

**Mallard Creek and Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 21st 6:30 pm**  
**At ZOOM due to COVID-19**

**Present:** Jose Garcia, Shelly Domenech, Kellen Nixon, Christy Condon

**Missing:** Vishu Cook, Tyrone Harmon

**Other:** Jennifer Lucas (Managing Director), Deanna Smith (MCSA principal), Shekeria Barnes (SCSA principal), several MCSA/SCSA community members via Zoom

**6:31 Call to Order**

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order and welcomed the group to the meeting.

**6:33 Approval of Minutes from last meeting**

No additions or deletions were suggested to be made to the September 2020 minutes. Ms. Condon made a motion to approve the September minutes. Ms. Domenech seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Board tally: 4/4

**6:35 Principal Reports: Ms. Shekeria Barnes, SCSA (\*See Principal Report)**

**Enrollment:** ADM goal of 645, currently 648 students enrolled. At the start of the 2nd semester approximately 50 students returned to campus for in person learning

**Staffing:** No update

**Communication:** Admin and teachers are communicating via ParentSquare and email to ensure everyone is being reached.

**Technology:** SCSA is also waiting on additional laptops.

**Before/After care:** No updates ‘

**Transportation:** Olympic continues to do a great job.

**Goals in Progress:**

**On Campus:**

Safe Practices

Consistent Progress Monitoring while using data to drive decisions on what to teacher

Increase small group instruction

**Remote:**

Clear/Consistent expectations

Using feedback from family survey to make adjustments to remote learning

Ensuring families have what they need for remote learning

Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher for specific needs.

**Remote Rocket:**

Staff/Admin took yard signs to one student in each grade that earned the Remote Rocket of the Month according to criteria set by staff.

**Exterior:** Ms. Lucas reports that ground should be broken on the field in November.

**Other:** Ms. Domenech asked if SCSSA feels they have everything needed for student success at this time. Ms. Barnes stated, yes. Ms. Domenech asked when will everyone return. Ms. Lucas stated, our goal is to get as many students back as possible as long as parents are comfortable by Jan. 4th.

**7:08 Principal Reports: Ms. Deanna Smith, MCSA (\*See Principal Report)**

**Enrollment:** The target ADM Goal is 950 students. Currently, there are 960 students. Currently, 42% of students are virtual and 58% are remote.

Ms. Smith reports that attendance is a struggle at this time. We've been reaching out to parents and helping them navigate the various platforms so they become more comfortable with remote instruction.

**Academics:** I-Ready assessments were given and the students are receiving instruction using the data from the assessments.

**EC:** In compliance at this time.

**Facilities:** Cameras have been installed on the inside & out funded by a grant received last spring.

**Other:** Ms. Smith reports teachers are working hard and doing an outstanding job under the current situation due to Covid. Teachers are hosting curriculum nights to help parents know what to expect.

**Middle School Presentation by Ms. Smith:**

Ms. Smith and her team have created 3 Pathway Tracks to add more depth to the Middle School program.

**#1 - STEM Pathway:**

Students will participate in electives that include engineering, sciences, robotics & automation that all involve critical thinking and problem solving. They will also participate in competitive courses like Future City, Science Olympiad, and local/regional science fair competitions.

**#2 - Business Pathway:**

Students will engage in developing a small business from the ground up. They will create a real business plan that could actually be utilized one day. They will learn what it means to be an entrepreneur. They will be involved in a real life Shark Tank experience.

**#3 - Civic Leadership Pathway:**

Students will be involved with problem solving issues that impact the school community. They will also be involved with Peer Mentoring. This pathway will be geared toward students that are interested in activism and want to be part of a social change. The pathway will incorporate any leadership qualities that students potentially have.

**Honors Program:**

Middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in accelerated courses that lead to high school credits. Placement will be based on end of year assessment and teacher nominations. Students will work towards nomination into the National Junior Honor's Society.

Ms. Domenech encouraged Ms. Smith to reach out to her and NASCAR for entrepreneurial opportunities.

Ms. Condon asked Ms. Smith if she had reached out to high school counselors. She stated that MCSA counselors are working on connecting with them.

Mr. Garcia asked what will happen to the fidelity of STEM if the student selects a pathway other than STEM. Ms. Smith stated that the pathways will not exclude students from the core subjects integrated with STEM.

**Other:**

Ms. Lucas is working with both schools to take advantage of grants that are available. She has applied for a GoOutside grant for both schools. It will provide an outdoor learning space for each school.

She is also researching a NC Access Grant to provide 400,000-800,000 to purchase qualifying items for the schools. Schools have to offer lottery priority for economically disadvantaged students. More information will be provided during the November meeting.

**7:35 Adjourn**

Mr. Garcia thanked everyone for joining. Ms. Condon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Domenech seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned. Vote tally: 4/4. The meeting is adjourned.