

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 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 were present. Mrs. Kerry Pennell attended the meeting electronically via Zoom.

Dr. Stephen Mauney, Superintendent, and Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney, were present.

Mrs. Angie Davis, Chief Finance Officer; Dr. Todd Black, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Instruction and CTE; Dr. Quinetta Hall Pratt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction; Dr. Sandra Albert, Chief Student Services Officer; Dr. Scott Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services; 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 Representative: *Kate Stevens, Mooresville Tribune*

Mr. Hyatt called the meeting to order, reflected on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and shared the quote: “Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and live your best life.” Mr. Hyatt held a moment of silence and introduced Autumn Powell, a third grader from Park View Elementary who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Pridgen, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021, Called Work Session and the August 10, 2021, Regular Meeting as presented.

Student of the Month: The Board of Education recognized Lively Stutts, 3rd grader at Park View Elementary with the September Student of the Month award. She was nominated by Ms. Jennifer Rekasi, PVES teacher, who wrote the following on the nomination form: “Lively is an all-around outstanding young lady. She has always been a student who demonstrates our school expectations of being respectful, responsible, safe and kind each and every day.”

Artist of the Month: The Board of Education recognized Autumn Powell, 3rd grader at Park View Elementary with the September Artist of the Month Award. She was nominated by Ms. Katherine

Lewis, PVES Music Teacher, who wrote the following on the nomination form: “Autumn is a wonderful young musician who always has a smile and an incredibly happy energy in our music classes. She is an amazing listener who also loves to sing, dance, and play instruments with her classmates, and her excitement is contagious! I chose Autumn specifically because of her enthusiasm and Joie de Vivre (exuberant enjoyment of life).”

Spotlight on People:

1. **2021 Tennis State 4A Champion:** Julia Abrams, MHS – Graduated May 2021.

The board recognized Julia Abrams, MHS graduate and 2021 4A Tennis State Champion. Tim Smith, MHS tennis coach, wrote this about Julia: “On June 26, 2021, Julia Abrams solidified herself as the greatest women’s tennis player in Mooresville High history. The pressure she was under in both the regionals and state tournament was immense and throughout her quest for her state title, Julia played with admirable class and made both her school and her community proud. As she continues her career at NC State, we wish all the best to the most outstanding Blue Devil tennis player ever.”

2. **2021 Wrestling State Champion:** Luke Goodin, MHS – Graduated May 2021.

The board recognized Luke Goodin, MHS graduate, and 2021 4A Wrestling State Champion. Ben Watson, MHS wrestling coach, wrote this about Luke: “During his time at Mooresville High School Luke recorded 109 career wins, won the 2021 160lb 4A State Championship, and the 4A West Regional Championship. Luke was All-Conference, All-County, and All-State. He was the Iredell County “wrestler of the year” and a two-time state placer as he also placed 3rd at States during his junior year.”

ABCD Award: The Above and Beyond Call of Duty Award was presented to Ms. Tanesha Rucker, Instructional Assistant & Part-Time Bus Driver at Park View Elementary. She was nominated by Ms. Jennifer Marshall, Assistant Principal at Park View Elementary, who wrote the following on the nomination form: “Every single task, event, responsibility, commitment, and accomplishment is driven by Ty's genuine love for children. She truly cares about the social and emotional well-being of children, is deeply committed to the people she works alongside, and is the greatest team player.”

Instructional Highlight: “Increasing Rigor & Building Relationships with Library Books.” - PVES Dr. Pratt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction introduced Mrs. Harkey, the Media Specialist at Park View Elementary who shared a presentation and explained how PVES is increasing Rigor and Building Relationships in the Media Center. She shared that third graders at Park View Elementary have set their own reading goals, created digital reading logs, and developed plans detailing how they would achieve their reading goals. Mrs. Harkey advised she and her media assistant are building relationships with each student by getting to know the genres they enjoy reading, discussing the books they have chosen to read, and sharing her love of literature with them. Mrs. Harkey also shared the students are often excited when she surprises them with evening calls to remind them to read.

Virtual Tour of the Selma Burke Middle School: Dr. Royal introduced the Selma Burke Middle School architects from the LS3P Firm, who presented the board with a virtual tour of the new MGSD Selma Burke Middle School. The representative also provided the board with an update on the project and answered the board member's questions.

