

**Mallard Creek and  
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm  
Via ZOOM**

6:00 Call to Order

6:01 Introductions

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

Absent: none

Also present: Deanna Smith, Shekeria Barnes, Tasia Colbert, Leonard Roebuck, Carmello Baker, Daryl Williams, Clay Sanders

6:05 Meeting called to order at 6:05

Approval of Minutes from the June meeting. Minutes were reviewed and no changes were needed. Tyrone made the motion to approve the minutes and Shelly seconded the motion. No further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6:10 Public Comment - none

6:20: Principal Reports

MCSA enrollment target is 950 and as of this report we are at 950 on the nose! We expect more children between now and then, but we are already looking to stay on target. Started off the year with teaching students' policies and procedures. Reported on summer school programs and career and college camp programs. School will share the data when the state shares new data. Baseline data will kick off next week with an I Ready assessment. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will take the BOG. Tyrone asked how many students took the exams in the summer? Deanna shared those 200 students who attended the camp but not all the students took an exam. All in about 100 students too assessments. Provided transportation and food and continued camps in years to come. All positions are filled and kicked off the year with professional development with all the contents curriculum and software used, MTSS, Mental Health, EC, and lots of team building! Facility updates: PA System, painting, grounds work etc. The building looks brand new and better than ever! We also installed vape detecting systems and sensors that are for additional security and safety.

Question from Tyrone regarding the vape detector and how they work? Deanna responded that it detects sensitive smells and sends an alert directly to the administrator as well as a sound alert.

All items are in compliance. Beginning kindergarten WIDA screening and making sure all students on an IEP are getting serviced. All teachers are trained for the BOG and ready for testing. Over 50 people signed up for the first parent meeting and working on a great first grown-up social event for the masquerade ball. MCSA runs 7 buses, nearly all full and one bus does not have a wait list. The café is going great, we are feeding 300 of students in the morning and nearly 550 for lunches. All students eat for free all meals. Deanna listed all the clubs and sports and clay reminded we are also starting soccer try-outs right now as well!

MCSA is working on national accreditation and STEM certification as well!

SCSA:

SCSA Welcome Back everyone! SCSA is so happy because this is the start we always wanted before Covid hit! It feels good, let's dive right into school and we are all ready and teaching! enrollment is already at 941 and a few more students coming in. We are doing so many of the same things at the same time as MCSA and building consistency across the board.

We also had a great summer camp. We had over 100 students and not all students were tested. Waiting for final approval of testing information to share. BOG is getting ready to start and we are testing our new students for WIDA as needed. Barnes called is Leading from the Middle and folks are sharing in the leading event in the school and working together. We have 1 opening, but we have 4 amazing subs and one who has been here for years is filling in the gaps. Someone is in the position and teaching full time and we have put an offer out already to a new hire today. PD big picture is the coaching framework. Link to access including the report. Focuses on 2 parts: Management and Rigorous Instruction. Walkthroughs, debriefs, feedback for staff. We feel very good about the process to help each teacher grow in a few days and recheck in a week. Celebrations:

Facility: Clean and painted and looks beautiful. It looks better than ever, It shows so well and a clean school is a school kids are ready to learn in! Lots of summer work was completed to be ready for today.

Compliance testing ESL students and WIDA and next week is I Ready

Testing for benchmark assessments is happening next week, The school wide calendar is included in the report link as well.

All clubs and athletics are ready to go. Presented by Clay sanders. Sanders worried about new role in moving away but has connected to students and parents and very excited because clubs and sports has taken off so great and so excited for this year and for the work he's doing!

Scoreboard is up and running and it was such a big hit and see the scoreboard light up! Sports and schedules are all set so we can invite our families and guests and board members and community folks to join us. We are moving up SCHOOL PRIDE! Soccer volleyball

We have gotten additional new technology. We brought in 200 new chrome books with Title 1 dollars for students and are getting them ready for the testing next week and then instruction in the classroom.

**SCSA theme: One Team One Goal No Excuses!**

### **6:50 Grants: Consolidated, NC ACCESS, PRC 181**

The usage of funds for all the grants is present. ACCESS grants is for transportation at SCSA to provide additional busing for students who need it.

ESSER 181 for SCSA is going to be used for instructional support positions (including Interventionist, Intensives, Coach, and/or Counselor)

SCSA usage of funds for title 1: Chromebooks (200) for students and assessment software, Title 2 is Professional development for contracted services to provide instructional support, leadership training and mentoring staff. And title 4 is to support the school mission in STEM.

