Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Voting Members Present

Lee Keel, Chair Jen McClave

Jack WaglerNoelle Sproul (phone)Makila ScruggsRob Watson (phone)Katherine PairRenee Alsop

Karen Cleary Michael Matthews

Manish Mittal

Other attendees: Jessica Cuneo (phone)

<u>Call to Order and Mission Statement</u>. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Mittal read the mission statement.

Approval of Prior Minutes.

Action: Ms. McClave moved to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2016 board meetings. Ms. Pair seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Announcements & Adoption of the Agenda.

Action: Mr. Wagler moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Cleary seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Ms. Scruggs joined by phone.

PTO Report

Kelley Wheeler presented the PTO budget and provided updates:

- They are in process of determining a lunch vendor for next year
- They are researching options for investing a portion of their savings.

Ms. Scruggs arrived.

Visual Arts presentation

Ms. Tans presented to board regarding the value of arts education.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Cuneo presented her report. Highlights:

- Enrollment report (see attached). Three students will not be returning next school year.
- <u>Terra Nova results.</u> Despite administering the more advanced tests (an additional grade ahead) for grades 3 8, there still was not enough statistical significance to help guide instruction and curriculum.

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

The administration will look for replacement test that will be more useful without a price increase. Dr. Matthews recommended MAP test. Ms. Pair suggested considering test that compares internationally.

- <u>Social-Emotional Learning program</u> (see attached). The school will initiate a Social-Emotional Learning program next year. The goal is to have 20 minutes a day for initial implementation, beginning at the start of school year, with a Professional Development goal for all teachers.
- Other teacher news: Ms. Zagorski will be attending a reading training program, which is fully paid for by state. Ms. Hinkelman has been accepted to Teaching Fellows Institute.

• Miscellaneous:

- Administration is continuing interviews for counselor. Mrs. Cuneo will discuss 4th & 5/6th teacher hires in closed session.
- o Ms. Cuneo presented a proposed break down of the school day (see attached).
- Ms. Cuneo presented a proposed Academic & events calendar (see attached). Note the addition of a 5th grade orientation the hour before students meet the teachers.
- Over 120 grandparents attended Grandparents Day.
- New Scholars Day will take place on Wednesday, May 25. The Administration would like to invite a Board Member to speak and introduce the board since many families will be unfamiliar with the structure.
- Fence: Mr. Marino would like to go with least expensive bid (\$11,000) to be installed in June. Mr. Watson noted that it does not need special approval.

Development Update

See attached. Ms. McClave recommends moving the deadline earlier next year (perhaps May 15), to give the Board more a more accurate picture of finances as budget decisions are made.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Mr. Watson will send out a Constant Contact communication about the plan later this week. He will include an email address for accepting feedback on the plan.

Policy Committee Update

The board discussed the following policies (see attached):

- Employee Evaluation
- Effective Teachers & Professional Development

Discussion ensued regarding the need for policy #2 or whether can be streamlined.

The Board agreed to consider this a first review and will revisit these policies, along with a third, at the next meeting.

Finance Committee Update

• Audit firm approval. Ms. Richter & Mr. Watson recommend continued engagement.

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Action: Mr. Watson moved to continue the relationship with the existing auditor (Rives & Associates) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, with services beginning June 2016 to complete by approximately October 31, 2016. Mr. Mittal seconded and the board approved.

• <u>Budget amendments:</u> Would like to add \$29,725 to the teacher/staff bonus line (Ms. Cuneo had proposed providing teacher bonuses with the extra money we received from the state for one-time bonuses)

Action: Dr. Matthews moved to approve budget amendments and to add \$29,725 to the budget line. Ms. Scruggs seconded and the board approved.

- Next year's budget must be approved at June meeting. See attached.
- Ms. Cuneo also requests consideration of an increase in the pay scale. A 0.5% increase would cost \$18,000, and a 1% increase would cost \$24,000 if 1%.

