APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

SA Monthly Board Meeting (Open Session)

Date and Time
Monday February 23, 2026 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_cPY29Te6TZmwinl_7Qiiqg

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
D. Palmer, D. Tijerina, E. Alvarez, E. Womer, K. Becnel, L. Lopez, M. Dixon, X. Dong

Directors Absent
A. Hall

Ex Officio Members Present
H. Richter (remote), J. Cuneo (remote)

Guests Present

D. Delp (remote), Mel Alhers (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

E. Alvarez called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday Feb 23, 2026 at 6:40 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

Kim read the Mission Statement

D. Administrative Meeting Review

E. Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

E. Womer made a motion to approve the minutes from SA Monthly Board Meeting (Open Session) on 01-26-26.
M. Dixon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Adoption of the Agenda

E. Womer made a motion to adopt the agenda.
D. Tijerina seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

A. Community Comments - guidelines

No comments

III. Director's Report

A. General Report

Gifted Conference

- Great feedback from Scholars staff and external participants.
- Two speakers. Each speaker led two sessions.
- Interactive practical application during sessions.
- The conference will be moved to October for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

School Counselor/ SEL Updates

- Working with teachers to have in-class sessions.
- Spearheading the schoolwide career week in March.
- SOAR will be reintroduced.
- Planning to host virtual parent education sessions.

Middle School Principal

- Started last week.
- Still onboarding and shadowing Ms. Delp.

One vendor contractual item to be disclosed in closed session.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Governance Updates

1. Discussed the strategic 5-year plan. The Governance Committee will meet in an extended session to create a first draft to be ready to share on next Board meeting.
2. Update on Mid-year ED evaluation survey for staff :

- The 2025-2026 Mid-Year Leadership Feedback Survey was available to staff members earlier this month.
- This anonymous survey is aimed at gathering insights on leadership, communication, support, and culture.
- We received 34 responses, which corresponds to 68% of the total staff.
- This survey has helped the Board make informed decisions about school leadership and constructive growth opportunities.
- More details about the results of this survey will be shared in a closed session.

B. Personnel and Staff

- Various personnel matters to be discussed in closed.
- Potential vote on personnel matters after closed session.

C. Board Recruitment

- 2025-2026: 1 opening (currently at 9 board members, looking to get to 10)
- 2026-2027: 3 openings and 1 potential opening (all of which are uncommitted as of yet to renew for a 2nd term or add new time)
- Staff and Parents are encouraged to talk to those you think would be a good fit for the Board

- Board Nomination Website
- Board Nomination Form

V. Policy Committee

A. Committee Work on Policy Updates

- **[VOTE] Title IX Update**
  - Policy was revised to include the Title IX coordinator and new requirements regarding discipline and suspension.
  - A blackline version with highlighted changes is attached and available to board members upon request.
- **Policies in review in order of priority:**
  - Grievance policy - Review at the recommendation of counsel continues.
  - Code of Conduct for discipline purposes - Review at recommendation of counsel continues.
  - Staff and Student Handbook amendment - including the recent developments on the use of wireless devices and Title IX Coordinator information.
- **AI policy**: Discussed AI policy guidelines issued by the County and discussed the opportunity to share with teacher staff members, as well as with Educational Excellence, to provide directional guidance back to the policy committee.
- The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Friday, February 27, at 8:15 am.

M. Dixon made a motion to Amend the Title IX Policy to include the Title IX coordinator and new requirements regarding discipline and suspension pending guidance from legal counsel on the required coordinator details.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Finance Committee

A. Financial Updates

- 403b Plan Communication to former employees (withdrawal capabilities): Draft letter under review.
- January 2026 Financial Statements, Budget vs. Actuals:
  - Field trip budget line item will be reviewed; there's an item under Other Contributions that will be reclassified
- Budget amendments for Local Revenue (see attached) - VOTE for approval.
- Grants Review - updated UEI number to ensure federal grants come in - Need to update UEI number every year.
- Bearman contract is coming up for renewal, and the RFP process will begin

- Bearman communicated a monthly cost increase of $500/mo or $6000/year.

D. Palmer made a motion to approve the budget amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee.
D. Tijerina seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VII. FAST Committee

A. FAST Updates

- Working with the school to determine the best way to get announcements and alerts to the rear playground.
- Determining pricing for new HVAC units for longer-term financial planning purposes.
- Next meeting is Thurs, March. 5th at 8:15 am.

VIII. Educational Excellence Committee

A. Educational Excellence Committee Updates

- Next Meeting April 14th, 2026 (8:15).
- Reviewed NC 2025 School Report Card: Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy
  - https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/school?school=60F000&year=2025&residing_district=600LEA
- Reviewing the previous Strategic Plan to prepare for drafting the new 5-year Strategic Plan.
- AI Policy Implementation: The Teacher Leadership Team is identifying teachers to participate in drafting the AI policy. They are also reviewing professional development materials on how to appropriately incorporate AI into the classroom.

IX. DEI

A. DEI Updates

Discussions to continue on

- EDS Package--working on a proposal for funding per student from the Foundation. The proposal includes a basic package for each child in this category and a pool of money for additional needs that families report via a survey.
- Helping unhoused families and/or teachers.
- Next meeting--March 4 at 8:15 am.

X. Whole Child

A. Update

- February meeting canceled due to snow, will reschedule for March.

XI. Foundation

A. Foundation Update

AGC updates:

- As of February 18, 2026:
  - Donations received: ~20% of the goal, lower than the same period last school year.
- Ambassadors for Phone Call Outreach.
- 2025 tax letters sent.
- The Foundation Director position is open and actively recruiting.
- Active appeal to the community during our Annual Giving Campaign to ensure adequate funding for Scholars programs and future updates.

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

A. Community Comments

No comments

XIII. Closed Session

A. Vote to go into Closed Session

D. Palmer made a motion to enter into closed session.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
D. Palmer made a motion to approve the vendor contract in open session as recomemnded by the Executive Director.
E. Womer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.
D. Palmer made a motion to approve the personnel agreement in open session as disucssed in closed session.
K. Becnel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

D. Palmer made a motion to adjorn the meeting.

M. Dixon 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 9:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Alvarez