

**MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School, 659 E. Center Avenue, Mooresville, NC 28115.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Greg Whitfield, Board Chair; Mrs. Kerry Pennell, Vice-Chair; Mr. Rakeem Brawley; Mr. Roger Hyatt; and Dr. Debbie Marsh were present.

**Also Present:** Dr. Jason Gardner, Superintendent, and Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney. Dr. Michael Royal, Chief of Schools; Mrs. Angie Davis, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs. Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer, and Title IX Coordinator; and Mrs. Sylvia Martinez, Board Clerk were also present.

Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, called the meeting to order, recognized that March is Women’s History Month, and shared a quote by legendary women’s basketball coach, Pam Summitt. He held a moment of silence, and Dr. Gardner introduced MHS Senior, Davyeon Winford, who led the pledge of allegiance.

**Media Present:** *Debbie Page, Iredell Free News*

**Approval of the Agenda:** On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Mr. Brawley, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

**Student of the Month:** The School Board recognized Daveyon Winford, MHS senior, as the March Student of the Month. Mrs. Meghan Black, Teacher & Student Government Association advisor, nominated the student, and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the student was selected. Mr. Brawley, Board member, presented the Student of the Month Certificate to the student.

**Artists of the Month:** The School Board recognized Alexis “Alex” Cruz, MHS senior, as the March Artist of the Month. Ms. Debbie Hauff, Art Teacher, nominated the student, and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the student was selected as written on the nomination form. Mr. Brawley, board member, presented the student with the Artist of the Month Certificate.

**ABCD Award:** The board recognized and presented the March Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award to Ms. Ivory Vanderburg, Financial Data Manager at Park View Elementary. The PVES Administrators: Misha Rogers, Jennifer Marshall, and Jill Zsuppan nominated Ms. Vanderburg, and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons she was selected as written on the nomination form.

**Spotlight on People (a): 1st Place Winners - CTE Regional SkillsUSA Competition**

Mooreville High School - Academy of Engineering students were recognized for winning 1st place at the 2023 CTE Regional SkillsUSA Competition. These students and their advisors will attend the state competition on April 18 - 20, 2023: Vindent Bindus, 10th Grade/Drafting I; Elizabeth Decker, 9th/Additive Manufacturing; Isabella Deal, Senior/Additive Manufacturing; and Khadeejah Saleem, Senior/Medical Math.

**Spotlight on People (b): MHS Wrestling Team - 2023 Conference & Regional Champions**

The Mooreville High School wrestling team & coaches were recognized for winning the 2023 4A Conference Championship & 4A West Regional Tournament Championship. The 2023 Team & Individual season record is as follows: undefeated 6-0 Conference record; overall record of 27-7; Coach Ben Watson - Conference Coach of the Year; Davis Freeze - Conference Co-Wrestler of the Year; **Individual Regional Champions** - Jace Barrier, Davis Freeze, Greg Merriman, Johnny Merriman, & Ray Watson; **All Conference Team:** Jace Barrier, Calvin Nguyen, Jaiden Nobelzado, Austin Green, Austin Emmert, Davis Freeze, Greg Merriman, Johnny Merriman, Brady Rabb, & Ray Watson; **State Qualifiers:** Jace Barrier - Regional Champion; Austin Green - 3rd place at regionals; Austin Emmert - 2nd at regionals; Davis Freeze Regional Champion; Greg Merriman - Regional Champion; Brady Raab - 3rd place at regionals; Ray Watson - Regional Champion; and **State Placers:** Jace Barrier - State Runner-up; Davis Freeze - State Champion (45-1 overall record); Greg Merriman State Champion (44-1 overall record); Johnny Merriman - 3rd place. **Team Roster:** Jace Barrier; Calvin Nguyen; Landon Neith; Nolan Martin; Cooper Davis; Jaiden Noblezada; Tyler Nicholson; Cole Hazlett; Austin Green; Parker Dube; Samuel Breece; Joe Hauk Austin Emmert; Dax Nacey; Jahmier Lane-Johnson; Holden Faison; Davis Freeze; Xavier Cajas; Ty Martin; Marlon Castro; Greg Merriman; Brady Raab; Camden Montgomery; Bentley English; Jakob Tilley; Skyz Carr; Ray Watson; Drew Davis; Zander Davis. **Head Coach:** Ben Watson; **Assistant Coaches:** Geoff McIntosh, Brandon Sinnott, Mike Goins, Daniel Yow, Kane Price, Garry Eller.