Board Development

Regarding the proposal by Dr. Tom Miller for **Board & Executive Director training and governance support**:

The proposal includes: coaching Ms. Cuneo and administrative staff, facilitating the board retreat, observing board meetings, and unlimited questions/support. The proposed fee is \$9,000 (less than \$2,000 for board support, rest for school administration support).

<u>Action:</u> Ms. Alsop moved that we enter into a contract with Dr. Miller as he proposed. Mr. Wagler seconded and the board approved.

Self-Assessment: Results of the self-assessment indicate an increased need for: new board member orientation, and process for evaluating ourselves against goals.

Board Recruitment: Have received three nominations (2 parents, 1 non). Deadline May 27.

Community Comments

Community comments ensued.

• Ms. Hemming commented on the structure for development director.

<u>Motion to Convene in Closed Session</u>. Ms. Alsop moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the following statutes was made by, seconded by Ms. Scruggs, 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

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

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).

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

Open Session

Action: Ms. Scruggs moved that the administration extend contracts to the two candidates as discussed in closed session. Ms. Pair seconded and the Board approved.

Action: Ms. Alsop moved that we authorize the administration take steps to implement numbers 1-5 on list of proposed improvements. Mr. Mittal seconded and the Board approved.

Motion to Adjourn. Ms. Scruggs moved to adjourn and Mr. Mittal seconded the motion.

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Enrollment Report

School Membership

2015-2016 ADM used in budgeting (sent to State) = 366 ADM = average daily membership; MLD = membership last day

366

366

366

		36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	1
		39	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	2
		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	3
		44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	43	4
		44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	5
		43	43	43	43	43	44	44	44	44	44	44	6
		43	43	43	43	43	44	44	44	43	44	44	7
		38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	39	41	8
•	0	365	366	366	366	366	368	368	368	367	369	370	Total
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
Final MLI	Final ADM	May-15	Apr-15	Mar-15	Feb-15	Jan-15	Dec-14	Nov-14	Oct-14	Sep-14			Grade
3:	36	36	36	36	36	36	37	37	37	37			К
30	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36			1
40	41	40	40	40	40	41	41	41	41	41			2
4:	41	41	41	41	41	41	42	42	42	42			3
42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42			4
43	43	43	43	43	43	43	44	44	44	44			5
4	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44			6
4:	42	41	41	41	41	41	43	43	43	43			7
3	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37			8

Wait List

Total

Grade	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	
K	35	35	33	33	33	33	33	33	42	42		
1	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	32	32		
2	13	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	21	21		
3	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	11		
4	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	11	11		
5	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	9	8		
6	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	10	9		
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2		
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	98	92	90	89	89	89	87	87	140	136	0	

366

361

360

360

360

360

362

359

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Social Emotional Learning

SEL program components:

How will the committee be choosing a program for implementation, measure its success and plan for financial and training procedures?

Using the 2015 CASEL Guide (collaborative for academic, social, and emotional learning), this guide identifies and rates well-designed, evidence-based SEL programs with potential for broad dissemination to schools across the United States.

-the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

5 interrelated sets of cognitive, affective, and behavioral competencies:

- -self-awareness
- -self-management
- -social awareness
- -relationship skills
- -responsible decision-making

In order to be part of this study, the programs need to be well designed, deliver high quality training and other implementation supports, and show evidence of effectiveness (more details at http://www.casel.org/social-and-emotional-learning/)

What components are we considering to narrow down our program search?

- -Our population of students and their specific needs (elementary versus middle, gifted specific, developmentally appropriate, specific to a group's needs at that time)
- -realistic financially, implementation, training and time constraints
- -whole school community component (within the school, parent involvement, possible service learning opportunities)
- -how much supplementation would be needed to include lessons specific to gifted children
- -what other schools with similar profiles are doing and what components they are including in their programs

Our next steps:

Once programs are narrowed down (we are hoping by the end of May), we will have a committee of school staff work together to choose the program and plan for implementation of the program for the next school year.

