



## Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

### Minutes

#### SA Monthly Board Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Monday September 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM

##### **Location**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Topic: Scholars Academy Monthly Board Meetings

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tVP7q8nNR9O4LaIS1aV99g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tVP7q8nNR9O4LaIS1aV99g)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

You may also watch the meeting live via YouTube stream, at <rtmp://a.rtmp.youtube.com/live2>

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##### **Directors Present**

A. Farooqi, A. Starling, C. Lewis, D. Palmer, E. Womer, M. Pfaff, S. Dasu, W. Ning

##### **Directors Absent**

N. Morrison

##### **Ex Officio Members Present**

A. Pieper

##### **Non Voting Members Present**

A. Pieper

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## **Guests Present**

Alison Hall, Anne Mitchell (remote), Brian Healey (remote), K. Ely (remote), N. Zagorski (remote), Toni Hemming (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

C. Lewis called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday Sep 26, 2022 at 6:36 PM.

### **C. Read Mission Statement**

### **D. Administrative Meeting Review**

### **E. Approval of Prior Minutes 8/29/22**

A. Starling made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 08-29-22.

A. Farooqi seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **F. Adoption of the Agenda**

S. Dasu made a motion to Approve agenda.

A. Starling seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **G. Elect director to fill current vacancy**

S. Dasu made a motion to vote on Alison Hall as a Director to replace Kerbie Neal's position and fulfill the rest of her commitment.

W. Ning seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **II. Director's Report**

### **A. General Items**

- Staff Report
  - Opening for 1st-grade teacher and school counselor
  - Hiring discussions for closed session
- Enrollment Report

- Average Daily Membership (ADM) 391 for the 2022-2023 school year (down by 3 - did not add 2 additional 5th graders and did not replace a 4th-grade vacancy). School funding is based on ADM.
- all families have returned from overseas
- 186 students on the current waitlist
- 2021-2022 Testing Data Review
  - State Testing
    - BOG (3rd grade only), EOG (3rd grade - 8th grade), EOC (HS Math 1, Math3, and Biology)
    - 91% rating for 2021-2022 (A rating every year since 2013)
    - Overall growth target not met this year - measures cohorts and schoolwide growth year over year
      - Met in Math and EOCs
      - Not met in Reading and Science
- iReady
  - Goals set by Educational Excellence Committee
    - K to 1st grade (tested at grade level) - 95% of students will demonstrate one year's growth
    - 2nd grade (tested one grade level ahead) - 80% of students will be working above grade level (early+ or more)
    - 3rd to 8th grade (tested one grade level ahead) - 80% of students will be working at least one-half year above grade level (mid+ or more)
- Action items
  - Review data in detail in Educational Excellence - discuss any issues that are seen in the data
  - No single data point is used for a child but the data is used to inform instruction and to look for intervention
- Reviewed 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022 EOG/EOC data (Math, Reading, Science)
- Reviewed 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 iReady data (Math, Reading)
- Removing barriers to attendance
  - 151 riders - \$450/semester per child
  - reduced fee, payment plans, or no cost available for families with economic need
  - 3 routes - North Charlotte + 2 South Charlotte routes
  - Plans to add West Charlotte/Steele Creek route in the future
  - 2 FT drivers, 1 PT driver, Mr. Marino drives PT
  - Radios were installed on buses. Drivers can update the school about delays and children who have not been picked up.
  - Remind app for communicating with parents
  - School Pass (new software) will be launched in early October
    - tracks when child has been put on the bus
    - parents can mark when child is not riding in the app
    - Future goal is to have internet installed on the bus to enable more real-time communication.

- Lunch Program
  - MyHotLunch Box - daily service from local food vendors
  - Ability to pay with school card for students in need using revenue from donations and My Hot Lunch Box
  - Emergency lunches for all students
- How does a family indicate need?
  - School will follow up with families that indicated they meet the federal income thresholds from Economically Disadvantaged Students (EDS) Form. Families may be eligible for additional services.
- Other Support for Students
  - PTO support for school supplies and field trip scholarships
  - Considering using unclaimed items from Lost and Found to create a clothing closet for students that may have clothing needs.
  - Professional development for staff - Poverty and Trauma-Informed Practices (funded by Access Grant)
  - For prospective students:
    - Targeted marketing-to underrepresented groups, free group test, translating collateral (Spanish and Chinese)
  - 2023-2024 Applications are open. They are now fillable PDFs.
- Karen Ely - Student Support Services
  - Exceptional Children - special education services
  - 504 - services for students with medical conditions that affect learning
  - speech services
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Counseling
  - Intervention services
  - NC Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS) - for students operating above Scholars' curriculum)

### **III. Governance Committee**

#### **A. Status Review**

- 9/19 Meeting
  - Vote for an amendment to the school calendar
    - 2/20 is a holiday (not Teacher Workday)
    - 2/27 move to a virtual day
- Reminder - Background checks for all volunteers every 2 years. Contact Ms. Pantuso.
- Employment contracts to review in closed session

### **IV. Policy Committee Updates**

#### **A. Policy Updates**

Next meeting is 10/3

## **V. Expansion Committee**

### **A. Status Review**

No public meetings are scheduled.

Additional discussions in closed session

## **VI. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates**

### **A. Status Review**

First meeting 9/30.

## **VII. Educational Excellence Committee Updates**

### **A. Status Review**

Defined goals for this school year.

Goal - How do we differentiate middle school kids from elementary kids?

Goal - Survey to parents focused on what they want middle school to be (est in 45 days)

## **VIII. Foundation**

### **A. Status Review**

October Pledge drive kicks off on 9/30.

20 Parent Ambassadors signed up

2022-2023 including pledges

~\$123,000

\$69,000 - pledge amount

\$11,000 monthly + match gifts (2021-2022 school year)

\$18,000 donations

## **IX. Whole Child Committee**

### **A. Status Review**

9/28 first meeting

## X. Finance Committee Update

### A. Finance Recommendations

#### Budget Amendments

Budget was passed in May. Amendments due to:

- ~\$74,000 adjustment
  - state and local % remained flat (assumed a 2% increase)
  - assumed the same headcount (3 less)
- increase in expenses
  - benefits cost (\$55,000), staff development (\$10,000), utilities, bus-related expenses.
- federal funds - grant money being rolled over.
- \$177,000 2022 year-end surplus rolled over.
- Requesting approval to pay health insurance payments (exceeds the \$20,000 threshold).

Reimbursement resolution to replace existing resolution agreement

## XI. Closed Session

### A. Closed Session

A. Starling made a motion to go into closed session to discuss expansion and staff contracts.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## XII. Closing Items

### A. Vote on any items from Closed Session

A. Farooqi made a motion to change the teacher workday scheduled for February 20th as a no-school day and change the February 27th to a virtual day.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Farooqi made a motion to approve the budget amendments as recommended by the finance committee.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Farooqi made a motion to adopt the reimbursement resolution as proposed by the finance committee.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Farooqi made a motion to adopt a standing approval of the monthly benefits payment, not to exceed \$35,000 per month.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Farooqi made a motion to approve expansion related expenses up to \$10,000 as discussed in closed session.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Farooqi made a motion to approve employment contracts as presented in closed session.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **B. Adjourn Meeting**

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,

D. Palmer