

**Mallard Creek and
Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
August 21st, 2024, 7pm
MCSA 9142 Browne Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269**

7:00 Call to Order

7:05 The meeting is called to order.

In attendance: Kellen Nixon, Tasia Colbert, Leo Roebuck, Shelly Domenech. Also in attendance:: Deanna Smith, Teddy McIlwain, Mia Carpenter, Antionette Duncan, Jeremy Thompson, Krystle McKnight, 2 parents for public comment.

Absent: Jose Garcia

7:10 Approval of the Minutes of the June meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes. Tasia made the motion to approve the motion. Kellen seconded the motion and there was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7:12 Public Comment

Can we get an awning? Response: Can we look at temporary awnings that serve the purpose and do not need formal approval related to uplifting.

7:17 Principal Reports

MCSA: We are excited to report a wonderful start to the school year. One the first day, carline did NOT go past 3:45! So, we know it is going to be a smooth year, and we have mastered all the details for smooth operations. We exceeded our enrollment target of 960 to 964. A few more students will start a bit late next week. Academics: The state data is still embargoed, and we can share data after September 4th when it is released. Initial data is very encouraging, and we will share it at the next board meeting. The theme this year is Gear up for Growth and our goal is to make sure each student meets their own growth goals measured through benchmark assessments. Parents will get these reports and teachers will use the data for small groups and intervention. 3rd grade students will be taking the BOG, and this is their first state test coming next week. It is a Reading assessment so we will have good data on these students. Facilities are running smoothly. We are mitigating flooding as Charlotte is and our new maintenance manager, Roger, has been working hard to put preventative drainage plans into place. MCSA bought a lot of technology during COVID and in addition to our annual cycle of replenishment, we are coming up to an artificial bubble of computers and exploring options to replace and replenish computers to ensure we have enough technology for students and assessments. For now, we are celebrating a great start and looking forward to a wonderful year of growth! We are fully staffed and ready to get this year going. Our first parent partnership meeting is in September, and all will be invited. ***We have the permits in the city for Titan Stadium so we are excited about that and there will be plenty of time to begin construction and they will result in lots of opportunities!***

SCSA: We are also off to a great start, and we are extremely excited to share our theme which is Full Steam Ahead! This is our energy for our intentional instruction 100% every rocket every day. We are continuing to work on carline with a goal of completion by 3:30. Our enrollment

this year is approximately 890. This is the largest we have ever enrolled in, and this speaks of the work we have done over the years, and we have a great name in the community. We are happy about that! Like MCSA, our teachers worked on the scope and sequence for planning lessons during the first 8 days of school and we built routines and procedures, but we also sprinkled in component skills for content in Unit 1. Our schools share a testing calendar, so our 3rd grade students will also take the BOG next week. After that we will have the first benchmark and use the data to track students and create interventions and small group instruction. We are also 100% staffed! Our facility is in excellent condition. We spent the summer walking around the buildings and making sure we address any wear and tear. Top Pro cleaners did a great job and a shout-out to Ms. Duncan and Mr. Roger for their work getting the building into great shape. Our technology is stable. We refurbished our older staff computers to develop 2 additional chrome book carts for students. We also want to thank Ms. Kirby for her work all summer organizing all our student technology, organizing the carts, and preparing a technology plan for student use and teacher collaboration.

Board discussion on technology, long term tech plans for each school. Timeline, cycle of tech, appropriate plan for 1:1 for the future. Both schools will develop a technology count, and a schedule for years of use and a refurbishment cycle that can be reviewed. In the meantime, technology needs for MCSA are approved for purchasing.

7:41 Consolidated Audits

We need to submit our final and approved consolidated grants next week. After receiving feedback from staff and parents each year through climate surveys, PLC meetings and staff meetings, we all agree that additional student support for academics is our greatest need. Our recommendation is to utilize Title 1 funds to help support our at-risk students in specific grade levels and subject areas. The funds are recommended for staffing at each school that will help cover the positions we added for instructional support by way of intervention teachers, coaches, Testing Coordinator/Parent Liaison. This will help each school implement assessments, implement MTSS for students, offer coaching and academic support for teachers and interventions by way of small group instruction and interventions for students.

Discussion on what the positions are. Each position was described by title and what they do at each school to support student performance and growth.

Leo made the motion to approve the usage of title 1 funds. Tasia seconded the motion. There is no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7:45 Updated Handbooks and Policies

Title 7

Parent Rights and PGSA

Pregnancy workers and new moms

All our policies related to families are digital and posted on the website for access.

Updated handbooks with language to make sure they all comply with any updates required in NC. Charter schools follow all local state and federal laws and implement them as well with fidelity.

7:48 Financial Review

Audits are still in process. A quick review of the financials is included in the board packets. There is so much misinformation in the news and in many places about school funding and we are committed to transparency, and this is why we share our financials every month for the parent's staff and the public. Although the audits are not complete it is exciting news: SCSA: at the end of the year (23) SCSA had \$2.6 m in the bank. At the end of this year (24) it is \$3.1mm. The schools are in a healthy financial position and can afford what is needed for the program by way of resources (staffing and curriculum). They have a net position of almost \$5m in cash and assets. The school sees a high increase in net assets year-over-year. SCSA exceeding all its bond covenants. Days cash on hand required to have 45 days COH and SCSA has 120 days cash on hand.

MCSA finished last year (2023) at \$3.8m in cash, and their net cash position is essentially unchanged. This is because MCSA has been paying cash for the development of a multimillion field project. MCSA has remained steady, even using funds for capital improvements. MCSA had \$5.7 in assets last year and is sitting now with \$6.4m in net assets now.

7:58 Adjourn Leo made a motion to adjourn, and Tasia seconded the motion. No further discussion and the meeting was adjourned.