The committee will be made up of elementary, middle elementary, middle school, administration, and enrichment teachers. (Goal of 5-7 committee members)

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

They will create a scope and sequence of the implementation, training needs, financial needs, and logistics to the SEL program implementation. This will mostly take place over the summer. The same committee will work next year to measure the success of the program and adjust the implementation as needed throughout the year. Measurement tools will either be included with the program or will be a responsibility of the committee to devise.

The goal in our first year would be to implement a program with a few supplements as the program specifies and plan for the follow up years, how we can adjust things to meet our school's needs in various ways. Similar to how we implemented Singapore Math this year.

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

2016-2017 Breakdown of school day

Schedule	Times
Drop off	7:55-8:10
Period 1	8:15-9:10
Period 2	9:10-10:05
Period 3	10:05-11:00
SEL time	11:00-11:20
1 st lunch	11:20-11:45
2 nd lunch	11:45-12:10
Period 4	12:15-1:10
Period 5	1:10-2:05
Period 6	2:05-3:00
Dismissal	3:00-3:20

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

2016-2017 Academic/Event Calendar

Teacher Work Days
5th grade orientation
Meet the Teachers Night
First Day of School
No School-Labor Day

Third Grade beginning of year EOG (reading)

Discoverers' Teacher Talk Investigators' Teacher Talk

Apprentice Scholars' Teacher Talk

Half day for students-afternoon teacher work day

First Quarter Progress reports go home

Book fair Picture Day PTO fall social

Half day for students-afternoon teacher work day No school for students-parent/teacher conferences

Annual fall festival (in classrooms)

End of 1st Quarter

No School-teacher work day Admission open house

1st Quarter report cards go home

No School-Veteran's Day

Picture make-ups

No school-Thanksgiving Holiday

Admissions open house

Half day for students-afternoon teacher work day

2nd Ouarter progress reports go home

Admissions group test deadline

Scholars' spelling bee Winter Concert (AM) No School-Winter Break No School-teacher work day Admissions group test

Science fair

No school-MLK Jr. Holiday

Geography bee History Bee

Regional Charter school spelling bee

2nd Ouarter ends

No School-Teacher work day Admissions Application deadline 2nd Quarter report cards go home

Class/group pictures

August 22-26, 2016

August 25, 2016 August 25, 2016

August 29, 2016

September 5, 2016 September 8, 2016 September 13, 2016

September 14, 2016 September 15, 2016 September 30, 2016

October 7, 2016 October 4-7, 2016

TBD

October 7, 2016 October 20, 2016 October 21, 2016 October 28, 2016 **November 1, 2016** November 4, 2016

November 5, 2016 November 10, 2016 November 11, 2016

TRD

November 23-25, 2016 December 3, 2016 December 9, 2016 **December 16, 2016** December 11, 2016

TBD

December 19, 2016

December 21, 2016-January 2, 2017

December 3, 2017 January 7, 2017

TBD

January 16, 2017

TBD TBD TBD

January 25, 2017 January 27, 2017 January 27, 2017 February 3, 2017

TBD

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Teacher and Staff appreciation week

Half day for students-afternoon teacher work day No school for students-parent/teacher conferences

Admissions lottery

Band Festival (Wingate University)

Half day for students-afternoon teacher work day

Night of the Notables

3rd Quarter progress reports go home

3rd quarter ends

No School-Teacher work day No school-spring break

3rd quarter report cards go home

MRSA Gifted Conference

Half day for students-afternoon teacher work day

School musical MTI Showcase Grandparent's Day Night of the Arts

4th quarter progress reports go home

8th grade trip to DC New Scholars Day

Talent show

No school-Memorial Day

NC EOG testing/NC Final Exams (3-8)

NC EOC testing

Lower level field day (AM) Upper level field day (AM) Yearbook distribution (PM)

