motion and the Board approved.

New Business. There was no new business to discuss.

Motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Watson, seconded by Ms. Cleary and approved by the Board.