

**MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 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; Dr. Debbie Marsh; Mrs. Kerry Pennell; and Mr. Rakeem Brawley were present.

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*
Mike Furhman, Iredell Free News

Mr. Hyatt called the meeting to order, shared a new year is time for new beginnings and reflected on the 3 C's of leadership; critic, cheerleader, and coach. He held a moment of silence and introduced Brody Walls, 1st grade student at South Elementary, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hyatt thanked South Elementary for presenting board members with a momentum in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

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

On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021, Regular Meeting as presented.

Student of the Month: The Board of Education recognized and awarded Brody Walls, 1st grade student at South Elementary School, with the January Student of the Month Award. Brody was nominated by his teacher Ms. Jessica Foster who wrote the following on his nomination. "Brody is a hardworking and responsible young man. He always goes above and beyond in all he does. Brody can often be seen teaching his friends how to play a math game or choose a book that is

just right for them. We love the way Brody always comes to school excited and ready to learn every day!”

Artists of the Month: The Board of Education recognized and awarded the South Elementary Second Grade Class of 2021-2022 with the Artists of the Month Award. They were nominated by their music teacher who wrote the following on the nomination form. “Over the past two years, each student has experienced school in a way that was on no one’s radar two and a half years ago. This year’s second-grade class at South Elementary is no exception. Their Kindergarten year was interrupted by a global pandemic. Their first-grade year was primarily spent on an iPad. Their second-grade year, while in person, has been filled with many, many changes, challenges, and obstacles, including school-wide construction. This group of students is resilient, and it shows. “Our second-grade classes at South were chosen as Artist of the Month for their participation in the 2021 Global Peace Day project. This project was led by Cheryl McCrorey, our School Library Media Coordinator and assisted by Melanie Kalkan, chorus teacher at Mooresville High School. They collaborated with the MHS chorus to learn and perform the song “Be a Light” by Thomas Rhett. This performance was recorded here in the Mooresville High School Performing Arts Center and then pieced together with other song performances from classes in many cities, states, and countries. Our students lifted their voices in song, even in the midst of chaos, and the result was a beautiful representation of unity and peace.” A representation of South’s Second Grade class and two MHS students performed for the board the song from project.

ABCD Award(s): The January Above and Beyond Call of Duty Awards were presented to two MGSD Payroll Specialist at the district central office; Mrs. Shelley Brown, Lead Payroll Specialist and Mrs. Leigh Anne Thornhill Payroll Specialist. They were nominated by Mrs. Angela Davis, Chief Operations Officer, who wrote the following on their nomination forms. “

“**Shelley Brown** is a well-known and well-respected name in the Mooresville Graded School District for good reason. Shelley consistently puts the needs of others before herself and will bend over backwards to help current, former, and potential employees. It is not uncommon to walk by Shelley’s office late in the afternoon and see her unopened, untouched lunch sitting on her desk as it is more important for her to take employee phone calls or meet with potential retirees, than to stop and eat lunch. She puts her heart and full effort into all aspects of her job and deeply cares about the employees of the district. Shelley never complains and will tackle any additional tasks that are required to get the job done. The pride she takes in her work is evident daily.”

“**Leigh Anne Thornhill** came to MGSD in June of this school year and has been making an impact from day one. From streamlining AESOP and Synovia import processes to creating payroll forms, Leigh Anne hit the ground running and hasn’t stopped since. She never hesitates to help a co-worker or employee and will many times find a way to simplify or automate a process. Leigh Anne’s desire for accuracy and excellence in every payroll process is apparent. It is rare to ever see Leigh Anne anywhere outside of her office as she is always in front of her

computer working hard. She brings immeasurable value to the payroll department and her work ethic and commitment to excellence is recognized by many. Her presence in the finance department truly makes a difference every day.”

Instructional Highlights: South Elementary School - “South Morning Shoutout”

Dr. Pratt introduced Media Specialist, Mrs. McCrorey who provided a presentation and explained the South Elementary School, “South Morning Shoutout”. Mrs. McCrorey advised that the “South Morning Shoutout” is a daily morning news program led by 3rd grade students. She advised that the program increases student engagement, helps to start each day on a positive note, and helps to build community within the school. Each morning the news program begins with announcements, the Pledge of Allegiance, weather forecast, current events, and birthday shout-outs. It also features a segment each day with a different instructional focus. Mrs. McCrorey provided an overview of the daily educational focuses provided Monday - Friday and the popular segments enjoyed by all.

