

**Mallard Creek and
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 28th, 2024, at 5pm
7945 Harbor Master Court, Denver NC 28037**

In attendance: Leo Roebuck, Tasia Colbert, Kellen Nixon, Jose Garcia, Shelly Domenech, Deanna Smith, Shekeria Barnes

Absent: None

5:00 Call to Order

Kellen called the meeting to order at 5:12

5:12 Approval of the Minutes from the April meeting

Shelly made the motion to approve the minutes. Tasia seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5:14 Public Comment

None

5:15 Principal Reports:

Ms. Barnes at SCSA presented the end of year board report. Barnes first celebrated all the wonderful activities and events held this year including field trips, assemblies, parent partnership events and activities and other community and business partnerships.

This year we saw great preliminary testing data. I Ready and Case 21 both show growth. Science teams were fabulous, and our Science scores came in remarkably high, and they exceeded their growth goal. We are running a 4-week academic camp that runs 4 days per week and 4 hours per day to support students who were struggling during the year or on their EOG testing. These students will have an opportunity to retake the EOG exams. New proficiency scores are accepted as the final score. This helps the student and the school.

Board Commendation and celebration from Kellen: Congratulations on the growth already seen in the testing and very encouraged by everything SCSA is doing already and excited to see the final outcomes.

The SCSA Board report included a number of links to special events and activities that celebrate the school. A thank you to a special parent who moved here from Texas who served as a School photographer. All the SCSA parents were supportive and appreciative. Mr. Askew has done some free professional photography for the School and captured wonderful memories.

The report includes data on the total number of students with perfect attendance, and who participated in awards assemblies etc. It was a wonderful year, and we are happy to close out this year with positive reports and support from the community!

MCSA presented the end of year report. Congratulations to everyone for a wonderful year and our 8th year. There were 8 graduating students this year who have been with us since 1st grade,

which is the year MCSA opened. Leadership met with the families and shared memories and conversations about how far we (MCSA) have come and how far these students have grown with us over the past 8 years. This year, during year 9, we will be spending the year planning our 10th year anniversary! So much to celebrate! The school year is over, but we are already in the middle of planning and preparation for next year and summer camp which starts next week. Enrollment is going great, and we are experiencing higher rates of returning students, and new students who are fully committed already. Deanna highlighted the athletics program and the number of sports that have experienced success and championships.

Future parents and staff talk about what STEM is and we discuss the mission about what that looks like for students in the future. This has been a focal point for the school year. This year we added EmpowerHer stem club to get girls excited about math and science. These are just examples of programs and clubs that are innovative and keep kids engaged and excited about learning.

Academic data shows comparable results with SCSA in growth and retesting students after academic camp. MCSA had a large number of students who missed proficiency by only a few points. Many students are participating in camp this year. Ms. Smith celebrated the number of students who made over a year's worth of growth and said, "we will be continuing the work on the coaching model and getting ready for launching that with our staff again" This year we are offering a special drone curriculum for the summer accelerated camps for the career accelerator.

The folks who completed the Title 1 audit asked to come out to visit during the drone flying days! The theme for next year is Gearing up for Growth and we will share more about how we will share that across the school and what that looks like for us. Deanna thanks the staff so much for their tireless efforts in the school and their commitment to the school and students.

Board question from Kellen: What does celebrating next year look like to celebrate the students who have started with the School since kindergarten 9 years ago and they will be graduating at the end of the year. Should do something special for them and capture their success and experience with MCSA for their whole educational career.

Deanna said they also stay in touch with a lot of Alumni, and they play a role at games and assemblies so we can consider inviting them to those events and being an apart of these events. MCSA does an excellent job connecting with them and will also include them in ongoing Homecoming events.

Barnes added that the school counselors do track students who graduated and went to Palisades and Olympic because we have relationships with them. SCSA continues to have siblings and alumni come back for all our special sporting events and other events. SCSA has gotten valuable feedback from the admin staff at Palisades about the students we are graduating as they begin high school.

Discussion and Approval of implementing a new teacher evaluation tool: Deanna presented a summary of the Cognia process and the observation tool and the process it takes to complete the NCEES tool for reporting and conducting and completing the new Cognia tool to see the new observation tool so they understand what the feedback is and what the team is looking for.

This adds to the timeline that it takes for the admin team to work on the crosswalk and get approval from the board, and the OCS so we can present this to the team during pre-planning so the teachers can be trained and understand the evaluation process and tool itself. Board questions the data collected in the tool, and its value for the staff and students. The board would like to see the crosswalk and sample of the new tool as well.

Kellen made a motion to approve MCSA and SCSA to begin the crosswalk process with OCS so the schools can consider using the updated Cognia Tool in lieu of the NCEES. Jose seconded the motion to approve the process of the crosswalk work with OCS. Roll call vote from the board resulted in a unanimous passing of the approval to work on the crosswalk.

5:41 Financial Reports and Audit Prep

April is the month when charter schools are supposed to be heavy in cash, pulling all funds that are available to ensure we do not forfeit any funds. MCSA is sitting a \$7mm dollar asset position with over \$4mm in cash and another \$500k in receivable from CMS local funds. MCSA increased its net asset position by almost \$1mm this year. MCSA facilities expenses ran a little high this year due to the multiple buildings and increased utility costs.

SCSA is extremely strong with almost \$3mm in cash and a total asset position over \$5mm and pending another \$500k in CMS local funding. SCSA did not see as many inflationary cost increases being a single building so that's a benefit to that facility set up.

Audit season is coming so we will be working on audit items and need board items previously mentioned including proof of residency and fraud questionnaire forms.

6:05 Summer Conference and Board training opportunity

The board members were invited to attend the conference and to join governance training.

6:07 Adjourn

Shelly made a motion to close the meeting. Jose seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07.