Awards

8th grade graduation

Last day of school/Half day-last day of 4th quarter

Teacher work days

4th quarter report cards ready

1st Quarter-45 days

2nd Quarter-45 days

3rd Quarter-45 days

4th Quarter-45 days

** These dates are subject to change**

TBD

February 16, 2017 February 17, 2017 February 23, 2017

TBD

March 3, 2017 March 9, 2017 **March 10, 2017 March 31, 2017** April 7, 2017 April 10-14, 2017 **April 21, 2017** April 22, 2017 May 5, 2017 May 4-6, 2017

TBD

May 11, 2017 May 11, 2017 **May 12, 2017** TBD (May) May 24, 2017 May 26, 2017 May 29, 2017

May 30-June 2, 2017

June 6, 2017 June 6, 2017 June 7, 2017 June 8, 2017 June 9, 2017 June 12, 2017 June 13, 2017 June 14, 2017 June 22, 2017

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Development Report

Annual Campaign: Year-to-date (as of April 23rd)

Aimaa Campaign. Tear to date (as of April 25)								
CAMPAIGN	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12			
YEAR								
Goal	\$575K	\$600K	\$600K	\$600K	\$600K			
	(reduced to							
	\$530)							
Received	\$326K	\$407K	\$463K	\$384K	\$427K			
Pledges due	\$178K	\$148K	\$110K	\$122K	unknown			
Year-end	Est. \$500K	\$506K	\$565K	\$496K	\$524K			
actuals								

Annual Campaign: Year-to-date (as of May 4th)

Timitum Cumpungii. Tour to tutto (us of France)								
CAMPAIGN	2015/16	2014/1	2013/1	2012/1	2011/12			
YEAR		5	4	3				
Goal	\$530K	\$600K	\$600K	\$600K	\$600K			
Received	\$372K	\$422K	\$476K	\$409K	\$446K			
Pledges due	\$149K	\$132K	\$99K	\$98K	unknown			
Year-end	Est. \$500K	\$506K	\$565K	\$496K	\$524K			
actuals								

Annual Campaign: Year-to-date (as of May 19th)

CAMPAIGN	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
YEAR					
Goal	\$530K	\$600K	\$600K	\$600K	\$600K
Received	\$405K	\$441K	\$491K	\$434K	\$474K
Pledges due	\$104K	\$113K	\$89K	\$75K	unknown
Year-end	Est. \$500K	\$506K	\$565K	\$496K	\$524K
actuals					

NOTES:

- 1. Data before 2011/12 AGC is not fully entered in the database.
- 2. Gifts from families of multiples tend to decrease as children graduate.
- 3. Gifts from families of children in middle school only tend to decrease.
- 4. The school lost many parent major gift donors in 2013/14 and 2014/15; new or current parent donors have not accounted for the loss of approximately \$65,000.
- 5. Many SA families reduce their gift each year they attend the school with only a nominal number of families maintaining or increasing their annual gift.
- 6. According to the donor database, the AGC has not achieved the goal of \$600K in unrestricted funds since 2011.
- 7. For the years prior to 2015/16, it is unclear if reported AGC year-end funds did not include some of the previous campaign year's matching gift funds.

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

- 8. Of our current 259 families, 77 families have 2 children attending SA and 13 families have 3 children attending. Of those 77 families, based on our per student deficit of about \$1600: 20 families met or exceeded, 46 gave below the per student deficit and 11 have yet to fulfill their pledge or give. Of the 13 families, based on our per student deficit: 5 met or exceeded, 5 gave below per student deficit and 3 have yet to fulfill their pledge or give.
- 9. At least 47 of our 259 current families have alumni.

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Policy on Employee Evaluations

All employees are accountable for their job performance. Toward that end, the job performance of all non-licensed and non-instructional employees should be evaluated at least annually in accordance with standards and procedures applicable to the position. Instructional staff and other licensed employees shall be evaluated in accordance with the Policy for Growth & Improvement of Teachers and Licensed Employees.

All employees are subject to termination for inadequate performance. Where appropriate, supervisors may engage in counseling with employees as a means of correcting problems with performance. Staff may be required to comply with action plans as a means of addressing inadequate performance.