Schedule Next Meeting: The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, in the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School at 6:00 p.m.

Staff Report:

- A. **Construction Report:** Dr. Royal provided an updated construction report and advised that the kitchen renovations continue at South Elementary & Park View Elementary, kitchen concrete floors were poured last week, and the gymnasium foundations were poured at both schools. He shared that the relocation of the front entrance at South Elementary is underway and will be completed by February. Dr. Royal shared that he has been working closely with Principal, Dr. Cottone, maintenance staff, and the renovations general contractor to ensure that the South Elementary front office re-location is completed with the necessary components for student and staff safety. He shared that site-work is underway at the Selma Burke Middle school and the construction crews are preparing the lot for the construction to begin. Dr. Royal reported that the district has once again partnered with the company Edulogy to assist MGSD in creating new school attendance boundaries that will go into effect when the Selma Burke Middle School opens in the fall of 2023. He advised that the district would hold multiple community attendance boundaries meetings to gain feedback and input from all district stakeholders. Dr. Royal will continue to update the board on the process and will present a final attendance boundaries proposal at the December 2022 board meeting. Dr. Royal shared that two draft calendar proposals for the 2022-2023 school year would be presented to the board for first reading. Lastly, Dr. Royal provided an athletic update for the Winter athletic programs at Mooresville Middle School and Mooresville High School, provided the team's final standings, and thanked the athletes and coaches for their hard work. Dr. Royal advised that the Spring athletic season will begin in in March with tryouts beginning in February.

- B. **Auxiliary Report:** Dr. Smith provided an updated Auxiliary report and advised things are going well in Technology, School Nutrition, BASP, and Maintenance. He advised that the Transportation Department continues to be the area in the district with the most need as they continue to deal with the challenges caused by the bus driver shortage. Dr. Smith reported the district continues to look at various options for hiring bus drivers, they are reviewing bus driver pay tables, and discussing pay increases. He shared that due to the bus driver shortage, MGSD has permanently doubled up on several bus routes and the district is reviewing some outlying areas and considering combining MMS & MHS students on the same buses as well as combining Intermediate and Elementary students together on the same buses. Dr. Smith advised that he make sure that parents are kept well-informed of any transportation changes or issues.
- C. **Instructional Report:** Dr. Pratt provided an overview of the implementation of the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Training Program for Pre-K and K-5 educators as mandated in the Senate Bill 387 – The Excellent Public School Act mandating that reading instruction is grounded in the “Science of Reading,” an evidence-based instruction method shown to help improve reading proficiency in young learners. Dr. Pratt advised that the Senate Bill 387 also includes the vendor - Voyager Learning that the NC districts will use to enhance reading instruction. The vendor Voyager Learning owns the LETRS Training Program, a professional learning program that provides educators and administrators with the skills they need to master the fundamentals of reading instruction. She indicated that the LETRS training and course work will be extensive for our educators but vital for reading literacy. Dr. Pratt shared that in addition to their teacher’s responsibilities, teachers will be required to complete 8 units of coursework in 2 years; 2 units per semester. Principals will also attend 2 full days of administrative professional learning sessions. Dr. Pratt gave a shout-out to the Calendar Committee for ensuring that Teacher Workdays were embedded in the 2022-2023 calendar options, allowing teachers with the time needed to complete the state required LETRS training. Dr. Black provided a secondary instructional update and advised that the new semester has started off strong and advised that MHS will hold a second semester virtual Open House on January 20, 2022. Dr. Black advised that the MHS Fall semester end-of-course exams (EOC’s) are now complete, test participation exceeded 95% in all subjects, and administrators are currently examining and analyzing data by subgroups in preparation for data meetings that will begin in February. The EOC results will be presented to the board at the February meeting. Dr. Black shared that Mooresville Middle School will begin administering the State Check-Ins during the month of January, and the district curriculum team is working to establish the Summer Social Studies workshop to include the new Social Studies curriculum that will be implemented next school year. Summer school preparations are underway, and the initial plans include; traditional summer school, CTE Summer Enrichment Camps, and Jump Start programming for at-risk rising 7th and 9th grade students. Dr. Black shared that plans are underway for training and for the implementation of the Check and Connect Program for students in the secondary grade levels for the 2022-2023 school year. Both MHS and MMS

were accepted into the Check and Connect Program - Cohort-4; an extensive whole child initiative that pairs at-risk students and their families with a mentor for two years. Finally, Dr. Black shared that the Assistant Principal Academy was held last week and provided a teacher evaluation training.

