APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday November 25, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Location
Scholars Academy Board Room

Directors Present
A. Farooqi, A. Gozycki, A. O'Rourke (remote), M. Dixon, M. Mittal, M. Ramasamy, S. Dasu, S. Korrapati, S. Liner, S. Schroeck

Directors Absent
None

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
A. O'Rourke

Ex Officio Members Present
A. Pieper

Guests Present
T. Hemming

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

There was one member of the community on the telephone conference line.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Dixon called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday Nov 25, 2019 at 6:34 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

M. Ramasamy read the Mission Statement.

D. Administrative Meeting Review

M. Dixon discussed the length of the last two meetings with the goal of getting out of the meetings earlier.
-If a Committee Chair receives an agenda and notes that he or she does not have enough time on the agenda, that needs to be communicated ahead of time.
-Anything needing more discussion should go back to committee.
-At the present time, it is not necessary to use a timer or parliamentarian.

E. Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 10-28-19 Board Meeting on 10-28-19.
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 09-23-19 Board Meeting on 09-23-19.
A. Gozycki seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Adoption of the Agenda

S. Liner made a motion to adopt the agenda including one change whereby there will not be a vote on the modular unit, but there will be an FYI discussion instead.
A. Gozycki seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

No members of the community made a comment.

III. Director's Report

A. General Items

A. Pieper gave the Directors Report.

Educational Excellence and Student Information:

Waiting List update: One student is known to be leaving in December. Last month, two sixth graders were added.
Admissions update: Both open houses were held. Tuesday tours have been very well attended. The group test deadline has been extended to the 16th of December in order to allow the diversity committee to run an event at the Beatties Ford Library.
Technology: Working on new policy and procedures to reduce loss/theft of equipment to be voted on at the January Board meeting so that 8th Graders can be given 1:1 use of Chromebooks.

Teachers and Staff:

All staff required to make goals toward professional development for gifted standards.
Hiring Committee has interviewed some teacher candidates for the 2020-2021 School Year.
CMPD traffic control - There is an officer in place for pickup/dropoff carpool traffic control. There has been no word so far regarding the grant for which the school applied to offset the cost of hiring the resource officer.

Expansion and Finance:

The Expansion Committee is exploring the big picture of what expansion will look like.
Turf repair - the original quote was too high. The school will give the contract to another company that gave a lower estimate. There is no need to vote on it because it is in the budget.
Copier contract - changing to new contract will allow staff to make unlimited copies. The proposed contract will fit within the budget. The Board will discuss the new contract in closed session and vote, if needed, in open session.

Governance, Diversity, and Policy:

The Board will discuss Strategic Plan in the Governance section
AIG policy amendment will be discussed in policy section
Naming Policy will not be discussed tonight, but the policy committee will work on a plan to update the naming policy in light of expansion.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Governance Committee Update

A. Gozycki gave the Governance update.

The Governance Committee is tasked with reviewing the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan which is phasing out. Much of what was in the plan has been implemented. The outcome of the Plan will be shared with the community at a later date. The Committee has discussed what the committee has learned about how to best delegate goals and actions on the 2021-2025 strategic plan in order to increase the likelihood of full implementation of each goal.

In creating a new Strategic Plan, the committee plans to communicate the status of the goals and subgoals to the school community and will seek input from the community.

B. Update

S. Liner reported. There will be a 360 degree evaluation of the Executive Director in January. The Board and Staff will fill out surveys.
A. O'Rourke arrived.

V. Expansion Committee

A. Expansion Updates

S. Korrapati gave the update. The committee is continuing to visit sites and have met with lenders about financing to review different options available. Contract updates will be discussed in closed session.

B. Expansion Student & Staffing Projections

A. Pieper discussed student and staff projections. In order to accommodate the number of students and staff planned in expansion, the new or renovated building would have to be a minimum of 75,000 square feet.

C. Modular Unit Update

S. Korrapati reported. There have been roadblocks with the vendors and are still waiting on the contracts.

VI. Finance Committee Update

A. Refinance Update

M. Mittal received documents today regarding the refinance. Will be discussed in closed session.

VII. Policy Committee

A. Amendment to AIG Certification/Praxis Testing Policy

A. O'Rourke made a motion to adopt a change to the policy regarding AIG Certification/Praxis Testing and Reimbursement to include an alternate path to certification and allow any teacher who faces financial obstacles to completing the designated path to apply to Scholars Academy for need-based financial assistance.
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Admissions Policy Clarifying Amendment

A. O'Rourke made a motion to clarify the language in the admissions policy under the heading "lottery." A new paragraph will read: "For the avoidance of doubt, each lottery's resulting Wait List will be used to fill openings that become available during the school year for which the applicant applied. An opening becomes available upon a student's withdrawal from the school. So, for example, if a student withdraws the day after the end of the 2019-2020 term, that opening will be filled from the Wait List formed during the 2020-2021 lottery.".
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Development Committee

A. Development Committee Update

A. Farooqi gave the development update. As of today, the ACGC pledged gifts are significantly ahead of last year this time.

Development members had a session with the PTO to bring awareness to the ACGC and to recruit volunteers to be ambassadors.

Sealed Air has confirmed that they will sponsor the Science Fair.

There will be a founder plaque presented for the Selembo Foundation.

Volunteer database: A. Farooqi is working with a parent who is a programmer to fix the problems with the database.

B. 20 in 2020 Update

S. Schroeck gave an update on the 20 in 2020 event. There are five sponsor companies for the event to date.

IX. Diversity Committee

A. Diversity Update

S. Dasu gave the diversity update. There will be a recruitment event at the Beatties Ford library December 7, 9:00-11:30 AM. There have been three zip codes identified as targets for recruitment. The Diversity Committee recommends to have Transportation and After-Care funding to be included as priorities for next year's budget.

X. Foundation Committee

A. Foundation Update

M. Ramasamy gave the Foundation report. The Board will discuss in closed session an update on the budget amount for legal council.

XI. Community Comments (Second Opportunity) - Subject to Guidelines

A. Agenda Item Summary

There were no comments from members of the community.

XII. Closed Session (if necessary)

A. Closed Session

S. Korrapati made a motion to convene in Closed Session pursuant to "Permitted Purposes" under N.C.G.S. §143-318.11: (a) To prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information; (e) To discuss contract negotiations. M. Ramasamy seconded.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

XIII. Closing Items

A. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

A. O'Rourke made a motion to approve the copier contract as discussed in closed session.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Adjourn Meeting

M. Mittal made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
M. Ramasamy 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 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Schroeck