



**Mallard Creek STEM Academy
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
March 8:15 at 8:45 am
Teleconference due to COVID-19**

Present: Jose Garcia, Christy Condon, Tyrone Harmon, Shelly Domenech, Kellen Nixon, Vishu Cook

Missing: All present

Other: Jennifer Lucas (Managing Director), Deanna Smith (MCSA principal), MCSA community members, Shekeria Barnes (SCSA principal)

8:45 a.m. Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order.

8:50 a.m. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Mr. Garcia opened up discussion about January's minutes. No meeting was held in February due to three board members having the flu. No additions or deletions were suggested to be made to the January minutes. Ms. Condon made a motion to approve the January minutes. Mr. Harmon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Board tally: 5/5

8:55 a.m. Principal's Report

Ms. Deanna Smith, MCSA

Enrollment: Ms. Smith reported that there have been many families moving. Those numbers are continuing to trend similarly. Virtual Open Houses will be held for prospective families.

Academics: The NC CheckIns you can see that the numbers are trending upward. The individual student data was used to identify potential issues and address any gaps needed in instruction and remediation. MCSA developed assessments from item banks from previous assessments and there was great success doing this. iStation data 22% of kindergarteners who were still at Level

1. Several children had never been to school before and several children are in the process of being identified. You can see our yellow and red zones

Professional Development: Ms. Smith explained that training was provided for teachers in their work with students with autism.

Before and After Care: This year MCSA has been reviewing existing contracts. At this time, MCSA is looking for opportunities to optimize budget and programming. MCSA gathered quotes from after care groups and companies for guidance. One group is from Kindercare, an accredited program. The programming includes focus on academics, character, etc. Ms. Smith will be recommending adopting an after care program called “Champions”. She will be sending out additional information for board review.

EC: are in compliance in all areas of EC. MCSA has been looking at contractors for speech and language, etc. services. We pay \$77 a student for speech and language pathologists and for that cost we are looking at independent contractors and full time employees. We have a large population of students who need speech and language services. We can potentially have huge cost savings if we go that route. We can add additional resources with cost savings.

Title 1: MCSA has received funds for Title 1.

Fundraising: BoosterThon helped MCSA orchestrate a Fun Run/ Color Run to raise money for the school. MCSA raised over \$17,000 to add playground equipment and technology.

Staffing: The administration is looking forward to adding additional staffing for EC speech pathologist.

Facility: Cameras are being installed now. There are 8 of 13 cameras working to provide an extra layer of security. The school has loaned out about 100 chromebooks for students to use during remote learning time.

9:15 The board lost the connection to the conference call and had some difficulty getting back on together.

9:22 The service is overloaded and the board may need to reconvene later.

The board needed to reconvene on Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom meeting.

**Mallard Creek STEM Academy
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
March 29th at 10:00 am
Teleconference due to COVID-19**

Present: Jose Garcia, Christy Condon, Tyrone Harmon, Shelly Domenech, Kellen Nixon, Vishu Cook

Missing: All present

Other: Jennifer Lucas (Managing Director), Deanna Smith (MCSA principal), MCSA community members, Shekeria Barnes (SCSA principal)

10:00 a.m. Call to Order

Mr.Garcia called the meeting to order.

10:02 a.m. Principal's Report

Ms. Skeira Barnes, SCSA

School Climate: K-2 group in 1st and 2nd quarter, the discipline data shows that behaviors have improved with restorative practices. The MTSS process and building relationships have been a priority. NC CheckIn is the only piece of data that is normed as a school. There were growths in certain areas. The last test was taken at the end of February and there was a great deal of content that had not been taught.

Staff: No changes with staff. Lost a 6th grade Science teacher. Another teacher moved into this role temporarily. A teacher was interviewed and about to be offered a position; however, COVID-19 interrupted those plans.

Facilities and Operations: SCSA is having some plumbing issues. There is a particular issue after the weekend you can see it in the conference room/ workroom and in some of the upstairs classrooms in the 6th grade wing. There needs to be a thorough review of the building's plumbing once the children are off for summer. The board does not want to wait on this issue. Mr. Harmon stated that it seems like the issue happens when the water is stagnant which could indicate an issue in a joint. Mr. Harmon will come out to examine this issue.

Tree planting was completed. There was a discrepancy about what should go on the ground--mulch, grass, or straw. Track down the original order for that area. Anything that could be now would be great so it doesn't interfere with students' recess.

Playground Area: The temperatures are getting warmer. There is a concern for grades 3-6 so that they have a place to go to play. Mr. Harmon and Ms. Lucas stated that as-builts were filed for the field. The process seems to be moving. Mr. Harmon will follow up with Mr. Matthews with regard to the permits/ inspection and work schedule for the field completion. Ms. Domenech asked if there was any playground equipment such as balls and jump rope, etc. in the interim until the fields are complete.

Compliance: SCSA is compliant at this time with all policies, etc. Ms. Barnes had a visit from Dr. Williams on Wacky Tacky Wednesday. Some of her feedback included the happiness of teachers and students, and a positive school climate. Continue to mainstream focus on STEM and make sure that they are participating in the lunch program.

Financials for MCSA and SCSA: Jennifer Lucas reports for SCSA and MCSA financials. The schools are still in a very good position. Ms. Cook did not have anything specific concerning; however, she questioned the impact of the COVID-19 closures on our budget. The funding for schools is not expected to change and encourages everyone to remain on staff. We will be trying to keep everyone on staff. The one positive is that we have suspended custodial, bus, lunch services which may save money for the school. The managing directors are working to insure that there won't be a disruption of services if we return to school for the 2019-2020 school year. Title I grant for SCSA (\$13,000) should be submitted by next year. There may be a decline in MCSA funding because there is a large amount of movement in the student population.

Charter Renewal: The administration felt that the charter renewal meetings held in early March were positive. They look forward to the next steps in the process.

Celebrations: National Junior Honor Society opened with 16 students!!!

10:30 New Business

Distance Learning Plan: Teachers and administration worked on the work day to bring distance learning up and running within three days. The plan is a great blend of online resources and hard copy work. Changes in expectations in grading yesterday on the state call. We do not want to punish children if they do not have resources. We do need to continue to measure learning. All kids will get promoted; however, next year the teams need to be thinking of how to remediate kids who will be behind next week. Mr. Nixon is working with Title I schools and proposing strategies of working with those families. Ms. Cook asked if there were some metrics being tracked of families we have reached, etc. State level and additional funds for support. Mr. Garcia reported that the emphasis from the state is to increase communication and student growth. The importance of continuing to grow and to learn messages needs to go out to parents.

Calendar: We do need to submit an approved calendar to the state. Schools have added 3½ extra days in case of emergency. The major change for next year is that the school will do away with half days in order to foster collaboration between lower school and upper school. Mr. Garcia had a question about why we were beginning prior to CMS' start date. The administration and board felt comfortable with the decision to start the week prior to CMS.

Ms. Domenech made a motion to approve the calendar. Mr. Harmon seconded the motion. Mr. Garcia asked the board if they had any additional comments, concerns, or questions. The motion passed unanimously, 6 of 6 board members voted to adopt the calendar.

Plan to keep board meetings in April. If there is something additional we need to meet about we can call an emergency board meeting.

10:50 Meeting Adjourned: Ms. Condon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harmon seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned. Vote tally: 5/5. The meeting is adjourned.