- D. **Student Services Report:** Dr. Albert provided an updated student services report and advised that EC students at MGSD are adjusting well to the school routines upon their return from Winter break. She indicated that summer school plans for students with disabilities are underway and staff will be reviewing student data in order to provide additional EC services and other related services this summer to address the learning gaps caused by the pandemic. Dr. Albert advised that ESL teachers attended ACCESS training last week and the ACCESS testing window will be from January 24, 2022 - March 4, 2022. Finally, Dr. Albert recognized all the student services staff members who have continued to work closely throughout the pandemic as well as recently as our district and community have recently faced tragedies. She stated she is humbled to work with such an incredible group of educators during these difficult times and thanked them for their hard work.
- E. **Business Services Report:** Mrs. Davis provided the board with employee pay raise and legislated bonus information that was recently provided by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) with respect to the salary increases included in the new 2021-2022 NC Biennial Budget that was signed into law in November. The new salaries will be retroactive back to the beginning of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, with a one-time retro payment being received in February. Mrs. Davis provided a breakdown of the staff pay raises for teachers, classified staff, central office staff, instructional support personnel, principals, and assistant principals. She also provided a breakdown of the staff bonus pay information for eligible employees and advised that each permanent and eligible employee will receive a one-time State Premium Pay bonus, with most employees receiving a \$1,500 payment. Most teachers and certified instructional support will receive a total of \$2,800 in the varying bonus payments, and principals will receive between \$2,800 and \$3,300 in bonus payments. The staff pay increases & bonuses will be reflected on the January 31, 2022, checks.
- F. **Human Resources Report:** Dr. Medlock provided an update on the MGSD Principal Fellows selection process for the Principal Fellowship Program at the University of North Carolina - Charlotte and shared that 6 MGSD candidates will interview on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, for final selection. She shared that the Mid-Year Mentor Meetings will be held on Monday, January 24, 2022, Beginning Teachers Meetings will be held on January 31, 2022 & February 1, 2022, and a substitute teacher training will be held on January 27, 2022. Dr. Medlock advised that preparation is underway for the 2022-2023 school year as the Staff Intent Forms will be sent out to all MGSD employees in the coming weeks, and she will begin attending the Spring Recruitment Fairs at colleges and universities. Dr. Medlock shared that due to the

shortage of students majoring in Education, many Spring Recruitment Fairs are being combined. Lastly, Dr. Medlock provided an updated Staff COVID-19 Report since our last regular board meeting on December 14, 2021: A total of **126** COVID-19 Staff Reports have been made, bringing the total number of COVID-19 Staff Reports to **395**. Out of the **126** new COVID-19 reports that were received, 83 are licensed staff and 43 are classified staff. Out of the **126** new COVID-19 reports, **61** of those reports are staff who were exposed to someone who tested positive. Out of the **126** new COVID reports, **51** staff members tested positive. A total of **104** staff members have had to quarantine since December 14, 2021. Out of the **126** new COVID reports, a total of **65** staff members provided their vaccination status, with **37** of the **65** being fully vaccinated. (approx. 5% of total staff).

G. **Public Communication Report** – Mrs. McLean advised that the annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast was cancelled, but the district will be participating in the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Projects that will be held in Mooresville on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at The Christian Mission and The Serenity House. Mrs. McLean shared that the second PAC and TAC Meetings held on January 10, 2022 and will provide the board with notes from that meeting. Mrs. McLean advised that the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), that was put on hold last year, will be reconvening and holding its first meeting on January 12, 2022, and thanked Dr. Marsh for being part of the committee. Although the SHAC committee was put on hold last year, the district continued providing school wellness through the meal delivery services, vaccination clinics for those who chose to take part, and mental health hotlines through our mental health partners. Finally, Mrs. McLean advised that the NC StrongSchools Public Health Toolkit by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was updated on January 10, 2022, and provided the updated COVID-19 data as of 2:45 p.m. today, for both MGSD staff and students at each school and other district facilities: **Total # of individuals that are COVID-19 positive = 80** (staff = 10 / students = 70), MHS = 35, MMS = 3, MIS = 11, EMIS = 7, PVES = 3, RRES = 10, South = 9, Other = 2; **Total # of individuals quarantined due to being identified as a close contact = 195** (11 staff/184 students), Community = 148, School = 47; **Total # of individuals exempt due to both individuals being masked = 189**, School = 189 (all students); **Total # of individuals exempt due to being up-to-date on vaccinations = 39**, Staff = 6, Students = 33; **Total # of individuals exempt due to being COVID + = 1 (student); Current County Numbers Positivity rate = 30.7** (16.5 January 4) Cases per 100K = 1409 (418 January 4).

