**Mallard Creek and**

**Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 22nd, 2025**

**Via Zoom 6:30pm**

Present: Kellen Nixon, Tasia Colbert, Leonard Roebuck, Teddy McIlwain, Deanna Smith

Absent: Shelly Domenech

6:30 The meeting was called to order at 6:33

6:35 Approval of the Minutes of the December meeting: Tasia made a motion to approve the minutes and Leo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6:37 The Board chair requested to move the items that require board action to the top of the agenda. These items include the 25-26 calendar, the 2025 summer school and testing plan, and the 2025 updated UAP policy.

6:40 Summer program:

Presented to board. The program meets all compliance requirements regarding hours of instruction, eligible participants and school provisions for instruction and testing related compliance.

Board Question: Regarding the hours and days Have they been changed from years prior? No- same as usual no change Kellen made the motion to approve and Tasia seconded the motion and there was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

School calendar: Presented as seen in the board documents. The calendar is identical to the 24-25 calendar regarding hours, PD days, and vacation blocks. This calendar, including the official start date in August, has been extremely successful the past 3 years. No other concerns.

Tasia made a motion to approve the Mallard and Southwest Charlotte STEM Academies 25-26 operating calendars as presented. Leo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updated IAUP This summer, a national law passed to protect children from certain aspects of social media. This was the most recent federal law passed compiling a group of laws related to student access and usage of technology. Previously there was a children’s internet safety act. These statues and laws impacted the way they are funded with relation to how technology and the internet is used in schools for educational purposes. This policy is used to support the financial side of the recent law of Kids Online Safety Act. Schools that receive funds from the federal E-Rate program must adopt this policy. The policy is extremely benevolent and ensures that schools take all reasonable steps to protect children unsuitable or offer naive content online and we make every effort within reason to protect children and ensure offensive content is not part of the curriculum or exposure for students. It also requires that the internet coming into the building is protected by a firewall on the network to prevent students accesses on school grounds. This update reaches into the world of social media to take reasonable steps that social media being used as a function of the classroom (google meet, google messages) to protect students from internal and external users.

Board notes: Agree this is particularly important to protect students and this justification for protecting students while providing them with access to the internet and properly incorporating the technology and education. Tasia really appreciates the policy and made a motion to approve the updated IAUP policy as presented. Leo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6:53 Public Comment: None

6:50 Principal Reports

SCSA: Current enrollment is 877 and we still have a waitlist in 3rd, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. There is no room in those grades. To continue We are hosting monthly parent engagement sessions and tours. We also offer tours during the week. We have received new postcards that will be hand-delivered to communities and local commerce that support our school and serve our community.

Sending 200 invites students to provide after school tutoring.

**Shout out to Roger on the facility**!

Athletics: Homecoming week this week—students have lots of fun during our theme days and end with a dance on Friday. We are rescheduling our final basketball game due to the other team having a conflict We are looking forward to a great season with our cheerleaders with a

Counselors vision to learn to provide students with vision exam s and free glasses and we are going to be giving away 200 pairs of glasses for students. 5th grade girls with Dottie Rose foundation have a binary coding activity during February.

Board comment: Very proud of the additional support and resources they need by way of school extracurriculars and community resources such as the coding event and the vision program. How did the staff return to school? What are their needs?

Answer: Staff returned very reinvigorated. I devoted the last staff meeting to cheer the staff on and celebrating the growth that the students showed in their exams and building up their morale.

MCSA:

Enrollment Update: Current enrollment is 951 students with a few more starting.

321 applications to date for next year. We also offer weekly tours on Tuesdays for families, and we are working on ways to maintain engagement with families during the period from the February Lottery and the time school begins in August. The first one is Duke Science Night in the Spring. We have also developed an Ambassador group of select students who will introduce themselves and lead activities with new families and students.

Academics: We completed the I Ready assessments last week except a few students out sick and we will be reviewing the complete data. Looking at the results and preliminary data teachers are making instructional shifts and

MCSA is fully staffed- as you know we had a teacher pass away during Thanksgiving Break and we have been working on some ways to honor her. We are going to do a celebration in the Yearbook, and students created cards and memories that were given to her husband and he really appreciated those from our students and staff. We have discussed a Spring tree ceremony and will bring some details back to the Board in the future.

Clubs are moving along, and we have started our 2nd semester Girls Who Code, NJHS and more. We have 22 students who will be inducted in the NJHS this year and it is an incredibly special, detailed ceremony. We will invite everyone for the new date for the induction. Our largest group of students are our 7th graders who have been with us for so many years, and it is extremely exciting to see them grow and earn this wonderful honor.

At the time of drafting this report, our Basketball Titans are undefeated! Next week is MCSA homecoming week; spirit days, pep rally, games, and Homecoming Dance. Our cheerleading coach is new this year, and we have 2 teams. We have Elite Titans and Mighty Titans, and they are outstanding! We are excited about what they are doing as well. Coach Tea is doing a lot of teambuilding and leadership events based on our monthly character traits aligned with our school expectations.

Our next Titan University for parents is geared towards 7th and 8th grade families about high school programs This ius run by our counselors to help parents with registration and enrollment and understanding the planning that helps parents navigate this for their students. The next session will focus on executive functioning and supporting parents in supporting their students in how they can manage their time and be successful in school and at home.

7:15 Monthly Financial Review

The monthly financials were presented to the board for review:

SCSA balance sheet has over 2mill in cash. CMS owes over 1.5 million dollars, and we have over $5mm overall in net assets. On the budget v. actual report, we are just over halfway through the year, and we want to see that our expenses have trended how we hoped they would From a revenue standpoint we are doing exceedingly well except for local funds, but it is booked as a receivable. We are exactly where we should be. On the expense side we are tunning exactly where we wanted to be, including the areas we want to see everything we need for students such as technology and curriculum and students’ resources. The school’s bottom line is expected to see a $300,000 surplus at the end of the year. Extremely positive budget report.

One factor related to the delayed local funds (historically delayed) our participation in the IC pilot has caused our monthly billing submissions to cause CMS to kick reports back to the school for corrections. We are making corrections and resubmitting invoices. The school will receive all the funds earned and will not have any long-term effects from this.

MCSA: MCSA is also doing all the things we hoped it would through the fall. They are sitting at 2mm in cash, almost 1.5 in arrears in local funds, and well over 2mm in assets so not including buildings they have over6 mil in net assets. At a revenue standpoint they are at 50a%. The before and aftercare is an anomaly. If you remember we outsource the program which is why there is little to no revenue and therefore no real expenses.

On the expense side, we see that books supplies, and technology is where we thought it should be. Everything else is trending where it needs to be. Our facility-related items, including utilities and other items, are running a bit north of where we protected, and inflation is still a factor. The multiple buildings lead to a slightly more expensive program to run.

7:26