APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday January 27, 2025 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_QnF5XYNnTLmdSvALkzNuPQ

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 Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy - Charlotte - YouTube

Directors Present
A. Starling, D. Palmer, D. Tijerina, E. Alvarez, E. Womer, J. Doll, K. Becnel, L. Lopez, M. Dixon

Directors Absent
A. Hall

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Carper

Guests Present
Kim Becnel, Mel Ahlers (remote), Melissa Lundy (remote), S. Dasu (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Palmer called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday Jan 27, 2025 at 6:40 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

Julie Doll read the Mission statement.

D. Administrative Meeting Review

D. Palmer read the Zoom Webinar Etiquette/Rules.

E. Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting - 11-25-24

E. Alvarez made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting on 11-25-24.
D. Tijerina seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting - 12-13-24

E. Alvarez made a motion to approve the minutes from Scholars Academy Special Board Meeting on 12-13-24.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
E. Alvarez made a motion to approve the minutes from Scholars Academy Special Board Meeting - Closed Session on 12-13-24.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

G. Adoption of the Agenda

M. Dixon made a motion to Amend the January 27, 2025 Agenda for voting on the 2025/26 academic calendar and to vote on the Finance Committee recommendations.
E. Alvarez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

No Community Comments

III. Director's Report

A. General Report

Celebrations

- Thirteen band students auditioned for the All-District. Middle School Honor Band.
- Eight placed in the Symphonic band
- Four students....

2025-26 School Calendar

- Mr. Carper reviewed the school calendar for next year
- Discussed inclement weather days

Gifted Conference on February 18th

- Dr. Brian Housand will be the speaker
- Ms. Chicano will discuss the Anxious Generation community read book
- This is open to individuals outside of the Scholars community

Academic Director search

- Focus is on gifted instruction
- Working towards finding and hiring the right candidate by the end of February

Discussed group testing and the applications process
E. Alvarez made a motion to Approve the 2025/26 academic calendar as recommended by the Executive Director.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Charter Renewal Received

Received the charter renewal on January 14th. This renewal is for 10 years.

B. ED Evaluation

The Governance Committee put out a survey to the staff for mid-year evaluations of the Executive Director. They are analyzing the results and will present them to the Board.

V. Policy Committee

A. Video Surveillance Policy - Approve

1. Our school will benefit from having a policy outlining the appropriate use of video surveillance in our school within the boundaries of Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA).
2. The committee has prepared a policy that is ready for Approval.

M. Dixon made a motion to Approve the video surveillance policy.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. TITLE IX

The Biden administration's Title IX policy was struck down in court, so it must be reverted to the 2020 policy (because the 2024 policy is no longer applicable).
Three changes are required to implement the change:

1. Personnel changes
2. The 2020 Title IX policy must be posted to the website
3. A training manual must be provided to the staff

This is the first read. However, because it is the 2020 policy, it is technically already approved. Therefore, we will vote to approve it at the next meeting.

C. ICE/Immigration Legal Alert

The Trump Administration rescinded a 2021 memo by DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas that designated schools and other community services as “protected areas.” This rule stated that ICE agents should not carry out enforcement activities in these locations to the extent possible. Accordingly, counsel has recommended that SA develop a protocol or policy for dealing with ICE enforcement and ensure all staff know what to do under these circumstances.
The first read of this policy should be ready next meeting.

VI. Foundation

A. Update

As of January 23, 2025:

- Donations $201,352.00
- Pledges $156,904.00
- Total $358,126.00

- 79% Returning Families
- 81% New Families
- 79.6% Overall participation

Which is just over $13k above in total pledge donations from this time last year.

VII. FAST Committee

A. Monthly updates

We had a meeting in December where we reviewed our historical path with regards to expansion and we will continue with strategic planning which will inform the path forward regarding expansion.

VIII. Educational Excellence Committee

A. Curriculum Updates

- The Middle School Computer Science Program is under review to comply with new state requirements. The target completion is March 2025 for the 2025 - 2026 school year
  - For reference, the requirement is found here: Computer Science Graduation Requirement | NC DPI
- Social Studies and Science Curriculum Update
  - Ms. Z led vertical planning the week of Nov. 18th
- Foreign language options are also being discussed.
- The next staff meeting committee will be in early February.

B. Media Policy Update

- The committee is reviewing sample policies before drafting proposed changes.
- The draft will be sent to the Policy Committee in February for their review.
- The goal is to share with the board in March for the first read to the Board

C. Parent Survey

- The Educational Excellence Committee will lead the Parent Survey development and launch in mid to late February.
- The survey will include questions about foreign language and computer science options (if options exist) and incorporate questions from the Whole Child and FAST committees.
- The Survey Draft will be sent to the Board for feedback

IX. Finance Committee

A.

Financial Updates

Finance committee met this morning

- Discussed budget updates
- Lower interest rates
- Higher classroom supplies
- Lower maintenance costs thus far (but may have additional costs due to anticipated HVAC repairs)
- Will discuss higher stipends for staff in closed session
- The finance committee wants to move $250K out of savings and purchase a CD. They recommend an 11-month CD for this one so that renewals of all CDs will mature every other month.
- Question - Do CD funds count towards required reserves? Yes, they do.

E. Alvarez made a motion to Approve the proposed budget amendments as discussed.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
E. Alvarez made a motion to Purchase a CD as recommended by the finance committee.
D. Tijerina seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

A. Community Comments

No community comments

XI. Closing Items

A. Closed Personnel Matters

E. Alvarez made a motion to Enter closed session to discuss personnel matters.
L. Lopez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Adjourn Meeting

E. Alvarez made a motion to Adjourn the meeting.
D. Tijerina 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 10:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Doll

Documents used during the meeting

- January 27, 2025 Executive Directors Report
- Use of Video Surveillance.docx
- 2.17_Title_IX_Policy_10302020.pdf
- 2.17_a__Title_IX_Reporting_and_Grievance_Policy10302020.pdf
- January Budget Amendments 2025.pdf