APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday May 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Location
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEVHO5vOxDPKvqIkc8Tp04g

Directors Present
A. Farooqi, A. Starling, C. Lewis, E. Womer, K. Neal, S. Dasu, S. Korrapati, S. Schroeck, W. Ning

Directors Absent
A. Young, N. Morrison

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
W. Ning

Ex Officio Members Present
A. Pieper

Guests Present
Dominique Palmer (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Dasu called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday May 16, 2022 at 6:33 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

A. Farooqi read the Mission Statement.

D. Administrative Meeting Review

S. Dasu read the Zoom Webinar Etiquette/Rules.

E. Approval of Prior Minutes 04/25, 2022

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 04-25-22.
K. Neal seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Adoption of the Agenda

C. Lewis made a motion to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** 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.

Staff and Students
2022-23 Staff Slate will be presented to the Board in closed session.
Last day of school, June 3rd is an early release date.
Report Cards go out June 10th.

Academic Programs and Upcoming Events

- Teacher Appreciation Week was successful. Some of the teachers were able to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank. Teachers had lunch offsite.

- This coming Wednesday will be Field Day at Freedom Park (all grades in same day). Transportation will be provided for all students to and from the park.
- The Spring Social will be Friday, May 20th.
- EOGs/EOCs will be from May 20th to May 26th.
- The Talent Show will take place on May 31st.
- Scholars Summer Camp will be July 11th to July 22nd. This is the same summer camp that was offered last Summer.
- New Student Orientation will be August 2nd.

B. SA Indoor Mask Usage

Ms. Pieper does not recommend any changes to the mask policy for these last few weeks of school. There have been a handful of cases each week, but the numbers have not been alarming enough to close classrooms or to recommend any change in policy.
S. Schroeck made a motion to continue the "mask recommended" policy to the end of the school year.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Expansion Committee

A. Status Review

S. Korrapati gave the Expansion Committee Update.

Expansion committee had a meeting this past Friday. The Committee provided information on the subcommittee's work for the past year and discussed next steps for the upcoming year. At this time, we are looking for assistance from anyone in our community with real estate experience to help us pursue more opportunities. If anyone is interested, we ask that they please email board@scholarsacadmy.org. We will also be updating our website shortly to include for information on expansion.

V. Governance Committee

A. Status Review

C. Lewis gave the Governance Committee Update.

The Governance Committee met last Friday.
The members of the Board attended the first ever Board development training session this month on the topic of Charter School Finance and Reporting.

The Board will do a first read of the proposed Financial Policy this evening. E. Womer will go into more detail during the Policy Committee Update. The policies will also be discussed in depth at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

N. Morrison is leading the effort to research and find new software for Management of Board Documents and Meetings (to replace Board on Track). The committee will begin reviewing software demos this week.

The Board is actively recruiting members. Applications will be accepted until May 27th at 5:00PM. The application is in the Board Section of the School website and in the weekly newsletter. Interviews will be conducted in June and Board members will be selected in the June 27 Board Meeting.

The Governance Committee is considering which tools to use for Board assessment this year.

Committee chairs have been asked to update the Governance Committee with any changes to strategic priorities. The committee is discussing officer succession plans and wrapping up sub-committee goals and status.

The Committee has also concluded the annual ED Evaluation Process. The Evaluation was discussed with Ms. Pieper.

Staff Contracts and Personnel Matters to be discussed in Closed Session.

A. Farooqi asked that the Foundation Committee be able to attend and present at the Board retreat in the Summer.

VI. Whole Child Committee

A. Status Review

S. Schroeck gave the Whole Child Committee Update.

The Whole Child Committee met the first Thursday of May during the Grandpeople Day event so that they could simultaneously hold the meeting and run the zoom helpdesk. They discussed how we can support the school counselors during Mental Health Awareness Month (which is this month). We created Mental Health Awareness Ribbons which the counselors will pass out to teachers and staff at some point this month. The Committee will provide teacher and proctor snacks for testing week. The committee also discussed getting an earlier start on planning support for the counselors and staff for Mental Health Awareness Month next year.

VII. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates

A. Status Review

K. Neal gave the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update.

The Committee has finalized the DEI Plan. It will be given to the Board to review. The Board will vote on in at next month's meeting. This document will be added to the school documents which include the School Mission and Vision for Our Graduates.

VIII. Educational Excellence Committee Updates

A. Status Review

A. Pieper gave the Educational Excellence Committee Update.

The Committee continues to focus on student focus groups and collecting feedback from students. The feedback has been valuable and the students have been candid in the sessions.

The Committee has decided to expand the focus groups to include some third and fourth grade students.

IX. Foundation

A. Status Review

A. Farooqi gave the Foundation report.

Overall family participation in the ACGC is 88% which is higher than last year. Total of donated/pledged amount is $541,994, which is also higher than last year.

X. Finance Committee Update

A. Finance Recommendations

A. Starling gave the Finance Committee Update.

The committee has not met since the last Board Meeting. There have been some minor changes to the budget. A revenue line item was added for ticket sales for events and sporting events. An expense line item was added for teacher/staff awards.

Tonight, the Board will be asked to approve the 2022-2023 budget. The budget adds salary increases and some additional benefits for teachers and staff (short-term disability insurance and flexible spending accounts) as well as making the school bus drivers full-time employees.

XI. Policy Committee Updates

A. Policy Updates

E. Womer gave the Policy Committee Update.

The Board has received a copy of the new Finance Policies. The Finance Committee will review the policies to make sure that they serve our finance goals, they are appropriately flexible, and ensure accountability. The new policy is consistent with how the school operates now, but the policy formalizes responsibilities.

The Committee is considering new tools to replace Board on Track.

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.
W. Ning arrived.

XIII. Closed Session

A. Vote to go into Closed Session

S. Korrapati made a motion to convene in closed session n pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11: (a) To prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information; (e) To discuss contract negotiations; (f) To discuss personnel matters involving an individual.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Closed Session

C. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

A. Starling made a motion to approve the personnel contract as recommended by the Administration.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
A. Starling made a motion to approve the 2022-23 Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
A. Starling made a motion to approve the personnel slate as recommended by the Executive Director for the 2022-2021 school year.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

A. Starling made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** 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 9:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Schroeck