Public Comments: Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney, provided the MGSD public comment guidelines and rules, and introduced each of the individuals listed on the public comment sign-up sheet. The public comments given were in regards to mask wearing at all MGSD facilities, CRT, DEI, and the new Social Studies Standards: *Lee Miller, 102 Southhampton, Mooresville, NC; Tyler Campbell, 144 Candelight Way, Mooresville, NC; Jennifer Maguire, 160 Pink Orchard Drive, Mooresville, NC; Keri Miller, 102 Southhampton, Mooresville, NC; Monica Bender, 122 Caversham Drive, Mooresville, NC; Monica Donaldson, 137 Stallings Mill Drive, Mooresville, NC; Carissa Abraham, 810 Deer Path Place, Mooresville, NC.*

Staff Reports:

- A. **Schedule Next Meeting:** The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, (Third Tuesday) at the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- B. **Construction Report:** Dr. Royal provided updates on the South Elementary & Park View Elementary renovations and the Selma Burke Middle School construction project. He reported work on the HVAC systems at both schools continues, with vertical duct units being installed in each classroom. Dr. Royal advised the work on the school's gymnasium's are underway and the kitchen and cafeteria renovations should be completed by winter break. He advised the steel bids for the Selma Burke Middle School has been received and the bids for the rest of the project are due on October 19, 2021. Dr. Royal gave an update on the athletic programs at Mooresville High School and Mooresville Middle School, provided team highlights, and current team standings. He advised the 2020 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on November 6, 2021.

- C. **Auxiliary Report:** Dr. Smith provided an update on the employee vacancies throughout the district and shared he is busy working on filling the district vacancies for custodians, bus drivers, and before and after school staff. He gave a shout out to the MGSD certified staff for driving school buses when needed and thanked the 22 employees that have signed up for extra custodial work. Dr. Smith shared that the technology department is busy working on much needed technology updates and gave an update on the district rollout of the mobile device app & website entitled "Here Comes the Bus". He advised this app allows parents to view the real-time location of their child's school bus on their smartphones, tablets, or computers, 600 families are currently connected, and encourages all families to sign up for this very informative and innovative app. Lastly, he advised the school nutrition department continues working hard in providing meals to our students.

- D. Instructional Report:** Dr. Pratt provided an instructional update for the K-6 grade levels and shared the school year is off to a great start. She shared teachers are working hard and thanked them for their dedication and commitment to every child, every day. She advised the upcoming Teacher Leader meeting was postponed in order to allow staff the time to adjust being back in the schools. Dr. Pratt gave an update on the K-6 School Improvement Plans, advised recommendations for each of the schools have been made, and shared the staff has been instructed to streamline the processes and procedures. She shared topics being discussed at meetings with staff includes; MTSS organization, school role responsibilities, and progress monitoring. Dr. Pratt provided an update on the quarantine learning plans that are underway and shared teachers are staying connected with parents via dojo, email, and phone calls. She gave an update on the Dual Immersion Program and thanked the board members for their recent visit to the dual immersion classes at Rocky River and South Elementary. Dr. Black commended the MHS & MMS administrators for their leadership and for the positive start to the new school year. He shared teachers are doing a great job under some challenging circumstances and have spent much time reinforcing many school procedures with students. Dr. Black reported secondary schools are still dealing with the following issues; substitute teacher shortages, Covid-19 quarantines, and implementing the measures aimed at addressing the student learning loss caused by COVID-19. Dr. Black provided an update on the secondary grade levels quarantine learning plans and advised schools are completing their School Improvement Plans that will be presented to the board at the October board meeting.
- E. Student Services Report:** Dr. Albert gave an updated student services report, advised 70 new EC students have transferred into the district since the beginning of the school year, and stated September is a busy time of year for applying for EC grants. Dr. Albert shared a new cohort with the EC leadership team and school psychologists are meeting regularly to complete the DPI Canvas Course and to develop professional development for all school teams on the new Learning Disability Policy and the new requirements that includes observations and interventions provided through MTSS. She provided an ESL update and shared the ESL teacher cohort meet weekly. Dr. Albert advised she is applying for the ELS Title III grant and shared how the grant will be utilized in the district.
- F. Business Services Report:** Mrs. Davis provided an update on the NC state budget and advised that although we have not received the 2021-2022 state budget from the General Assembly, the NC State Board of Education has recently approved additional federal funding resources that have been given to public schools. This funding is specifically allocated for; school nutrition, retention and recruitment, upcoming summer bridge programs, and CTE acceleration programs. Mrs. Davis advised that the district received ten bids from bipolar ionization device vendors and will request board approval for the vendor who met the requested specifications and gave the lowest bid. Lastly, Mrs. Davis reported she recently met with all of the school principals and

financial data managers to discuss local allotments, answer questions, and learn how the finance department can better serve them.

G. Human Resources Report: Dr. Medlock reported MGSD has been selected to serve as a pilot district for the new NCEES School Executive Evaluation tool for principals and assistant principals. She advised the evaluation process and standards for principals and assistant principals have remained the same, shared the tool ratings and descriptors are more applicable to the daily roles of the principal and assistant Principal, and advised a new Equity Driven Leadership Standard has been added to the evaluation tool. Dr. Medlock provided an update on the MGSD Beginning Teachers Support Program, shared mentors and beginning teachers are meeting and working well together and advised that the NC Department of Public Instruction will be auditing the MGSD Beginning Teacher Support Program this school year. She shared the 2021 TOY/BTOY Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, and the substitute teacher training will be held on September 30, 2021. Lastly, Dr. Medlock presented the 2021-2022 Staff COVID-19 Reports since our last board meeting on August 10, 2021; a total of **125** COVID-19 Staff Reports have been made bringing the total number of COVID-19 Staff Reports to **151**. Out of the **125** new COVID-19 reports, **28** staff members tested positive and a total of **85** staff members have had to quarantine since August 10, 2021. Out of the **125** new COVID reports, a total of **90** staff members provided their vaccination status with **69** of the **90** being fully vaccinated.

H. Public Communications Report: Mrs. McLean provided an update on the NCDHHS, K-12 COVID-19 testing program and shared MGSD has submitted the required CLIA waiver and application. She advised the NCDHHS testing program will allow MGSD in collaboration with the Iredell Health Department, to provide COVID-19 diagnostic testing to symptomatic and close contact students, teachers, and staff. Parents will need to give permission for their children to be tested. Mrs. McLean shared that five LPN or RN nursing positions to assist the district with testing have been posted. Mrs. McLean the SHAC state report has been submitted and advised the in-person district TAC/PAC meeting will be held on October 4, 2021. Lastly, Mrs. Mclean provided the current COVID-19 data as of today August 10, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.: Total Quarantines: **175** ; Close Contacts quarantined: **132** (4 employees and 128 students / community: 66, school: 66); Positive Individuals: **43** (4 employees and 39 students / 1 from secondary spread and 0 cases where individuals were masked); Current number of individuals who were close contacts who were exempt from quarantine due to being vaccinated: **29** (16 employees and 13 students); Current number of individuals who were close contacts exempt from quarantine due to both individuals properly/consistently wearing masks: **129** (all students this exemption is only for students as per the NC StrongSchools Toolkit). Current number of individuals who were close contacts who were exempt from quarantine due to having COVID-19 in the past 90 days: **4**.

- I. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Mauney reported the past six weeks of the 2021-2022 school year has gone well and shared that during his weekly school visits he has enjoyed seeing the level of student engagement in the classrooms and the work that the MGSD staff is doing on a daily basis. Despite some of the challenges faced by the district, students and staff are adjusting well. He reported that MGSD has seen a significant reduction in the district's COVID-19 data which indicates that the mitigation measures in place are effective at keeping staff and students safe and in school. Dr. Mauney advised the board of the recent misinformation being spread via social media and of some of the parent concerns with regards to the surveys sent out to MGSD students. He addressed this situation in order to provide the board and the community with correct information and to share the district's intent & purpose for the surveys. Dr. Mauney also clarified that parents can choose to opt their children out of all of the MGSD surveys. He shared that the survey for the K-6 grade levels asked age-appropriate questions about any social and/or emotional struggles they may have and the survey for the 7-12 grade levels asked age-appropriate questions about diversity and inclusion.

