

**MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, in the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School, 659 E. Center Avenue, Mooresville, NC 28115.

Board Members Present: Mr. Roger Hyatt, Chairman; Mr. Greg Whitfield, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Leon Pridgen, II; Dr. Debbie Marsh; and Mrs. Kerry Pennell.

Dr. Stephen Mauney, Superintendent, and Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney were present. Mrs. Terry Haas, Chief Finance Officer; Dr. Todd Black, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Instruction and CTE; Dr. Scott Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction and Technology; Dr. Ingrid Medlock, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Dr. Michael Royal, Chief Operations Officer; Mrs. Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer and Title IX Coordinator; and Mrs. Sylvia Martinez, Board Clerk, were present.

Media representatives: *Kate Stevens, Mooresville Tribune*  
*Melinda Skutnick, Iredell Free*

Mr. Hyatt called the meeting to order, reflected on Black History month, and shared a quote by Poet Amanda Bowman. He held a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.**

**On a motion by Mr. Pridgen, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021, regular meeting as presented.**

Dr. Mauney recognized MGSD Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Terry Haas, who will retire from the Mooresville Graded School District effective February 26, 2021. He thanked Mrs. Haas for her many years of service to public education and her commitment to the students, staff, and the Mooresville Community. Each of the Board members congratulated, thanked, and reflected on their individual experiences working with Mrs. Haas.

**Spotlight on People - Recognition of MGSD School Nurses:** Dr. Mauney and Mrs. McLean recognized the Mooresville Graded School District school nurses and thanked them for their hard work, dedication, and for going above and beyond the call of duty in providing support and care to our students, families, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. McLean also shared words of appreciation from each of the district school administrators. Each nurse was presented with Certificates of Appreciation and goodie bags.

**District School Nurses**

*Rachel Alcantara, South Elementary School; Dana Annas, Mooresville Middle School; Brenda Austin-Johnson, East Mooresville Intermediate School; Ashley Clinard, Mooresville High School; Ashley Schaen, Rocky River Elementary School; Megan Simpson, Mooresville Intermediate School; Shannon Stone, Park View Elementary.*

**ABCD Award:** The Above and Beyond of Call of Duty award was presented to Ms. Rossi-Maris Granda, Custodian at Mooresville Intermediate School. Ms. Granda was nominated by the Administrative team at Mooresville Intermediate School.

The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, in the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Staff Reports:**

- A. **Facilities and Construction Report:** Dr. Royal advised he would later present the Facilities and Construction Update Presentation for the MGSD construction projects as listed on the meeting agenda under Item X. Dr. Royal gave a special shout out to all of the MGSD bus drivers for their hard work and advised February 8-12, 2021, is “Love the Bus” week in North Carolina and our schools are giving our bus drivers special treats to show them appreciation for all that they do. Dr. Royal shared the North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 7-13, 2021, and all of our schools will continue to hold safety drills including a tornado drill. He shared the Athletics Programs at Mooresville Middle School and Mooresville High School are going fairly well and shared Rowan County won’t have enough players for two separate football teams this season therefore, Mooresville Middle School will have one combined football team this year that will include both 7th and 8th graders.
  
- B. **Instructional Report:** Dr. Smith provided a technology update and advised the technology department is still busy providing technical support to our students and staff and completing the laptop refresh. They continue to offer drive thru service and have 25 student laptops that still need to be exchanged. Dr. Smith provided an Elementary and Intermediate school instructional update and advised Curriculum Instruction, Diversity Equity Inclusion, MTSS, and EC staff meetings are being held weekly to insure curriculum alignment and consistency. He shared school administrators and instructional coaches are reading; Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Brain, written by Zaretta Hammond, and a small group made up of MGSD administrators and central office staff members are doing a book study with our Diversity and Inclusion Coach, Ms. Caesar and book author, Zaretta Hammond. Dr. Smith reported the STARS Pre-K Program will begin accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year on March 1, 2021, and Kindergarten registration will be held online from February 21, 2021 - March 31, 2021. He advised plans are underway for the 2021-2022 MGSD Dual Immersion Program rollout for kindergarten and first Grade students and shared discussions are being held for Summer Plans options but is awaiting the requirement specifications from the Department of Public Instruction

