

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at East Mooresville Intermediate School, 1711 Landis Highway Avenue, Mooresville, NC 28115.

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

**Also Present:** Dr. Jason Gardner, Superintendent, and Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney.

Mrs. Angie Davis, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs. April Kuhn, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Scott Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Dr. Sandy Albert, Chief Student Services Officer; Mrs. Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer & Title IX Coordinator; and Mrs. Sylvia Martinez, Board Clerk, were present.

Mr. Whitfield, the Board Chair, called the meeting to order, shared a quote by Michael Jordan, and held a moment of silence. Dr. Gardner introduced Natasha Javier Moreno, 6th grader at EMIS, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

**Student of the Month:** The School Board recognized & presented the Student of the Month award to Natasha Javier Moreno, 6th grader at EMIS. Ms. Jill Conley, EMIS teacher, nominated the student, and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the student was selected, as written on the nomination form.

**Artists of the Month:** The School Board recognized & presented the Artist of the Month award to Brooklyn Baucom, 6th grader at EMIS. Mrs. Michelle Corbett, EMIS art teacher, nominated the student, and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the student was selected as written on the nomination form.

**ABCD Award:** The board recognized and presented the monthly Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award to MGSD employee Mr. Mike Houston, Teacher Assistant & Coach at Mooresville High School.

The MHS Administration Team nominated Mr. Houston, and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the employee was selected as written on the nomination form.

**Instructional Highlights: “EMIS Eagles - PBIS Puzzle” - East Mooresville Intermediate School**

Mrs. Tracy Pratt-Dixon, EMIS Principal, and Assistant Principals, Mr. Rob Orrill & Mrs. Debbie Birchett, presented & provided an overview of the EMIS “Eagle Time - PBIS Puzzle.” The PBIS Puzzle is a whole school approach to the whole learner that provides students with life skills needed to prepare them for the future. They highlighted the various methods, strategies, celebrations, rewards, & student clubs offered to students in the EMIS PBIS Puzzle.

**Schedule Next Regular Board Meeting:** The next regular school board meeting is on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School at 6:00 p.m. The board will hold a Called Workday Retreat for Strategic Planning, Session #2, at EMIS on April 17, 2023.

**Staff Reports:**

- A. **Construction Report:** Dr. Smith provided the updated construction report in the absence of Dr. Royal and advised that the Selma Burke Middle School construction project continues to progress well. He reported that the new middle school remains on schedule for completion and exterior work at the campus will be the focus for the next few weeks. Board members visited the Selma Burke Middle School campus last week to see the construction progress.
  
- B. **Auxiliary Report:** Dr. Smith presented an updated auxiliary report and advised that the Maintenance Department is working on spring related projects and preparing for the district-wide summer projects. He advised that work is underway at the MHS ball fields batting cages and on the auto mechanics bays at NF Woods. Dr. Smith reported a new Selma Burke Middle School cafeteria manager has been named, and the School Nutrition staff is training on a new system that will be utilized during the 2023-2024 school year. He shared that Transportation Ridership Surveys for the 2023-2024 school year were sent to MGSD families and 65% of our families have responded to the surveys. Dr. Smith advised that to maintain consistency at elementary schools, 2nd grade students will use iPads instead of laptops next school year and will need to purchase 450 iPads. The Technology Department has developed a 3-year plan to replace the K-2 classroom SMART Boards with Promethean interactive boards. Dr. Smith shared that the BASP Summer Camp is full and the Fall BASP registration will open on April 22, 2023. He reported that MGSD held the required annual tornado drill last week, and the district-wide safety upgrades will be completed by the end of June. Finally, Dr. Smith shared that MGSD is working with the MPD in hiring a new School Resource Officer who will be assigned to the Selma Burke Middle School.
  
- C. **Instructional Reports:** Dr. Smith gave a shout-out to the MGSD Assistant Principals in honor of last week’s AP Appreciation week and thanked them for their hard work. Dr. Smith shared Instructional Coaches Day is on Thursday, April 20, 2023; Principal Appreciation

Day is on Monday, May 1, 2023; and Teacher Appreciation Week is on May 8-12, 2023. He congratulated the MHS Concert Band, Symphonic Band, & Wind Ensemble, for earning Straight Superiors Ratings at the South Central District Music Performance Adjudication. Finally, Dr. Smith provided an updated athletic report for MHS and MMS teams.