Dr. Mauney shared the purpose and intent for the K-6 & 7-12 student surveys are as follows:

- To provide us with data directly from our students on how they feel about a variety of topics that impact their ability to connect and learn in our classrooms – namely social and emotional challenges.
- Information gathered from the surveys will help our district determine if these social and emotional challenges are prevalent in our district or if they are not significant for our students.
- Knowing this information, we can make informed decisions on these and other topics, allowing us to best meet the needs of our students moving forward.

Dr. Mauney advised the surveys asked students to explain through their own racial and/or cultural lens how they feel in their school (connected, valued, safe, isolated, etc.) and stated he strongly believes that for all of our students to feel connected, valued, and safe in our schools, we must better understand how the various groups of students, including our white students feel while at school. This understanding is the only way to equip our students to share those feelings and build empathy. Not talking about issues that impact our students will not make them go away; therefore, we need to gauge how "real" some of these issues are to our students, and surveys are an effective means of doing this. Finally, Dr. Mauney wanted to make the following clear: "These surveys were NOT to promote Critical Race Theory, division, segregating races, or white guilt. Quite the opposite is the case. If we cannot help our students handle their emotions in productive ways, have meaningful conversations with individuals who are different from themselves, and treat one another with civility

and respect, then we will not be able to effectively help them grow academically and contribute to society in a positive way.”

Board Events and Announcements: The board reviewed the upcoming events as listed on the calendars included in the September board packet. The School Board will be attending the 2021 NCSBA Fall Law Conference on October 13-15, 2021 and the NCSBA Annual Fall Conference on November 11-13, 2021.

Approval of NCSBA 2021 Voting Delegates: Dr. Mauney requested nominations and board approval of four board members to serve as the NCSBA Voting Delegates at the 2021 NCSBA Annual Conference. The four approved Voting Delegates will officially represent the MGSD school board of education on all voting matters at the NCSBA Annual Conference’s Delegate Assembly. **On a motion by Mr. Pridgen, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously, to approve Mrs. Kerry Pennell, Dr. Deborah Marsh, Mr. Gregory Whitfield, and Mr. Roger Hyatt, as the NCSBA 2021 Voting Delegates as presented.**

Approval of Board Policy: Face Coverings - 4231/5021/7263 Opt. A (Face Covering Required)

Dr. Mauney presented and requested board approval of **Board Policy: Face Coverings - 4231/5021/7263 Opt. A (face covering required)** for all individuals in the MGSD school facilities unless specific exemptions are met. Dr. Mauney’s recommendation and request for board approval of this policy is based on Iredell County’s current “Red” categorization under the CDC Community Transmission Map. This policy is in alignment with our current required face covering policy that was adopted in August. In accordance with the SB 654 requirement the school board will vote to approve this policy with any necessary modifications at regularly scheduled monthly board meetings for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. The determination for which policy will be recommended each month will be based on Iredell County’s status on the CDC Community Transmission Map. If Iredell County is categorized as an “orange or red” county, then a required face covering policy will be recommended. If Iredell County is categorized as a “yellow or blue” county, then an optional face covering policy will be recommended. **On a motion by Mr. Pridgen, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the Board Policy - Face Coverings, 4231/5021/7263 Opt. A (Face Coverings Required) as presented.**

Approval of Ionization Project Bid: Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval for the ionization project bid and recommended the bid for bipolar ionization devices be awarded to HVAC Service Corporation. Dr. Royal explained how the bipolar ionization devices work and advised bipolar ionization devices will be integrated within the HVAC systems throughout the district to improve air quality and help clear the air of pollutants, dust, allergens, mold, bacteria, and viruses. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the Ionization Project Bid as presented.**

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

On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously to adjourn from the closed session.

On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel list as recommended by the superintendent.