(DPI). Dr. Smith gave a shout out to all of our school counselors for their support and amazing social and emotional lessons they are providing to our students and a special thank you to the K-3 school counselors for creating a Social and Emotional Learning Digital Library that can be utilized by our students, parents, and teachers. Dr. Black advised the Fall 2020 End Of Course (EOC) exams at MMS & MHS are now complete, provided an overview of the MHS EOC performance data, and explained the dip in the Math 1 data is due to the challenges and disruption in instruction caused by COVID-19. He thanked the secondary grade level Guidance Counselors for their support and for providing our students with awesome social and emotional lessons. Dr. Black proudly shared MMS is one of only two traditional middle schools to create a Junior Excel Club, a service-based club that partners with the Lake Norman Exchange Club to help make the Mooresville Community better through volunteerism. He also provided an overview of all of the clubs offered at Mooresville Middle School that are meeting virtually and/or in person. Dr. Black advised the MMS club; Girls Re-Imagining Tomorrow Club (GRIT), is a STEM club created to introduce diverse groups of Middle School girls to technology focused career possibilities. They held their first of three sessions on January 25, 2021, and Alyssa Carson, the first woman to complete the NASA Passport Program, and currently training to travel to Mars in 2030, was a guest speaker. Dr. Black advised Mooresville Middle School will hold a virtual data review meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

- C. **Business Services Report:** Mrs. Haas presented and provided an overview of House Bill 75, Section 5; School Mental Health Support Personnel Reports and Funds. The report includes data by LEA, by Funds, and lists the current year data and past year data for the following personnel; School Psychologist, School Guidance Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Nurses. Mrs. Haas provided an update on the financing for the Park View Elementary and South Elementary projects and advised the Design-Build bids for these projects will be presented for board approval at a called board meeting in March.
- D. **Human Resources Report:** Dr. Medlock shared the district, has held great Beginning Teacher and Mentor meetings and advised mentors are doing a fantastic job in providing tremendous support to their beginning teachers and are continuing to meet with them for their sessions either in person or virtually. Dr. Medlock gave a special shout out to Ms. Latoya Caesar, MGSD Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, who recently led the Beginning Teacher and Mentor's third session and is connecting with them on a voluntary basis to provide virtual coaching. Dr. Medlock advised the recruiting season is underway and this year they will be held virtually allowing our school and district leaders the opportunity to participate in the recruitment process at the following virtual education recruitment fairs held at; UNC Wilmington, East Carolina University, UNC Greensboro, Appalachian State University, Campbell University, Elon University, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Pembroke. She indicated the Spring substitute teacher training will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021, in the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School. Dr. Medlock provided a

COVID-19 Staff Reports update since our last board meeting on January 12, 2021; a total of 84 staff reports have been made bringing the total to 490 staff reports; out of the 84 new reports 43 of those reports are staff members exposed to someone who was either symptomatic or tested positive bringing the total exposure cases to 315 out of 490 staff reports; out of the 84 new reports, 23 staff members have tested positive, bringing the total of positive cases to 105 out of 490 reports; total of 84 staff members have quarantined since our last board meeting on January 12, 2021, bringing the total to 474 staff members have quarantined