H. **Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Mauney reported that the students return from winter break is going well and everyone getting back into their normal routine. He thanked everyone that was recognized at tonight's board meeting for their positive contributions to the district and community and gave a special thank you to the second graders and MHS students for their performance. Dr. Mauney thanked the district executive team and board members for provided coverage to over 90 elementary classes over the last several weeks, allowing teachers the time to complete the required individual student assessments. He also thanked Ms. Jemma Conley, the

Elementary Instructional Specialist, for creating & provided them with the lessons. Dr. Mauney advised that January is School Board Appreciation Month, and he expressed his appreciation for having a committed school board and thanked them for all that they do for our district and community. Lastly, Dr. Mauney shared that the 2022-2023 calendar options would be presented to the board for first read and advised that the district will be sending all district stakeholders a survey seeking feedback on the two draft calendars options.

- I. **Board Events and Announcements:** The Board reviewed the upcoming events as listed on the calendars included in their December board packet.

Presentation of 2022-2023 School Year Calendar Options: First Reading – Dr. Royal provided the board with a presentation of the two 2022-2023 school year calendar draft options for first read and asked the board to review the proposed calendar options that will be brought for approval in February. He shared that the calendars were drafted with the help and input from the district’s Calendar Committee that is represented by district administrators, teachers, MMS & MHS students, and parents from each school. Dr. Royal advised that both draft calendar options; Calendar 1 & Calendar 2, meet the 215 working days state requirements and have additional days in case of increment weather. The first calendar option has a school start date of August 10, 2022, and the second calendar option has a school start date of August 29, 2022. He provided highlights of both calendars and shared some important school dates on each calendar. Dr. Royal advised that a survey seeking feedback on both of the calendar options will be sent to parents and staff next week.

Approval of Audit Contract: Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval of the audit contract with the firm of Anderson, Smith & Wike LLC to provide the required audit for MGSD for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Mrs. Davis advised that this firm is utilized by many school districts and MGSD has been working with them for many years. **On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the audit contract for the year ending June 30, 2022, as presented.**

Board Policies: First Reading – Mrs. Davis presented the following 8 board policies being presented for first reading. The policies except board policy - 2300 were given to us by the NCSBA and have only minor changes to wording, legal references, and/or cross-references.

<u>Policy Number:</u>	<u>Name:</u>
a) 1725/4035/7236	Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct & Reporting Process
b) 1726/4036/7237	Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process
c) 2300	Board Meetings
d) 2310	Public Participation at Board Meetings
e) 4329/7311	Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited

- f) 7110 Information
- g) 7520 Family and Medical Leave
- h) 9020 Facility Design

Public Comments: Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney, provided the MGSD public comment guidelines and advised each individual will be given 3 minutes to address the board. He introduced each of the 6 following individuals listed on the public comment sign-up sheet: *Teresa Knight, 156 Fellspoint Road, Mooresville, NC; Mr. Knight, Brian D'Amico, 117 Snow Fountain Lane, Mooresville, NC; Brittany Westmoreland, 131 Madison Place Circle, Mooresville, NC; Allen Richter, 913 Fieldstone Road, Mooresville, NC; Kristen Belanger, 116 Tulip Drive, Mooresville, NC.*