- D. **Student Services Report:** Dr. Albert presented an updated student services report and advised that the EC Department held an EC Resource and Transition Fair at MMS on March 28, 2023, and over 30 families with students with disabilities were in attendance. Families received information and resources from local colleges, community agencies, and secondary EC teachers. Dr. Albert advised that the EC April child count at 795. She reported that MGSD held its first Mental Health Family Night in March, and plans are underway to hold future events next school year. Dr. Albert shared that school counselors, psychologists, and social workers continue to provide students with support, interventions, & outside resources when needed. She reported that MGSD continues to partner with Lifestance & Rainbow Kids, and currently 381 MGSD students receive school-based mental health services through Lifestance.
- E. **Business Services Report:** Mrs. Davis presented an updated business report and shared that the finance department has been working with district leaders to ensure compliance with general statutes and board policies, as they pertain to purchasing. She shared that they have also been working on additional allotments received through state, federal, and local sources. Mrs. Davis will present the board budget amendments for approval later in the meeting.
- F. **Human Resources Report:** Mrs. Kuhn shared that she is excited to join the MGSD family and shared her appreciation for the welcome she has received. She reported that the Human Resource team and school leaders have attended most of the Spring Job Fairs and in collaboration with the Town of Mooresville, will hold a Job Fair on April 12, 2023 that will include bus drivers. Mrs. Kuhn announced that the Beginning Teacher of the Year (BTOY) ceremony will be held on April 25, 2023.
- G. **Public Communications Report:** Mrs. McLean provided an updated communications report and shared that MGSD will hold its first annual Happy Healthy Family Day Community event at MMS on April 22, 2023. Mrs. McLean reported the last Navigating Diabetes class was well attended, and great feedback was received. She advised that the annual district nursing audit went well, and MGSD received a clean audit. Mrs. McLean congratulated the following school level 2023 Teachers of the Year (TOY), and 2023 Beginning Teachers of the Year (BTOY): PVES: TOY - Marjorie Finan; BTOY - Alaina Shaw; RRES: TOY - Danielle Mangouri; BTOY - Alexis Hollingshead; SES: TOY - Cindy Booker; BTOY - Jazmina Torres; EMIS: TOY - Aimee Slagle; BTOY - Tori McGinnis; MIS: TOY - Jacquelynn McKay; BTOY - Jordan Caldwell; MMS: TOY - Angie Peterson; BTOY - Alyssa Zocchi;

**MHS: TOY - Jennifer Lloyd; BTOY - William Gray; MIWAYE-NF Woods: TOY: Yevette Peveler.** She reported that the selection process for the district 2023 TOY and BTOY winners is underway and the 2023 District TOY & BTOY will be announced at the August 2023 Convocation.

- H. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gardner reported that the district is in the final 30 days of the 2022-2023 academic year, and the staff are working hard to finish the year strong and are preparing for end of year testing. He advised the Steering Committee will hold their final meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023, and the school board will hold a strategic planning workday retreat on Monday, April 17, 2023 at EMIS. Dr. Gardner shared that a final draft of the MGSD strategic plan will be presented to the board at the May board meeting. He thanked staff, parents, community members, and students for their feedback and for their engagement in this process. Dr. Gardner shared that the district continues to monitor the General Assembly as they develop the 2023-2024 budget, and he continues to monitor the draft bills in the house and senate that have the potential to impact public education. Finally, Dr. Gardner advised that MGSD will continue to advocate for significant raises for all school staff and encourages our staff and community stakeholder to advocate for public education with our state representatives.
- I. **Board Events and Announcements:** Mr. Whitfield thanked EMIS for allowing us to host the April board meeting in their professional development room. He reviewed and highlighted the upcoming events listed on the April and May calendars included in the board packet.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney, provided the MGSD public comment guidelines and instructions and introduced each of the four individuals listed on the public comment sign-up sheet: Jennifer Richardson, 2026 Mallardwood Place, Mooresville, NC; requested that restorative practices are not adopted at MGSD; Theresa Knight, 156 Fellspoint Rd, Mooresville, NC, indicated she is against restorative practices; Jeremy Smith; address not legible, recommends a blend of restorative practices and current traditional discipline practices that keep students and staff safe; Ian Moye, 1614 Crown Vue, Statesville, NC, shared he is against restorative practices. Public comments concluded at 7:04 p.m.