Contracts may be offered and extended by the Board for administrative staff and instructional staff upon the Executive Director's recommendation to the Board in accordance with applicable law and the Employee Discipline and Non-Renewal Policy.

Adopted:

Policy on Effective Teachers and Professional Development

As provided in the Scholars Academy "Values of Our Community" and "Vision for our Graduates," at Scholars Academy, our guiding principle and true measure of success is fostering a learning environment that supports the distinctive intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted children. We are dedicated to the development of the whole child and aspire to equip our graduates to be confident by fostering intellectual engagement, social awareness and emotional confidence. The Scholars Academy Board of Directors holds the Executive Director accountable for achieving the commitments in this policy.

This policy sets forth how the Board expects to make those commitments a reality. In short, it will require the successful implementation of a coordinated, comprehensive strategy. The essential elements of this strategy as discussed in detail below are:

- ■Recruiting and retaining effective teachers with strong classroom skills and demonstrated understanding of the distinctive intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted children;
- ■Providing opportunities for appropriate professional development;
- ■Matching job assignments with the needs of the students and Scholars Academy:
- ■Evaluating teacher and administrator job performance; and
- ■Holding our Executive Director, other school administrators and teachers accountable for results.

Essential Elements to Having Effective Teachers

Recruitment and Retention

To foster a learning environment that supports the distinctive intellectual, social, and emotional needs of gifted children, Scholars Academy must continually strengthen its efforts to attract and retain effective teachers. Therefore, the Executive Director must work with the Board to develop and implement strategies designed to

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

attract and retain such staff. At a minimum, the strategies should include positive working conditions, professional development and administrative support for student discipline.

Professional Development

A key element to having effective teachers is building their unique skills sets through professional development customized to meet the unique needs of Scholars Academy. Therefore, the Executive Director must ensure that all teachers receive ongoing professional development that will allow them to support the goals laid out in the Scholars Academy "Values of Our Community" and "Vision for our Graduates." At a minimum and subject to budget constraints, the following professional development opportunities should be provided to all teachers:

- ■Management and teacher training focused on implementation of the Scholars Academy charter, "Values of Our Community" and "Vision for our Graduates".
- ■Quality "new to Scholars" staff induction programs with differentiated support for beginning, lateral entry teachers and career staff/teachers which included targeted professional development on gift education.
- ■A comprehensive beginner teachers' support plan, which will be reviewed annually.

The Executive Director shall ensure that teachers are provided the instructional resources and supplies they need to be successful. Teachers should be given regularly scheduled opportunities to meet in teams, as well as participate in professional development appropriate to their individual needs.

Job Assignments

In order to make certain that every class has a strong and effective teacher, the placement of teachers must be considered. The Executive Director has the authority to reassign a member of the instructional staff at any time if a re-assignment will serve the best interests of Scholars Academy.

Evaluation

In order to make certain that every classroom has an effective teacher, accurate assessments based on requirements of law and the Scholars Academy "Values of Our Community" and "Vision for our Graduates" must be developed and used to determine the quality of teachers. When these assessments indicate that improvement is needed, administrators must provide appropriate strategies and support to encourage success of the teacher and his or her students, while holding the teacher accountable. Instructional staff may be required to comply with action plans, in accordance with Policy for Growth and Improvement of Teachers and Licensed Employees as a means of addressing inadequate performance.

Compliance with Requirements of Law

In addition, the Board directs the Executive Director to ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements regarding the qualifications of teachers, including any applicable state law regarding the certification of charter school staff and any federal mandates regarding highly qualified instructional staff.

Administrative Implementation and Management Oversight

Open Session

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Music Room, Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

The Executive Director will develop and implement procedures designed to address each of the above-referenced elements, which procedures shall be reviewed and updated periodically to assure that relevant goals are being achieved.

The Board instructs the Administration to report on at least an annual basis the effectiveness of this policy, aligned with annual budget process.

Adopted: