APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday October 24, 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

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

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

Directors Absent
N. Morrison

Ex Officio Members Present
A. Pieper

Guests Present
A. Gozycki, Enrique Alvarez (remote), Julie Doll (remote), T. Hemming (remote)

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 Oct 24, 2022 at 6:35 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

D. Administrative Meeting Review

E. Approval of Prior Minutes 9/26/22

A. Starling made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 09-26-22.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Adoption of the Agenda

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

Julie Doll
Board Meeting is noted as a 6:00 PM start time for the ZOOM confirmation. Update to 6:30 PM in communications.

III. Director's Report

A. General Items

- Staff Update **(6:56)**
  - Bus Drivers- New bus driver started on 10/17, in the process of hiring a new bus driver. Mr. Marino will be a backup driver to fill in for when a bus driver isn't available.
  - Ms. Hanson has moved to the 1st-grade classroom as a long-term substitute until a permanent hire has been made for that classroom. We are hiring for a long-term substitute who can serve as a backup TA.
  - In the process of interviewing teacher assistants (TAs)
  - Short on substitutes 2 or 3 times every week. Looking for people willing to serve as substitutes.

- New counselor started and has started going to classrooms to meet the students.

• Compliance
- Discussed the Title II - Prayer and Assurance Form - no vote needed (attached to the agenda)
- Grant funding is used for teacher development.

• Enrollment and Staffing
- 390 students for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Projected to increase to 442 in 2023-2024 SY if expansion happens. 390 this year.
- The current waitlist is 222 for all grades up from 193.
- 88% teacher retention, 95% student retention.

• Marketing update (Alicia) **(18:45)**
- Alicia reviewed the marketing plan for this school year
- Leveraging social media to connect with the community, families, alumni
- No-cost marketing channels
  - Virtual parent support group (monthly, except February)
  - Gifted Minds Conference virtual and in-person (February)
  - Virtual Q&A sessions
- Media Placement:
  - Niche.com partnership is live. We have a tailored profile. Meet with rep monthly.
  - Qcitymetro.com was founded in 2008, to serve the local black audience in Charlotte, 7,500+ Facebook, and 9,000+ daily newsletter reach (33% open rate). Sponsored article to increase awareness of Scholars as an option, as well as highlight our DEI accomplishments. Added value - feature in their Living Charlotte section.
  - National Association for Gifted Children - NAGC News Source (weekly newsletter) to promote the conference in February and increase awareness of Scholars. They have a 60% - 70% open rate.
  - Earmarked funds for Hispanic media. The preference is to build a relationship with this community through an in-person event with staff and potentially older students.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Status Review

(34:20)

• 10/17 meeting - State compliance review from last school year - in compliance
• Board retreat second session pending - AJ is coordinating
• Staff survey deferred to January 2023

V. Policy Committee Updates

A. Policy Updates

(36:10)

- Policy updates are needed.
- Developing a plan of action and will bring it to the board for a vote.

VI. Expansion Committee

A. Status Review

(37:32)

- No in-person meetings.
- Additional discussion in closed session.

VII. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Updates

A. Status Review

(37:52)

- 10/5 meeting and reviewed strategic plan.
- Collaborating with the marketing team on media placement.
- 10/28 next meeting.

VIII. Educational Excellence Committee Updates

A. Status Review

(38:35)

- 10/14 reviewed student testing results.
  - Monitoring second-grade math scores.
  - New 3rd grade (14 additional kids) cohort starting in the 2021-2022 school year. How will it impact cohort measurements?
- How do we differentiate middle school? Plan to solicit feedback from the parent community to develop a teaching approach for middle school.

IX. Foundation

A. Status Review

(41:35)
As of 10.24.22

- 42% for current families (42% for the prior year)
- 39% for new families (44% prior)
- 96% volunteer Leadership (board, Trustees, PTO officers) (96% PRIOR)
- 90% FACULTY AND STAFF (100% PRIOR)
- In progress
    - pledge week challenge for the last week of October
    - Giving Tuesday Campaign (11/29)
    - Preparations for Parent Ambassador Outreach to non-pledged families.
- Strategic Goals
    - 974% ROI
    - Foundation Liasion is working on the first phase of an Informal Communications Audit with the school's Marketing Coordinator and Communications & Data Manager, Phase One will look at our own messaging (current families, staff) about SA and ways we can improve to be more accurate, clear, and consistent.

X. Whole Child Committee

A. Status Review

(49:22)

- 9/28 Meeting
- Posts on Social Media - every 2 weeks
- SEL document for parents
- Creating messaging for leadership to talk about
- Eagle Vision Awards and Parent Updates in October meeting.
- The next meeting is 10/26

XI. Finance Committee Update

A. Finance Recommendations

(55:55)
Met last week

- No proposed budget amendments
- Concerns about rising interest rates. The current loan has a floating interest rate: with an estimated impact of ~$25,000 for this school year.
- Final funding from State expected in November
- Reviewed financials thru 9/30/22
- Audit report provided for review - due to the bank 10/28 and state 10/31. Must be approved by the board, and signed by the auditor.

    - The audit report includes the foundation for the first time.
- Recommend investing $750,000 in 3-month CDs (3.35% interest). ~$2,000 - $4,000 in additional interest.
    - Typically recommend 6-month CDs but allows liquidity in late January if needed for expansion.
    - $1.5 m operating, $0.5m in savings, and additional funds are invested.

W. Ning made a motion to approve the 2022 financial audit as presented by the finance committee.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
W. Ning made a motion to approve reinvesting $750,000 into 3-month CDs.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XII. Closed Session

A. Closed Session

S. Dasu made a motion to go into closed session.
A. Farooqi seconded the motion.
to discuss expansion-related contract.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XIII. Closing Items

A. Vote on any items from Closed Session

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Palmer