- E. **Public Communications Report:** Mrs. McLean provided the current, as of today, COVID-19 data for MGSD employees and students; Current Quarantines: 136 (25 staff members and 111 students); Close Contacts: 98 (15 staff members and 73 students); Symptomatic: 23 (6 staff members and 17 students); Positive Individuals: 15 (4 staff members and 11 students). She advised the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet virtually on February 22, 2021. Mrs. McLean reported she and MGSD Diversity and Inclusion Coach, Ms. Caesar on February 2, 2021, attended the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials (NCASBO) virtual conference; The Root of Discrepancies in our Public-School Systems. She shared the MHS Diversity Ambassador students that have been partnering with the Mooresville Public Library to hold virtual “Courageous Conversations” and will be holding a virtual zoom meeting on February 11, 2021, to discuss “the importance of celebrating Black history.” This meeting will be open to the community and the link will be posted on the MGSD website and social media. Mrs. McLean shared in honor of Black History Month the Mayor’s Diversity and Inclusion Task Force will be featuring people in our community and their reflections on Black History. She shared that as the vice-chair of that taskforce, she was proud to announce MHS Assistant Principal of the Year, Ms. Samone Graham, is one of the people that will be featured on the Town of Mooresville social media outlets and on the district social media outlets on February 22, 2021.
- F. **Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Mauney advised a detailed MGSD School Re-Opening Learning Plan Presentation for option 1, 2, and 3 would be presented to the board. He shared providing vaccinations for the MGSD staff, is of great concern for many of our staff members when considering increasing time in the school building for in-person instruction. Dr. Mauney advised the NC School Superintendents’ Association has submitted a formal request to Governor Cooper requesting that his administration and the Department of Health and Human Services prioritize teachers and staff in Group 3 of the state’s vaccination plan. Dr. Mauney expressed how very necessary it is for the COVID-19 vaccinations to be made available to district staff members who are working in-person with our students.
- G. **Board Events and Announcements:** The board reviewed the upcoming events as listed on the calendars included in their February board packet.

**Approval of the Revised MGSD Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) Plan:** Dr. Medlock presented and requested board approval of the revised MGSD Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan presented at the January board meeting for first read. The plan was updated to align with revised policy NC TCED-016 and will be submitted to the NC State Board of Education. **On a motion by Mr. Pridgen, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the revised MGSD Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) Plan as presented.**

**Facility/Construction Presentation:** Dr. Royal provided a Facilities and Construction Update Presentation that included the 2020-2021, MGSD Facilities Needs Survey results, an update on the renovations/additions at Park View & South Elementary, and the construction of the Selma Burke Middle School. Dr. Royal provided an overview of each school's floor plans, campus layout, and project timelines. He thanked the Executive Team, Directors, and the staff at Park View Elementary, South Elementary, Mooresville Intermediate, East Mooresville Intermediate, and Mooresville Middle School for their help and support.

**Board Policies - For Approval:** Mrs. Haas requested board approval of the following board policies presented at the January board meeting for first read. **On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the following board policies as presented.**

<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>Name:</b>
a) 4040/7310	Staff-Student Relations
b) 7335	Employee Use of Social Media

**Approval of Proposed 2021-2022 Budget:** Mrs. Haas presented and requested board approval for the 2021-2022 proposed budget that will be submitted to the Iredell County Commissioners. Mrs. Haas thanked board members for meeting with her to review the proposed budget in detail. She provided an overview of the proposed budget that includes our Proposed Current Expense Fund and Capital Outlay Budget. **On a motion by Mr. Pennell, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Budget as presented.**

**Approval of Budget Amendments:** Mrs. Haas provided an overview and requested board approval of the budget amendments made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. **On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the Budget Amendments as presented.**

**Presentation of School Re-Opening Plan Options:** Dr. Mauney advised Governor Cooper's recent press conference and the introduction of Senate Bill 37 has laid out opportunities for school districts to evaluate their current learning plans. He indicated the MGSD team will thoroughly review and explain the three re-opening plan options for the board to consider for our

learning plan moving forward for the fourth quarter. Dr. Mauney advised the district still must adhere to the COVID requirements still in place; masking, hygiene practices, and social distancing. He indicated although the 6ft. Social distancing is not required in K-5th grades, it is still mandated in grades 6th-12th therefore, MGSD cannot have 100% of our 6-12 students on campus 5 days a week. Dr. Mauney stated if the board decides to bring Grade Levels 6-12 back on campus more days than is currently being offered, we will request for parents to select the learning plan they wish to follow for the remainder of the year to know how many days a week the secondary grade levels will be able to attend in-person, in-building learning. Dr. Mauney asked the MGSD team to present the learning plan options, Option 1, 2, and 3 for the district moving forward. Dr. Smith, Dr. Black and Instructional coaches Ms. Conley and Ms. Waid presented and provided a detailed overview of the current MGSD learning plan and presented and explained the Learning Plan Options 1, 2, and 3 moving forward.