**Spotlight on People (c): MHS JV Girls Basketball Team - 2023 Conference Champions**

The Mooreville High School JV girls' basketball team & coaches were recognized for winning the 2023 Conference Championship. The district is proud of this young team for their great season & for the accomplishment in winning the conference championship for the first time in a long while. The team ended the 2023 season with a 10-2 conference record, and an overall record of 13-5. **Team Roster:** Kaira Burgette; Elizabeth Fitzpatrick; Gabriella Glad; Zion Harvell; Giavonna Lowe; Evangelia Tsomos; Cydnee Wise Smith; Brookelyn Amstutz; Kensley Ford; Haleigh Straub; Shamylyn Davis; Addison Campbell; and Nariah McKee. **Head Coach:** Kailey Newell and **Assistant Coach:** Shirley Johnson.

**Instructional Highlights: "CTE Highlights" - MHS - Career and Technical Education Program**

Ms. Julie Blocker, CTE Program Coordinator, and Mr. Kevin Wilson, Career Development and Academy of Engineering Coordinator, presented highlights of the MHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. This program provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed after high school. The presentation included the certificates earned data and the CTE

Work Based Learning (WBL) activities for the 2022-2023 school year, including: field trips, workshops, and CTE guest speakers. Mr. Wilson discussed the internships and apprenticeships available to students, and introduced an MHS/CTE student who shared his experiences being part of the CTE program.

**Schedule Next Regular Board Meeting:** The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at East Mooresville Intermediate School, at 6:00 p.m. The board will hold a called workday retreat for Strategic Planning on April 17, 2023, at EMIS.

**Staff Reports:**

- A. **Construction Report:** Dr. Royal provided an updated construction report and shared that items on the South Elementary and Park View Elementary renovation punch lists were completed during Spring Break. He reported that the Selma Burke Middle School construction continues to progress nicely and remains on schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Royal advised plans are underway to begin interior work at SBMS, and will include: painting, tiling, and asphalt pouring. Lastly, Dr. Royal advised he is working closely with Ann Clark, Athletic Director, on athletic uniforms & equipment for the Selma Burke Middle School.
- B. **Auxiliary Report:** Dr. Royal presented an updated auxiliary report for Dr. Smith and shared that plans for the 2023-2024 school year preparations are underway. Dr. Smith is working closely with MGSD Maintenance Director, David Martin, on the maintenance summer plans to prepare facilities for the 2023-2024 school year. Due to the opening of the SBMS, and grade re-configurations, the maintenance department will also have to move teachers to their new assigned schools this summer. Dr. Royal reported that the transportation department is also preparing for the 2023-2024 school year and will soon send Bus Ridership Surveys to parents to efficiently prepare for the new school year. He reported that the district continues the district-wide camera system upgrades, and additional cameras and badge entry systems are being installed throughout the district. Lastly, Dr. Royal welcomed Officer Ashley Suggs, an additional Security Resource Officer (SRO), hired to work at MGSD.
- C. **Instructional Reports:** Dr. Royal provided the following updated instructional reports for the Elementary & Secondary grade levels. He advised that K-5 teachers continued their LETRS training, secondary teachers worked on the curriculum guides, and K-12 Assistant principals participated in professional development sessions during the March 13th required teacher workday. Dr. Royal shared that MGSD recently completed the annual ACCESS testing with a 98% participation rate and advised that as part of the MGSD Title 3 plan, optional professional development in Ellevation Strategies will be offered to teachers to earn stipends and CEU's. He shared that the Kindergarten Readiness Screening (KRS), for 2023–2024 kindergartners, will be held on April 24, 2023. Dr. Royal provided an updated athletics report for MMS & MHS and provided an update on the Middle School Athletic Conference for 2023-2024. The Middle School Athletic Conference will be divided into two divisions and the conference will include MMS, SBMS, West Rowan, and three middle schools from Davie County. Finally, Dr. Royal shared that

the Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet for the class of 2020, was held on February 25, 2023, and went well.

