

**Mallard Creek and
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
October 30th 2024 at 7pm
@SCSA: 5203 Shopton Rd. Charlotte, NC 28278**

In attendance: Deanna Smith, Teddy McIlwain, Kellen Nixon, Shelly Domenech, Tasia Colbert, Leo Roebuck

Absent: Jose Garcia

7:06 Call to Order

7:07 Approval of the Minutes of the August meeting

BOD reviewed the minutes. Kellen made a motion to approve the August minutes with the addition of the attendance of the members and principals. Leo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7:08 Public Comment

7:09 Financial Update:

7:10 Review of Fiscal Compliance Audit from (2024) Kellen made the motion to approve the updated financial policies as required for compliance, Leo seconded the motion to approve. Kellen made the motion to approve any updated and revised contracts as required for compliance purposes. Shelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

7:18 Monthly Financials:

SCSA: The quarterly bond report was included as of September 30th. We are currently operating on a receivable as the funds guaranteed and verified as owed to the school are going to be sent to the school. Currently, SCSA is owed \$1.6 million dollars! You can see the cash balances are coming down right now as the school uses a cash surplus until the revenues are made whole. The legal way to show this for the bond holders is in a receivable because it is guaranteed and aligned with federal guidelines. That said, SCSA is just under a \$300,000 surplus which is where they are expected to land at the end of the school year. Books and Technology expenses are where they should be, salaries and benefits are 25% and where they should be.

Board question: Have we received all the technology that we ordered? Yes, SCSA received all the new Chromebooks but we are still waiting on the new carts.

Have we created a plan for refreshing technology year over year? Yes- we need to replace the Chromebook every 3 years, so based on our current inventory, we will need to replace approximately 33% per year. A request for usage: We issue a middle school student a new Chromebook at 6th grade and this remains their technology for the 3 years they are here and then they own it and can take it with them as the graduate out at 8th grade. This was well received by the Board and they approved of this plan.

MCSA: Projected at a small deficit right now, but their local revenue is only at 4% right now, and MCSA has already spent 2/3 of their books, technology and curriculum budget. Their current salaries and benefits are running a little bit high at 26% but they have hired experienced and good staff. The school has also been spending money on facility repairs and upkeep. At 8 years old, MCSA needed to put additional money into capital improvements. We will continue to watch expenses over the next 2 months and determine if needed to manage expenses more. At this time, it's ok to be operating a little bit over budget.

Board Comment: Kellen likes to see the actualized budget and usage rates. For example, when will we see a huge influx on contracted services. This money won't be spent because we no longer have contracted services, so they are baked inside the salaries and benefits as staff. Great, as long as we are meeting the needs of the students.

Board question: Are we able to afford bus monitors on buses? Average bus monitor salary approximately to a teacher aide salary. This would be approximately high \$20's to low \$30's if it were a full time position but this is only a few hours per day. It is hard to find reliable staff to hire for the bus monitor. We have used full-time staff with a stipend or other support staff to provide this support. It is done when required for safety, or for special education students needed. With the number of buses our schools run (6-7), it would cost approximately \$250,000 in these types of aides or support staff. We can review this in the Spring this year and discuss it if that's what we want to spend money on. This discussion led to more conversation on setting norms and expectations for bus behavior etc.

8:00 Principal Reports Fall Data Review

SCSA: Enrollment is 868. We have a healthy wait list and we currently have about 15 new student invites pending for new students and if they don't enroll, we will put new invites out. This year is going so fast! We are focusing on lesson planning and alignment. We have completed 3rd grade BOG testing, I ready testing and Case 21 for grades 3-8. You have the data report in the board packet. We are seeing a really strong start. We are building on that foundation and working to increase and improve student academics from this point. Related to staffing, we did have a 7th grade teacher resign and we have a full time sub in the classroom. We are working hard to find the right person for this position, so our AP (a math specialist) is working with the sub on planning and execution. Our RPSA is working hard on the facility artwork/murals that are coming out great! SCSA has received all the curriculum and technology needed and we appreciate it. Sports: Soccer team is undefeated and very proud of our volleyball teams. The girls are doing great and playing well! We have seen them grow so much over the years. We are about to start basketball and we are looking for a championship and out more banners in the gym. We have some great stem-based after school clubs. Families were invited to attend a day in the life of a Rocket. We held our first student government election campaigns and will have the vote on November voting day as a great lesson for students aligned with history and relevance. SCSA raised over \$50,000 with our first Popcorn fundraiser and the school gets \$25,000.

MCSA: Enrollment is steady at 943 right now. We haven't invited new students in the past couple of weeks. We already have new students coming in the next couple of weeks. We have less waitlist in the grade levels we need.

Our fall data is in and we are looking at the I Ready first to see what the skills the students coming with. Case 21 is after a quarter of teaching content. We are excited to see that the fall data in most grade levels is higher than the year prior or in the cohort from the year prior. We have had good leadership teams and weekly meetings with teachers and provide support for planning and pacing. We have our remedial camps starting and other types of remediation during the day and classes. Tier 3 is happening with small group pull-outs and support. We also added K2 students to after school tutoring this year because we had enough teachers willing to commit. We have been running for 4 weeks. We had 39 students on honor roll and 96 students in the middle school for the first quarter. After school club is in full swing and some new clubs were started this year. Fall sports are going well. Mallard does a composting program, farm field trips and other agricultural work related to business and stem part of the middle school academies. Girls volleyball team is trying really hard and building confidence. Boys' soccer also undefeated and will play SCSA for first seed in that game. Out of 18 boys on the soccer team, 17 are on the honor roll. 11 of the 16 girls volleyball players are on the honor roll. We now have a JV and Varsity girls cheer squad. Hosted our first community event and what questions parent have so we can do a great family session. We have gotten tons of positive feedback. This gave way to our new and exciting TPU.

TPU- Titan Parent University and support for families.

Board question: Do all students get tutoring? No this is targeted tutoring for students struggling the most. Students are invited based on performance data and need. A similar program is in place at SCSA.

8:45 Kellen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tasia seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.