APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

August 24, 2020 Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday August 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Location

Directors Present
A. Farooqi (remote), A. Starling (remote), A. Young (remote), C. Lewis (remote), M. Dixon (remote), M. Ramasamy (remote), S. Dasu (remote), S. Korrapati (remote), S. Liner (remote), S. Schroeck (remote)

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
A. Pieper (remote)

Guests Present
Enrique Alvarez (remote), N. Reynolds (remote), N. Zagorski (remote), Stacey Henderson (remote), T. Hemming (remote), T. Miller (remote), anne mitchell (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

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 Aug 24, 2020 at 6:34 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

A. Young read the mission statement.

D. Administrative Meeting Review

M. Dixon reminded participants and panelists that meetings will be broadcast via Zoom webinar platform which requires registration. Beginning in September, meetings will be broadcast using YouTube in addition to the Zoom webinar for members of the public who wish to view the meeting without pre-registration.

E. Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the minutes from SPECIAL Board Meeting on 08-10-20.
S. Dasu seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Adoption of the Agenda

S. Liner made a motion to include a vote under the Director's Report.
M. Ramasamy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
M. Ramasamy made a motion to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.
S. Dasu seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

There were no members of the community who wished to make a comment.

III. Director's Report

A. General Items

A. Pieper gave the Director's Report.

Educational Excellence and Student Information:

Recap of Orientation and first day of in-school Classes: All students participated in either an in-person or virtual orientation.
100% of students attended school on the first day, so the school will receive the full funding per student.
Despite some technology glitches, the first day of hybrid school went very smoothly with K-4 hybrid students in physical attendance.

The State is requiring some Fall testing. 4th graders must take iReady Reading Test (because they were not able to get the end of grade testing at the end of third grade due to school closure) within the first 10 days of school. In the first 20 days, we have to give the beginning of grade test to Third Grade hybrid students and are looking into how to get the same data from virtual students as well. The rest of K-8 iReady testing will be administered in September. More information about that will be communicated to parents in the next few weeks.

Special Events:

Virtual and Hybrid Student Q&A Sessions were well attended. There will be a Community Q&A session every Thursday through September.

Curriculum Night (teacher talk) will be all virtual September 14th-16th.

Teachers and Staff:

There will be a personnel discussion in Closed Session.

Board Committee Updates:

The School did receive a School Safety Grant to hire a police presence.
The School has not yet received word on any additional funding for PPE or health and safety modifications.
The Board will vote tonight to approve the application for Title II grant documents seeking Federal funding for teacher improvement for culturally responsive practices and training that had been planned for the end of last year but did not happen. This is in response to data collected from staff and community surveys sent out by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Training will support culturally responsive classroom practices and training teachers to be more aware of issues of diversity and inclusion which have been identified.
S. Liner made a motion to authorize the submission of the Title II grant documents as discussed in the ED Report.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Expansion Committee

A.

Status Review

S. Korrapati gave the Expansion Committee report.
The Expansion Committee has been in negotiations to purchase an existing building located five miles north of the current location. Due to a confidentiality agreement, details could not be shared until now. The purchase agreement is contingent on the sale of the current building and the securing of financing. More details can be shared at next month's board meeting.

V. Governance Committee

A. Status Review

S. Liner gave the Governance Committee update.
The Committee plans to meet September 10 and will discuss actionable year one goals pursuant to the relevant subgoals in the Strategic Plan.

VI. Diversity & Inclusion

A. Status Review

S. Dasu gave the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report.
Diversity and Inclusion Committee had a meeting in August to review survey results and list three tasks that they would like to aim for this school year tied to the strategic goals.
-Submit an application for a NC Grant.
-Host virtual community events through Zoom with targeted topics.
-Continue to build intentional teaching topics and share with the Whole Child Committee and Educational Excellence Committee.

VII. Educational Excellence

A. Status Review

C. Lewis gave the Educational Excellence Committee Update.
The Committee met to discuss goals included in the Strategic Plan that will be tackled this year.
-Partial teacher resource that's able to focus on being a gifted instruction coach
-A Communication Plan that focuses on the K-2 Pathway Assessments
-Share on website K-8 curriculum for Social Studies and Science

VIII. Policy Committee

A. Status Review

A. Young gave the Policy Committee update. The committee will meet for the first time on September 8. Outstanding Policies will be discussed.

IX. Development Committee

A. Status Review

A. Farooqi gave the Development Committee Report. The Committee had a meeting in August to discuss the Strategic Plan subgoals. There will be a separate meeting regarding the Annual Giving Campaign.

X. Foundation Committee

A. Foundation Committee Update

M. Ramasamy gave the Foundation Committee Update.
Now that the Foundation is up and running, the prioritized activity has been to discuss strategies to recruit members for the Foundation Board.

XI. Finance Committee Update

A. Budget Amendments

A. Starling gave the Finance Committee Update.

Per pupil revenue received from the State was higher than budgeted so the budget has to be amended to reflect more revenue.
A. Starling made a motion to approve Budget amendments as proposed.
S. Liner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

A. Agenda Item Summary

There were no members of the community who wished to make a comment.

XIII. Closed Session (if necessary)

A. Closed Session

S. Liner made a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to allowable circumstances prescribed in N.C.G.S. §143-318.11:(f) To discuss personnel matters involving an individual employee or prospective employee.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XIV. Closing Items

A. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

There are no items from Closed Session that require a vote.

A. Starling clarified that the Budget Amendments that were approved in open session give the budget a surplus of over $99,000 due to additional revenue and a decrease in expenses.

B. Adjourn Meeting

S. Korrapati made a motion to adjourn.
S. Dasu 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 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Schroeck