- D. **Student Services Report:** Mrs. Davis presented the updated Student Services Report for Dr. Albert. She reported that the EC team is currently working on the April 1, 2023 Student Count, which determines state funding for the 2023-2024 school year. MGSD currently serves over 780 students with disabilities and anticipates the amount will increase to 800. Mrs. Davis shared that the Exceptional Children's Resource & Transition Fair will be held on March 28, 2023. Local businesses & community partners who work with children with disabilities will be at the fair to showcase the services & resources available for families/students with disabilities. She reported that MGSD held their first Mental Health Awareness night on March 15, 2023, which included a panel of health professionals from the Lake Norman Mental Health Taskforce. Mrs. Davis advised that 9 staff members recently attended the Restorative Practices Training, and a team of 25 staff members will attend the Informed Practices Trainings on: March 29, 2023, April 11, 2023, and April 17, 2023. This MGSD team will provide informed practices training to additional staff members beginning next year.
- E. **Business Services Report:** Mrs. Davis presented an updated business report and shared that the auditors from Anderson, Smith & Wike recently performed audits on the district's financials and controls and audits at selected schools. She advised the audits went well, and MGSD received a clean report. Mrs. Davis thanked district financial data managers for their hard work in ensuring a clean audit. Mrs. Davis advised that the 2024 fiscal year state planning allotments from DPI were received earlier this month. She is waiting for the release of the 2023-2024 state budget and will meet with district department leaders to plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
- F. **Public Communications Report:** Mrs. McLean provided an updated Communications Report and shared that the 2023 Teacher of the Year (TOY) and Beginning Teacher of the Year (BTOY) process is underway, and the school winners will be announced on April 5, 2023. The TOY/BTOY Committee will begin the interviewing & observing process of each of the candidates and will announce the district TOY & BTOY on May 1, 2023. Mrs. Mclean advised that the MGSD SHAC, in partnership with Iredell Health Diabetes and Wellness Center, will hold 6 free Diabetes Navigation sessions designed to help the community. The first session was held on March 16, 2023, at the MHS Performing Arts Center. Lastly, Mrs. McLean shared that the upcoming MGSD community events include: Diabetes Navigation - session 2 will be held on March 23, 2023; Picnic in the Park and Fund Steam event will be held on April 3, 2023; and Happy Healthy Family Day will be held on April 22, 2023.
- G. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gardner expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the \$50,000 donation given to MGSD in January to help pay for our student's overdue meal charges. He thanked the donor, who chooses to remain anonymous, for this generous donation and for supporting student learning. He advised that the federal government stopped providing the COVID-19 funding for free school meals, and this donation has helped offset the costs of school meals for many of our families.

MGSD will continue to advocate for universal free meals for students in NC public schools. Dr. Gardner reported the district continues to make progress in the development of the new MGSD Strategic Plan and has been focused on the feedback received. He shared that the feedback process includes monthly Steering Committee meetings, and 13 focus groups made up of MGSD classified staff, teachers, administrators, directors, parents, community stakeholders, and MMS & MHS students. Dr. Gardner advised that the feedback received will be used to bring a revised draft for the board to review in the coming months.

H. **Board Events and Announcements:** Mr. Whitfield reviewed and highlighted the upcoming events listed on the March & April calendars included in the board packet.

**Public Comments:** *None*

**Approval of Summer Retesting & Remediation Plans:** Mrs. Jemma Conley & Dr. Tracy Waid presented and requested board approval of the 2023 Summer Retesting/Remediation Plans, presented for first reading at the February board meeting. **On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Summer Retesting & Remediation Plans as presented.**

**Board Policies - For Approval:** Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval of the 2 revised board policies, which were presented for first reading at the February board meeting. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted unanimously to approve the board policy revisions as presented.**

<u>Policy Number(s):</u>	<u>Name(s):</u>
4220	Student Insurance Program
4150	School Assignment

**Approval of MHS Overnight & Out of State Field Trips:** Dr. Royal presented and requested board approval of the following MHS overnight & out of state field trips: 32 Color Guard students & 2 chaperones will travel to Rock Hill, SC to attend the CWEA championship on April 1, 2023; 28 students in the MHS Indoor Winds Ensemble & 2 chaperones will travel to Roebuck, SC to attend the CWEA championship on April 15, 2023; and 22 students on the MHS CTE team & 4 chaperones will travel to Greensboro, NC to attend the SkillsUSA State Competition on April 18-20, 2023. **On a motion by Mr. Brawley, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the MHS overnight & out of State field trips as presented.**