**Approval of Budget Amendments:** Mrs. Davis presented a summary and requested board approval of the budget amendments made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. **On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Motion Carried.**

**Approval of Purchase of iPads:** Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval for the purchase of 450 iPads for the total cost of \$141,230.25. 2nd grade students will use iPads instead of laptops in the classroom beginning the 2023-2024 school year. This purchase will allow consistency at the elementary

level and will provide the district with a laptop surplus to help with repairs and replacements needed for grades 3-12. The Emergency Connectivity Funding (ECF) will be used for the purchase. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the 450 iPads as presented. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Purchase of Interactive Boards:** Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval for the purchase of Interactive Promethean Boards from Bridgetek. The MGSD technology department will replace the interactive SMART boards in K-2 classrooms over the next two years. The total amended cost for the purchase of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade interactive promethean boards is \$93,959.75. Capital Outlay Funds will be used for the purchase. **On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the Interactive Boards as presented. Motion Carried.**

**Approval of Purchase of zSpace CTE Equipment:** Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval for the purchase of zSpace CTE Equipment for the secondary grade levels. This software equipment will provide students with interactive experiences in numerous career fields and the district plans to purchase 30 machines: fifteen will be assigned to MHS, and fifteen will be shared at SBMS & MMS. The total purchase cost for the zSpace CTE Equipment is \$124,494.42. Summer Career Accelerator funds will be used for the purchase. **On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the Purchase of zSpace CTE Equipment as presented. Motion carried.**

**Approval of MHS Overseas Field Trip:** Dr. Waid presented and requested board approval for the MHS overseas field trip to Italy and Switzerland during the Spring of 2025. This trip will be a 10 day trip facilitated through EF Tours, which specializes in educational travel for students and teachers. The trip will maintain a 1:6 ratio of chaperone to students. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the MHS Overseas Field trip to Italy & Switzerland in the spring of 2025 as presented. Motion carried.**

**Approval of the MGSD Resolution in Opposition of House Bill 219:** Mr. Whitfield presented & read aloud the MGSD Board of Education Resolution Opposition of House Bill 219, "Charter School Omnibus." Mr. Whitfield explained that the proposed House Bill 219, Part VII, deletes a list of protected funds that will create unequal rather than equal local funding for K-12 education, and will take millions from local public school districts each year if passed. Each of the MGSD board members expressed their reasons for opposing HB 219 and stated that the total financial impact on the Mooresville Graded School District Schools on lost K-12 operating funds would be substantial, and MGSD could lose 1.5 million if the bill passes. The board encouraged community stakeholders, MGSD staff, & parents to contact their North Carolina legislators to oppose House Bill 219. **On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 219, "Charter School Omnibus" as presented. Motion passed.**

**Supplemental Funds for Teacher Compensation** - First Read: Mrs. Davis presented for first read the supplemental funds for teacher compensation recommendation to give a one-time \$866 payment to qualifying teachers and instructional support personnel in June 2023. Through the Appropriations Act of 2021, the NC General Assembly created a recurring appropriation to provide funding for LEAs and charter schools in NC to provide salary supplements to teachers and instructional support personnel. MGSD was allotted \$428,603 with a maximum per teacher supplement of \$866. The Supplemental Funds for Teacher Compensation will be brought for approval at the May board meeting.

**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 Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session. Motion carried.**

**On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted unanimously voted to adjourn from the closed session. Motion carried.**

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

**New Employees**

Melissa Buffo, EC Teacher, RRES, 03/27/2023

Billy Ferrante, Full Time Dedicated Substitute Teacher, MMS, 04/17/2023 - 05/03/2023

Brittany Ingram, Substitute, School Nutrition, 04/06/2023

Angela Payne, Substitute Teacher, MGSD, 04/06/2023

**Rehire:**

Cindy Pezet, Pre-K Teacher, SES, 08/01/2023, Previously an Interim PreK Teacher at SES

**Promotions: Changes:**

Emmie Heslin, EC Teacher, MHS, 03/27/2023, Transferred from EC Teacher at RRES

David Benfield, Substitute Bus Monitor (am only), MMS, 03/02/2023, Additional Assignment: Custodian at MMS

Jennifer Fowler, Substitute Bus Monitor, Transportation, 03/23/2023, Additional Assignment: Custodian at MIS

Kelly Josey, Office Assistant, Transportation, 03/27/2023, Transferred from a 10-11 month Office Assistant in Transportation

Ernestine Lucky, Substitute Bus Monitor, Transportation, 03/23/2023, Additional Assignment: Custodian at MIS

Hannah Thompson, EC Teacher Assistant, MIS, 04/19/2023, Transferred from Substitute Teacher for MGSD

Shaneil Troutman, PowerSchool Data Manager, MMS, 07/01/2023, Transferred from Receptionist/MMS

**Retirement:**

Amy Brown, Teacher, RRES, 5/30/2023, 18 years of service to MGSD & 30 years of service to the State of NC  
Lisa Feller, Teacher Assistant, SES, 5/30/2023, 17 years of service to MGSD & the State of NC Technology

**Adjournment: With no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Greg Whitfield, Board Chair  
Board of Education

Dr. Jason D. Gardner, Secretary  
Board of Education