**Mallard Creek and Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**December 14th 2022**

**Live Via ZOOM**

6:00 Call to Order

Meeting is called to order at 6:00

6:05 Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Tyrone made the motion to approve the minutes, Christy second the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6:10 Public Comment (none)

6:20 Principal Reports:

Deanna Smith – summary: Students and staff are doing a lot of work to cloe out the semester. They are working their tails off (staff and new principals). We know we have our work cut out for us for academic gains and support teachers and students. Teachers are doing a lot of work to close achievement gaps. Enrollment is 932 with 6 students starting on January 3rd. Enrollment applications are coming and we already have 175 students already for next year and we still have a current waitlist. 3 parent information sessions and on site tours have been ongoing already. What we noticed last year is the bulk of info sessions are attended even more after the lottery results so we expect more sessions to be full after the lottery in February. Students finished Case 21 mid year assessments so the data will post in Jan2 and will be shared with the Board in the January board meeting. MorphEd and her team are providing great impact in supporting academic leadership team and supporting the teachers. We compare the data points from MorphEd and site leadership but we believe that we will see the new data and the growth will show all the work that has been done. Basketball season is off to a great start and SCSA is giving them a run for their money! We have excellent team and excellent coaches and it such a pleasure to have them together. Lots of support for Mr. Sanders (AD) making sure the athletes are scholars first. All students have specific academic and behavioral standards to maintain or they can’t play. This ha been a great motivator for the students.

Science fair is tomorrow, Thursday Dec 15th. STEM fair is working great! We are partnered with NASCAR team and they also judge other science fairs art the state level so they are acting as judges and give great feedback to the staff and students. STEM fair is 6pm. Students are working on training and education about the Internet in general taught by Michele Pierce. She was a former AMAZON winner and she is doing excellent work with students in their classes.

MCSA is still working on the accreditation package and will be submitting the candidacy workbook in January. They will have a visit from 1 person who will interview admin, teachers, parents and students. And after that is scheduled we will get a report back. The date will be shared but expected to be end of January.

Board member (Ms. Condon) asked about social and emotional well being of students. We heard a lot of mental health issues last year and wanted to follow up on how we are supporting students. Ms Smith shared information about PBIS and MTSS and the work that the 2 counselors are doing that includes \lunch bunch groups, small groups for student supports. Work on friendships and collaborative work and other situations that make students anxious.

Students at MCSA will be awarded in a separate ceremony as well similar to the SOAR from SCSA.

Board is invited to the GALA on January 28th that is being planned by the parents at the Discovery Place.

Board member (Shelly) asked about attendance and flu season and student illness. Unfortunately even Ms Smith has been sick over a week and we have had 13 subs in a week once with the flu hitting the building hard. Hoping that after break we will see better attendance and health.

Shekeria Barnes – Increased the school’s partnership with Digibridge. They have more access to more STEM activities and Mr. Williams developed a SOAR team to help support and reward students who are making gains and progress. This is one of the new ways we are celebrating students who may not make the honor roll and other ceremonies but should be recognized for their effort. The students also had a wonderful time at the School’s first choral/musical event and this was the largest attended event since the School opening! It was a great success. 796 students today and should have 800 students in January. Curriculum instruction is focused on assessments for grades 3-8 and that mid-year data will be available in January meeting. The school feels confident that we are seeing gains and progress in the children this year so far. Students are working hard and parents are participating and supporting students.

Board member (Shelly) asked about current staffing or needs? Barnes reported that the school is fully staffed and will be recruiting for new teachers early this year. At this time, no concern to share.

Highlights on:

Student enrollment

Special events or activities

Facility updates: The gym is brand new with the acoustics and bleachers and sound system. The School has a professional gym and we are moving in to the Basketball season! They took championships in soccer and volleyball already 😊😊

Justin presented some of the other updates regarding the gymnasium at SCSA and the whole facility that continues to get upgrades. The playground equipment that had to be moved for the turf field has finally been ordered and approved. The site is finished and the equipment is in order and that should take a few months to get installed in the Spring.

MCSA upgrades are for the gym as well and they are going the getting a video board and sound system to show events, host promotions ceremonies and other events. The board is better than a projector due to lighting.

We also are working on some improvements to the entrance of Mallard Creek to try to work on a turf field. They are in the middle of due diligence- it is not promised, but we are working hard on finding a way to get it done.

Financials: The November financials just became available.

SCSA balance sheet and MCSA balance sheet are both very strong and positive with cash reserves. The 2 schools are some of the strongest with millions of dollars in assets and thousands in liabilities. When the revenue catches up, the cash will be increased again. Right now the Schools are so fortunate because they are able to use cash for all the capital improvement and therefore not using more debt. As the year progresses, the School will probably end with a +250k in balance. Over 2.5 million dollars in cash for SCSA. CharMecK currently owes over $300k to SCSA.

Over 3 million in cash which does not include the $600k owed to the School by CMS in cash for MCSA in their fund balance as well. The School has a 5.5 mm position which is super strong for a charter school. If we get approval for the turf field in the site, they have the cash to pay for those improvements. It is a great feeling. The School is projected to end the year with over half million dollar surplus. The School can continue to deploy resources if it needs to anytime in the best interest of students. Funding is always in arrears for schools so the Schools use their fund balance to pay for bills and operating expenses until the revenue shows up.

\*\* last minute public comment. A dad- Daniel with a student at Mallard asked questions about the field. Justin answered about the composition of the future field if able. There was discussion on what type of field and how to get it done. One of the Board members (Tyrone) will be part of the due diligence process which takes a while and although there is no guarantee we will be able to get it done, the School can afford it and will be done if there is approved space.

New Business/Old Business: none

Before closing we had an additional question. Board member (Shelly) asked a question about the revenue catch up and when it occurs. The answer is yes, eventually the revenue will be in by the end of the fiscal year and the funds will be trued up before the closing of the year and books. We will see the final true up in July and report at the summer board meeting that we have caught up and the final net position.

Christy made a motion to adjourn and Tyrone second the motion. No further discussion so the motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:56

7:00 Adjourn.