**Approval of SBMS Band Instruments Purchase:** Dr. Royal presented and requested board approval of the contract with Jackson's Music in the amount of \$152,896.25 for the purchase of band instruments for the Selma Burke Middle School. Local funds budgeted for the Selma Burke Middle School will be used for the purchase. **On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the SBMS Band Instruments Purchase contract as presented.**

**Approval of 2023-2024 School Start & End Times:** Mrs. McLean presented and requested board approval of the 2023-2024 MGSD school start and end times. The proposed times will allow the district to maximize the transportation operational efficiency of our bus fleet and reduce the number of late buses. In addition, with the 6th grade students moving to middle school, MGSD will have the opportunity to combine some elementary and intermediate bus routes, creating a more efficient transportation system. and advised that the proposed. **On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 School Start Times as presented.**

**Closed Session:** Pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11 subsections (a)(6) & (a)(3), Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, requested the school board go into closed session to review personnel and consult with the board attorney. **On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board unanimously voted to go into closed session.**

**On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board unanimously voted to adjourn from the closed session.**

**Approval of Personnel Report: On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board unanimously voted to approve the personnel list as recommended by the superintendent.**

**New Employees:**

Anita Curry, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher, MIS, 03/13/2023  
LaVon Sayre, EC Teacher, MIS, 02/27/2023, Beginning Teacher  
Hope Wilson, Science Teacher, MMS, 03/20/2023  
Malcolm Adams, Teacher Assistant, SES, 03/01/2023, 05/30/2023,  
Stephanie Buote, Reading interventionist (Tutor), MIS, 03/20/2023 - 05/23/2023  
Anthony Buffo, Floating Custodian, MGSD, 03/22/2023 - 05/21/2023  
Anthony Buffo, Head Custodian, MIS, 05/22/2023, Transferred from Floating Custodian for MGSD  
Stephanie Hensley, Substitute, School Nutrition, 02/21/2023  
Jose Salazar, Technology Technician, Technology, 03/27/2023  
Hannah Thompson, Substitute Teacher, MGSD, 03/02/2023  
Gage Thorsen, Substitute Teacher, MGSD, 03/02/2023,  
Natalie Wood, Teacher Assistant, SES, 02/27/2023- 05/30/2023

**Rehire:**

Linda Heiland, EC Teacher, MIS, 03/13/2023  
Mary Fink, Substitute, School Nutrition, 03/02/2023, Previously a School Nutrition Substitute  
Dorothy Flanary, Substitute Teacher, MGSD, 03/02/2023, Previously a Science Teacher at MHS

**Promotions/Changes:**

Lisa Gruneiro, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, RRES, 02/10/2023-05/30/2023, Additional Assignment: Substitute Teacher  
Taren Mangual, Theatre Arts Teacher, SBMS, 08/01/2023, Transferred from EC Teacher Assistant at MMS  
Jennifer Beverly, Bus Driver/Teacher Assistant, NF Woods, 03/01/2023, Transfer from Transportation  
Hannah Grutza, School Nutrition Assistant (20 hours per week), MIS, 03/02/2023, Transferred from School Nutrition Assistant (15 hours per week) at MIS

Darlene Holloway, School Nutrition Manager, SES, 02/16/2023, Transferred from Assistant School Nutrition Manager at SES  
Akela Link, Pre-K EC Teacher Assistant, RRES, 03/16/2023, Transferred from 50% Pre-K Teacher Assistant  
Krystal Ortiz, Substitute Teacher, BASP and MGSD, Transferred from Full Time position at BASP  
Cassidy Riddle, School Nutrition Assistant Manager, SES, 02/16/2023, Transferred from School Nutrition Assistant at SES  
Charlene Rodríguez, Transportation Secretary (12 months), Transportation, 03/06/2023, Transferred from Transportation Office Assistant (10 months)  
Valerie Smith, Substitute, School Nutrition, 02/27/2023, Transferred from Part Time SN Assistant at PVES  
Teresa Troy, Substitute Teacher, 06/01/2023, Transferred from Teacher at PVES  
Theresa Wendell, School Nutrition Manager, SBMS, New Position, 03/27/2023, Transferred from Assistant School Nutrition Manager at SES

**Retirement:**

Carol Elliott, Teacher, RRES, 5/30/2023, 18 years of service to MGSD and 28 years of service to the State of NC

**Adjournment: With no further business, on a motion by Mr. Brawley, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Whitfield, Board Chair  
Board of Education

Dr. Jason D. Gardner, Secretary  
Board of Education