MCSA usage of funds for title 1: instructional support positions including the test coordinator, and intervention teachers and a coach.

Title 2 is Professional development for contracted services to provide instructional support, leadership training and mentoring staff. Title 4 is to support the school mission in STEM.

7:10: Financials—We are working on the annual audit, so the current monthly reports are not very helpful or complete at this time, but ongoing. July financials are not updated beyond the last board meeting (largely because of the audit work, many items may be reclassified or pulled back into the June operating fiscal year). The prior reports shared in June regarding the early bird budgets and end of year projections are still in place and we are not expecting any audit or other financial related issues to impact those projections. We should have updated the financials in the September meeting and the Board will receive the audit report when it is complete.

The schools have reviewed a variety of banking platforms and options for checking and savings accounts. After comparing programs and proposals from Wells Fargo, Truist Bank, LiveOak and US Bank, it has been determined that US Bank offers the best overall program for the schools as it provides a high interest yield savings account as well as credit card programs that allow the school to earn membership points and/or earn cash back. This savings account will earn the school additional revenues that are not available through our current Banks. Based on this information, the schools will transfer their existing accounts from their current financial institutions (Wells Fargo for MCSA and Truist Bank for SCSA) and open new accounts with US Bank. We are completing due diligence and submitting documents and will hopefully have the bank accounts set up for transfers by the beginning or middle of September.

7:30 New Business:

**Action Items: Introduction and approval of New Board Members.**

Two new members were presented to the board for approval:

Tasia Colbert is a parent from MCSA and has a wonderful experience at MCSA and is a small business owner with a student at MCSA and another student who already graduated. Experience in private and public sector in business and in medical field and currently owns her own business. She is also the lead in the Mallard parent organization. It is so incredibly important to have good communication with parents in a variety of directions and avenues. (the resume was attached to the Board packets)

Leonard Roebuck became a big part of the parent community last year when he enrolled his daughter. Leonard is part of the ongoing evolution of the SCSA parent organization, Rocket Parents and has a great resume and experience to add to the board. He has management and logistics experience. He has experience in retail and non-profit work. He is also a parent and a deeply invested parent that wants to help improve and support the school. (the resume was attached to the Board packets)

The Covid closures and disruption to the overall community had a negative impact on our ability to bring on and develop new board members, but this timing is perfect now and these 2 parents who will also serve as the leaders of the parent organizations to maintain good communication and open dialogue and participation with parents. The board got to meet the new candidates and discuss their qualifications.

Tasia introduced herself and shared her overall work experience and her experience in the school. She is happy to be a part of this board and a part of the future of MCSA and ready to help in any way she can. Leonard introduced himself and is very excited to be a part of this organization and make it a better community for our students, staff and families. The board

thanked them for their interest and value their desire to serve and to provide parent input and that they are so invested.

**Action Items:**

**Approval of new Board members:** Christy C. made a motion to approve the new board members and Kellen N. seconded the motion. There were no further questions or discussion. And the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Title 1 plans and the PFE:**

Tyrone made a motion to approve the consolidated grants and the PFE policy for 2023. The motion was seconded by Jose G. No further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Board discussion regarding the affirmation of the Board Conflict-of-Interest and Board policies as well as discussion on expectations and conditions for board members and their service for the schools. Board Members will all sign and execute the annual affirmations.

Christy Condon and Tyrone Harmon presented their resignations from the Board. The resignations were gratefully accepted by the Board Chair.

Christy spoke about her joy in seeing the programs grow and thanked everyone for helping her own son grow and mature at MCSA. He is now a graduating Senior, and she is thankful for all that School did for him since 5<sup>th</sup> grade to get him here. Tyrone shared his experience since the opening of MCSA and how it drove him to want to serve and see a school open to his neighborhood in SCSA and realized that dream. He is very proud to have been a part of this process and thankful for the opportunity to bring something so special to his own community.

*Approval of the Updated Board Operations Manual was pushed to a future meeting.*

**New Business:**

Justin made a recommendation to do a tree planting ceremony to honor 3 board members who founded the schools. 2 will be planted at MCSA in honor of Christy and Robert Corbin (post-humous) and 1 tree will be planted at SCSA in honor of Tyrone. We will work on this dedication in the fall, perhaps at the next board meeting. Retiring board members and family of Robert will have the opportunity to select the tree that best represents their family. All of the board members and leadership are excited about this idea and agree to have school leadership plan the events.

7:25 Tyrone made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Christy seconded the motion. No further discussion so the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:26.