

**MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Called Meeting Minutes - Friday, May 26, 2023, 11:00 a.m.**

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met in a duly noticed called meeting on Friday, May 26, 2023, at the Professional Development Room at East Mooresville Intermediate School, 1711 Landis Highway, 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; Dr. Michael Royal, Chief of Schools; Dr. Scott Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services; Dr. Sandra Albert, Chief Student Services Officer; Mrs. Angie Davis, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs. April Kuhn, Chief Human Resource Officer; Mrs. Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer, and Title IX Coordinator; and Mrs. Sylvia Martinez, Board Clerk.

Mr. Whitfield called the meeting to order and held a moment of silence. Mr. Whitfield thanked everyone who helped make 2022-2023 a successful school year and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the called meeting agenda as presented.

Approval of Resolution Concerning Universal Private School Vouchers:

Dr. Gardner introduced the MGSD Resolution Concerning Universal Private School Vouchers, led the discussion, and shared the reasons MGSD opposes the proposed House Bill 823/Senate Bill 406, "Choose Your School, Choose Your Future," Universal Private School Voucher Program. If passed, this bill would direct billions of dollars of public funds to private schools, which would be detrimental to NC public schools. Dr. Gardner and each school member expressed why they vehemently oppose this proposed voucher bill, which will negatively affect MGSD students. The North Carolina Office of State Budget Management projects that if this universal voucher program is enacted, Iredell Statesville Schools and Mooresville Graded School District's state funding will drop by \$2,570,944 by fiscal year 2026-2027, and the estimated loss in state funds to Mooresville Graded School District is \$595,709. Dr. Gardner requested the board approve the MGSD Resolution Concerning Private School Vouchers, which opposes any voucher bill or budget provision that does not include a household income limit as part of eligibility criteria and does not meet the North Carolina State Constitutional obligation to provide a free and uniform system of public educational to ALL students. The approved Resolution will be distributed to members of the General Assembly and the Governor. Dr. Gardner and the school board also encouraged parents, students, and all community members to contact their NC legislators immediately to implore them to abide by their oath to uphold the NC State Constitution and oppose this bill. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution Concerning Universal Private School Vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

Mr. Whitfield read the Resolution aloud.

Approval of Resolution Regarding Pay Increases for Teachers, Bus Drivers, and other School Employees: Dr. Gardner presented and requested board approval of the Resolution regarding pay increases for teachers, bus drivers, and other school employees. Dr. Gardner & each of the board members expressed opposition and disappointment with the proposed Senate Budget salary increase allocations for all district personnel. The Senate budget salary increase allocation includes: an average 4.5% increase in teacher pay over the biennium; a \$200 increase in the first year of the biennium, and \$50 in the second year for teachers with 14 or more years of experience; and a 2.5% bus driver salary increase over the biennium. Inadequate pay is a longstanding issue for teachers, and teacher vacancies have increased dramatically. MGSD supports competitive salaries to recruit and retain high quality, full-time teachers, and other school employees, including bus drivers. Therefore, the Mooresville Graded School District Board of Education opposes Edition 5 of House Bill 259, “2023 Appropriation Act” and favors Edition 3 of House Bill 259, “2023 Appropriations Act” that includes an average 10.2% increase in teacher pay over the biennium, and a 9.5% increase in bus driver pay over the biennium. The board and Dr. Gardner encouraged parents, staff, and community members to contact their North Carolina legislators to implore them to abide by their oath to uphold the NC State Constitution and oppose this bill and petition them to support competitive salary increase pay for teachers, bus drivers, & other school employees. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board unanimously voted to approve the Resolution regarding Pay Increases for Teachers, Bus Drivers, and other School Employees as presented. Motion carried. Mr. Whitfield read the Resolution aloud.**

Mr. Whitfield, pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11 subsection (a)(6), announced the board would go into closed session to review personnel. **On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board unanimously voted to go into closed session.**

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

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

Promotion:

Cheryl Dortch, Principal, South Elementary School, 6/5/2023

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Brawley, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Jason Gardner, Secretary
Board of Education