Approval of Board Policy: Face Coverings - 4231/5021/7263: Dr. Mauney presented and requested board approval of Board Policy: Face Coverings - 4231/5021/7263. In accordance with the requirements in Senate Bill 654, school boards must approve a face covering policy each month for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Mauney reported that Iredell County is currently still categorized as a “Red” county under the CDC County Transmission Map classification system and presented the board with his Face Coverings Policy recommendation as follows: **(a)** Maintain and approve the current Face Coverings Required Policy that was approved at the emergency called board meeting on January 4, 2022, and until the next board meeting on February 8, 2022. **(b)** That the board adhere to the NCDHHS control measures as we are statutorily required to do and as outlined in the NC Strong Schools Toolkit, pages 15 & 16. Each of the board members shared their thoughts and concerns based on the current Covid data presented to them and gave their face covering policy recommendations. Upon Mrs. Pennell request MGSD board attorney, Kevin Donaldson provided clarification regarding the expired law (SB 220) that required schools to follow the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit. District Attorney, Dean Shatley also provided advisement via email that indicated that although the SB 220 has expired, MGSD still has a statutory obligation to follow the control measures established by the NC Department of Health and Human Services as outlined in the Strong Schools NC Toolkit pages 15 & 16.

On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously to approve a 5-minute recess to review the email from MGSD Attorney, Dean Shatley. After the 5-minute recess, Board Chair, Mr. Hyatt requested a motion from the board to recommend and approve a face covering policy for the next month and until the next board meeting on February 8, 2022. Mrs. Pennell presented her Face Covering Policy recommendation to approve the Face Covering Policy as follows: Effective January 18, 2022, Face Coverings will be Optional, unless a school reaches a threshold of 1% of its population testing positive at which time face masks would be required. The Superintendent would revisit the school data each

Friday to determine conditions for the following week. **On a first motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted as follows: Mrs. Pennell - yay, Mr. Hyatt - nay, Mr. Whitfield - nay, Dr. Marsh - nay, and Mr. Brawley - nay. With a board vote of 1 - 4, the Face Covering Policy recommendation made by Mrs. Pennell was not approved.**

Dr. Marsh presented her face covering policy recommendation & first motion for approval. **On a first motion by Dr. Marsh, that was seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board did not take a final vote and continued their discussions.**

Dr. Marsh presented an amended face covering policy recommendation and an amended first motion. **On an amended first motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted as follows: Dr. Marsh - yay, Mr. Whitfield - yay, Mr. Hyatt - yay, Mr. Brawley - yay, and Mrs. Pennell - nay. With a board vote of 4 - 1, the board approved the MGSD Board Policy: Face Coverings - 4231/5021/7263 as follows: Face Masks Required for all students and staff as well as follow the NC Department of Health and Human Services Isolation and Exclusion Control Requirements and Guidelines that are outlined in the StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit, pages 15 & 16. The MGSD Athletic Programs will follow the guidelines set forth in the NC High School Athletics Association (NCHSAA). The board will revisit the mask policy at the February 8, 2021, regular board meeting. Due to federal orders, face coverings will continue to be required on all school buses**

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 Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session.**

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

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

New Employees:

Tricia Bodine, 5th Grade ELA, MIS, 01/12/2022, Ma Elmira College 6 years of experience: NY Taylor Evernham, 2nd Grade Teacher, RRES, 01/03/2022, BA University of North Carolina-Wilmington; Beginning Teacher

Stephanie Leander, Social Studies Teacher, MMS, 01/10/2022, MA University of Florida 15 years of experience; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Torri Safrit, English Teacher, MHS, 01/10/2022, BA University of North Carolina 3 years of experience; Cabarrus County School

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Amy Cox, Substitute Teacher, 01/10/2022
Franklin "Chase" Harvey, Substitute Teacher, 01/05/2022
Clark Hodges, Substitute, School Nutrition, 01/06/2022
Aaron Rogers, Substitute Teacher, N F Woods, 01/05/2022
Mae Speight, Custodian, MIS, Helen Bailey, 01/10/2022
Paige Wright, Substitute Teacher, 01/10/2022

Rehire:

Kathryn Buff, School Counselor, MMS, 01/04/2022, Previously a School Counselor at MMS; experience in ISS

Promotions/Changes:

Michael Royal, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, CO, 03/01/2022, Transfer from Chief Operations Officer
Andrea Jett-Wilson, Title One Tutor, EMIS, 01/04/2022 - 05/24/2022, Additional Assignment: Substitute Teacher
Tawana Caldwell, Learning Lab Assistant, MHS, Melanie Greenwell, 01/03/2022, Transferred from MHS School Nutrition Assistant

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Roger E. Hyatt, Chairman
Board of Education

Dr. Stephen A. Mauney, Secretary
Board of Education