APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday June 24, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Location
Scholars Academy

Directors Present
A. Gozycki, J. Wagler, M. Dixon, M. Mittal, M. Ramasamy, M. Scruggs, R. Watson, S. Korrapati, S. Liner

Directors Absent
S. Scott

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
M. Scruggs

Ex Officio Members Present
A. Pieper

Guests Present
A. Farooqi, N. Zagorski, T. Hemming, V. Haval

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Watson called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday Jun 24, 2019 at 6:30 PM.
R. Watson noted that this meeting is being recorded.

C. Read Mission Statement

J. Wagler read the mission statement.

D. Approval of Prior Minutes

J. Wagler made a motion to approve minutes from the Special Board Meeting on 05-15-19 Special Board Meeting on 05-15-19.
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

J. Wagler made a motion to approve minutes from the Monthly Board Meeting on 05-20-19 Monthly Board Meeting on 05-20-19.
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Adoption of the Agenda

J. Wagler made a motion to approve the agenda.
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

No comments from the room or on the phone in the first round.
A guest in the room asked about expansion plans in the second round, and was directed to recent newsletter updates from the expansion committee.

III. Director's Report

A. General Items

A. Pieper presented the Director's Report:

Student Enrollment and Performance

- Most recent Enrollment Report has been shared with the board
    - The number of withdrawals are comparably small, and for various reasons
    - Majority of withdrawals are middle school students, no other trends to note
    - 8th grade will be at 41 students due to lack of wait list
- Spanish update - offering 2 sections for 5th and 6th grade Spanish to reduce class size
- New K-3 reading assessment
    - State has mandated we submit a new K-3 reading assessment, and is providing iStation and training for free
        - The school has been using the DRA assessment in K-2, had been looking for something new to try
        - iStation is a computerized assessment that takes about 30 minutes per child, while the DRA was very time consuming
            - Teachers can then work on fluency separately
- Academic data will be available at the summer Board retreat, further discussion will be held at the Educational Excellence committee in August

Governance, Policy, Financial, and Strategic Planning

- Modular update
    - Continuing to work on this, but it may not be in place until school has started.
- 1:1 computers for 8th grade
    - School to provide a loaner computer to each 8th grade student to allow for equal access and increased use
        - Delaying implementation until Ms. Reynolds returns (timing January)
            - Administration to develop a policy packet for students and parents to review and sign
            - Families will be able to opt-out if student has a computer to use at school
- New water fountains have been installed
- Bathroom stall work should start soon
- Making policy improvements to staff contracts, Governance/Policy Committee to assist over the summer

Teachers and Staff

- Interview process for final two positions complete, will discuss further in closed session
- Summer teacher trainings:
    - All new K-2 teachers will attend Letterland training and online Singapore training this summer
    - G. Golba & P. Ellington are taking Project Lead the Way training for the new engineering elective

- EC staff will be trained on the new EC reporting tool
- iStation training 2-3 staff
- All staff: online training in gifted, health, and safety will be held in August
  - Online training allows teachers more time to get classrooms ready once back at school

Upcoming Events/Other

- Staff/student handbook revisions are in progress, will share with Board when complete
- Announcement of all new staff, staff moves, etc. will be addressed in the mid-July newsletter
- Homeroom lists for 1st-8th grades will be available in the first week of August
- K class lists will be released in the last week of July, in time for first Kindergarten playdate on 8/4
- A. Pieper presented Board of Directors plaque to board, features the names of all those who have served on the board since the beginning of the school

M. Scruggs arrived.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Board Recruitment

Committee has interviewed all candidates and will further discuss in closed session

B. Election of Officers

S. Liner made a motion to nominate M. Dixon as Board Chair
M. Mittal seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Gozycki made a motion to nominate S. Liner for Vice Chair.
M. Scruggs seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Gozycki announced that she is stepping down as secretary after two years. The Board will keep this position open until the new board members join the board and will appoint the next secretary at that time.

S. Liner made a motion to nominate M. Mittal as Treasurer.
M Scruggs seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Board Member Assessment

A. Gozycki thanked the board members who have completed assessment, and asked those who haven't to complete prior to the board retreat.

- A. Pieper will also be sent a link to participate and give board feedback.
- Board will review in further detail at the board retreat.

V. Finance Committee

A. Budget Review and Approval

M. Mittal reviewed spending priorities for FY20 Budget:

- Adding $204K to budget and $20K for capital expenses
  - Increase in teacher salaries to match CMS
  - Raise for non-certified teachers and staff
  - Increase in Longevity Bonus
  - 1/2 new position for middle school math
  - Refinance
  - HVAC repair
  - HP carts
  - Elective stipend
  - Athletic Coach
  - 20 in 2020 Celebration
  - Cleaning instrument
- Spending Adjustments/Increased Revenue led to $33K in budget savings
- M. Mittal also covered off on true-ups and changes to FY19-20 budget

M. Mittal made a motion to approve the budget for FY19-20.
M. Ramasamy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Budget Amendments

M. Mittal presented Budget Amendments to current FY18-19 Budget

- Current Deficit of $54,245.55
  - Annual Campaign is currently $25K short of goal

M. Mittal made a motion to approve the budget amendments.
M. Scruggs seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Refinance

M. Mittal shared that we have 4 months before needing to refinance, but it will require 2-3 months lead time to complete. Board will need to approve directionally in August.

VI. Expansion Committee

A. Expansion Updates

S. Korrapati presented the Expansion update:

- Waiting for a list of land/building options from our contact who we signed the LOI with last month
- Committee has also been securing and planning for the modular unit
  - Currently handling code issues and working through solutions (one additional girls' toilet required)

B. Foundation Update

M. Ramasamy gave committee update, will discuss more in closed session.

VII. Closed Session (if necessary)

A. Closed Session

M. Scruggs made a motion to convene in Closed Session pursuant to "Permitted Purposes" under N.C.G.S. §143-318.11: (e) To discuss contract negotiations.
J. Wagler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

M. Scruggs made a motion to extend contracts to instructional staff and other staff as discussed in closed session.
J. Wagler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

M. Scruggs made a motion to approve the slate of new board members as discussed in closed session.
J. Wagler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Adjourn Meeting

M. Scruggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
J. Wagler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously 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 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Gozycki