New Employees:

Kristin DaSilva, ESL Teacher, MHS, 08/17/2021
Joelle Davis, EC Teacher, MIS, 08/23/2021, Beginning Teacher
Biwastha (Amrita) Khadka, Math Teacher, MMS, 08/24/2021, Beginning Teacher
Paige Sylvia, 6th Grade ELA Teacher, MIS, 08/26/2021, Beginning Teacher
Dr. Jamie Abercrombie, Small Group Instructor, RRES, 10/01/2021 - 05/24/2022
Laura Crenshaw, Substitute School Nurse, 08/27/2021
Heather Durkee, Substitute Teacher, 09/08/2021
Chanda Griffin, Substitute Teacher, 08/19/2021
Michael Hancock, Substitute Teacher, 09/10/2021
Kayla Harris, Substitute Teacher, 08/27/2021
Cara Lugo, Substitute Teacher, 08/19/2021
Angela Mead, Substitute, School Nutrition, 08/11/2021
Deborah Solomone, Substitute Teacher, 09/02/2021
Amber Ventura, Substitute School Nurse, 09/07/2021
Megan Wagner (Balke), Substitute Teacher, 09/02/2021
Melissa Williams, Bus Driver/Custodian, SES, 08/23/2021
Lori Wright, Substitute School Nurse, 09/14/2021

Rehire:

Kimberly Amstutz, Small Group Instructor, RRES, 08/23/2021 - 05/24/2022, Previously a Small Group Instructor at RRES
Wendy Fields, Title One Tutor, SES, 07/26/2021 - 05/22/2022, Previously a Title One Tutor at SES
Cynthia Smith, EC Teacher, MMS, 10/04/2021, Previously an EC Teacher at MMS
Tina Deery, Substitute Teacher/Substitute School Nutrition, 09/07/2021, Previously a Substitute Teacher and School Nutrition
Connie Kremar, Math Tutor, EMIS, 09/13/2021- 05/24/2022, Previously a Tutor at EMIS
Kendra McCachern, Tutor, SES, 09/13/2021 - 05/24/2021, Previously a Tutor at SES
Shannon Ogden, Teacher Assistant 1:1, EMIS, 08/26/2021, Previously a Tutor at RRES
Jessica Stanley, Substitute Teacher, 08/27/2021, Previously a Kindergarten Teacher at PVES

Promotions/Changes:

Cynthia Austin, Small Group Instructor, RRES, 09/01/2021 - 05/24/2022, Additional Assignment: Substitute Teacher
Andrea Jett-Wilson, Interim Instructional Coach, EMIS, 09/13/2021, 11/15/2021, Additional

Assignment: Substitute Teacher

Shametra Black, Bus Driver 50%, Transportation, 08/24/2021, Additional Assignment; Custodian/MHS
Emma Boyce, Technology Technician I, Technology, 09/13/2021, Transferred from Help Desk
Technician at MHS

Logan Edwards, Lead Technician, Technology, 08/26/2021, Transferred from Technician III/ Technology

Marissa Deamer, PowerSchool Data Manager, MMS, 09/13/2021, Transferred from PowerSchool Data
Manager at PVES

Darlene Gilmore, EC Teacher Assistant, MIS, 08/16/2021, Transferred from Substitute Teacher

John Eggers, Head Custodian, MHS, 09/10/2021, Transferred from Custodian at MMS

Sara Hutar, School Nurse, EMIS, 09/20/2021, Transferred from Substitute School Nurse

Shana Knox, Substitute, School Nutrition, 09/02/2021, Additional Assignment: Bus Driver

Celeste Kunneke, Substitute Teacher, 08/26/2021, Additional Assignment: BASP employee

Akela Link, Substitute Teacher, PVES, 08/20/2021, Transferred from Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver

David Pandolf, Custodian, RRES, 08/09/2021, Transferred from Temp Custodian

Felicia Tice, Custodian, MMS, 08/16/2021, Transferred from Temp Custodian

Denisia Wilson, Custodian/Bus Driver, SES, 08/31/2021, Transferred from Custodian at MHS

Velrice Wilson, Head Custodian, MHS-Magnolia Campus, 09/08/2021, Transferred from Custodian at
MHS

Retirement:

Bonnie Keating, Teacher Assistant, N F Woods, 5/2/22, 20 years of service to MGSD and 22 years of
service to NC State.

**There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the
meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Stephen A. Mauney, Secretary
Board of Education