**Public Comments:** The following community members and district parents/guardians addressed the board to express their concerns and share the hardships their children have faced during virtual instruction; Laura Ervin, 113 Vincent Place, Mooresville, NC; Sarah Everhart, 145 Glenn Allen Rd, Mooresville, NC; Heather Durkee, 606 Wiggins Rd, Mooresville, NC; Lisa Neckameyer, 227 Golden Valley Dr., Mooresville, NC; Ashley Bogard, 127 Millen Dr., Mooresville, NC; Jennifer Franco, 132 Cinebar Rd, Mooresville, NC; Janet McCann, 119 Morning Sun Dr., Mooresville, NC; and Chad Greene, 137 Bruley Dr., Mooresville, NC.

**The Board of Education members Comments;** Mr. Hyatt, Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Pridgen, Dr. Marsh, and Mrs. Pennell each expressed their opinions and shared their concerns with regard to each of the MGSD learning plans presented and the options moving forward. They all agree that students need to be back in school as soon as possible but understand the risks involved if brought back too soon. Ms. Pennell shared concerns with students logging on and off with options 2 & 3, Mr. Pridgen agrees with students needing to be back in school but feels parameters still need to be followed for the safety of all students and staff, Mr. Whitfield would like to see hybrid of option 2 & 3, concerned with plans as laid out. Dr. Marsh feels strongly that K-3 students need to remain in current learning plan but concerned with other grades remaining the same, Dr. Hyatt agreed with the comments expressed by the other board members and shared the safety of all students and staff is a priority.

**Approval of School Re-Opening Plan:** Dr. Mauney shared, he recognized this has been a difficult and challenging time for our students, parents, teachers, and staff, and acknowledged the hardships faced by everyone involved. He shared factors he considered in making his recommendation include; students need to be in school, safety for our students and our staff, the current Iredell County Covid-19 positive test rate of 13.4%, teachers have not received vaccinations, and the firsthand experience MGSD faced when we had to quarantine 508 Pre-K-5th grade students, quarantined 10 classrooms, and had to close South Elementary within one

month of moving to Plan A, back in November. Dr. Mauney advised much time and effort was spent on developing learning plans designed to best balance the social, emotional, academic, and safety needs of our students and staff. He made the recommendation for MGSD to move to Learning Plan Option #2, beginning at the start of the 4th quarter, on Monday, March 15, 2021. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Pridgen, the board voted unanimously to approve the modified Learning Plan Option #2, beginning on March 15, 2021, for the 4th quarter.**

**Learning Option #2:**

- **Pre-K-fifth grade students:** No change from current plan; Hybrid model will remain two days in-person; socially distanced learning with cohort; one virtual day and two days remote.
- **Sixth grade students:** Two days in-person, socially distanced learning with cohort three days remote learning with synchronous instruction.
- **Seventh-12th grade students:** Students opting for in-person learning will be in the school building for one to three days per week based on cohort size. Those not attending in-person class will log in for live, synchronous learning with their in-person classes. After a certain amount of time, those at home will log off to continue work on their own while the second part of the period will be geared towards in-person instruction in the classroom.

Mr. Hyatt, under G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(6) & (a)(3), announced the board would go into closed session to review personnel and consult with the board attorney. **On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session.**

**On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to adjourn from the closed session.**

**On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Pridgen, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel list as recommended by the superintendent.**

**New Employees:**

None

**Promotions/Changes:**

Melanie Allen, MIWAYE Program Coordinator, NF Woods, 01/29/2021

Kerry Garner, 5th Grade ELA, MIS, 01/25/2021, Transferred from Small Group Instructor/SES

Kim Amstutz, Small Group Instructor, RRES, 02/01/2021 - 05/27/2021, Additional Assignment: Substitute Teacher

Terry Gwyn, Substitute Monitor, Transportation, 01/20/2021, Transferred from Maintenance Technician

Courtney Torrence, Custodian, MMS, 02/15/2021, Transferred from Temp Custodian at MMS

**Rehire:**

Kelly Compton, Substitute Teacher, 02/05/2021, Retired Teacher Assistant from SES

Wendy Fields, Small Group Instructor, SES, 02/01/2021- 05/28/2021, Retired Teacher from SES

**There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Pridgen, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Stephen A. Mauney, Secretary  
Board of Education