

MGSD Board of Education
August 15, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, August 15, 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 Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney.

Dr. Michael Royal, Chief of Schools; Dr. Scott Smith, Chief of Auxiliary Services; Dr. Sandra Albert, Chief of Student Services Officer; Mrs. Angela 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, were also present.

Mr. Whitfield, the Board Chair, called the meeting to order and held a moment of silence. He shared quotes from Dr. Seuss and Mr. Art Williams, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2023, end of year meeting, and the July 27, 2023, called meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Schedule Next Regular Board Meeting: The next regular board meeting is on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School at 6:00 p.m.

Spotlight on People: Ms. Julie Blocker - Southwest Region CTE Director of the Year

Dr. Gardner recognized & awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Julie Blocker, CTE Director. He shared that Ms. Blocker was named Southwest Region Director of the Year at the 2023 Career and Technical Education Summer Conference and will be in the running for the NC CTE Director of the Year Award. Ms. Blocker also received an award for serving as a mentor for three years to aspiring CTE Directors during their internships. Each year, all seven regions of North Carolina

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nominate three CTE Directors for consideration to represent that region as the North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education (NCACTE) Director of the year. Out of three nominees for the Southwest region, Ms. Blocker's peers selected her to represent them for the upcoming year.

Dr. Gardner congratulated Ms. Blocker and expressed how fortunate it is for MGSD to have her on the CTE team leading the Career and Technical Education program at MGSD.

Staff Reports:

Maximize Opportunity and Achievement - Dr. Royal provided an athletic update and shared that the Fall athletic season is underway at all secondary schools, and MMS & SBMS will participate in a new athletic conference this school year. Dr. Royal provided a construction update and reported that Selma Burke Middle School opened on time and remains under budget. The SBMS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on July 27, 2023. Dr. Royal provided an updated Curriculum & Instruction report for all schools, and gave an overview of the professional development session provided to school administrators to review the MGSD School Improvement Plan process and tie in the MGSD Strategic Plan, and the 4 Disciplines for Execution. The PD was led by Dr. Waid and Mrs. Conley. Dr. Royal shared the following school updates: the Open House for all K-8 schools was held on August 7, 2023; K-5 school schedules will include clubs for all students; K-4 teachers participated in UFLI training for the new phonics program; and the LETRS Cohort 2 is underway. Secondary teachers attended the Capturing Kids' Hearts training this summer; SBMS and MMS have implemented an elective wheel concept to help expose students to various electives; and MGSD is launching a new SEL Curriculum at secondary schools. Lastly, Dr. Royal shared that the district will implement this Fall a new Universal Walkthrough that aligns with the MGSD Strategic Plan Strategies, and will begin using a K-12 online platform to review trending data across the district.

Safe, Healthy, and Happy - Dr. Albert reported that MGSD has developed a new problem-solving Student Behavior Advisory Team that will work with each school to assist them with student behavior issues and assist the behavior problem-solving teams. She advised that the MGSD Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Mental Health (SMH) Improvement Plan will be updated and submitted to the state by September 15, 2023. Dr. Scott provided an updated school safety report and shared that district-wide lockdown drills were completed at all schools, except at Park View Elementary, due to recent power outages. He reported that the district hired Mr. Mark Reddick, MGSD Director of School Safety, and will have an additional School Resource Officer on board soon.

Recruit, Grow, and Retain - Mrs. Davis reported that due to the delay & release of the state budget, the MGSD salary study implementation has been put on hold. She shared that MGSD staff was advised that salary increases will be retroactive to July 1, 2023. Mrs. Kuhn reported that the General Assembly has created a new Parental Leave benefit for state employees, which is available to MGSD employees who

have been employed with the district for more than 12 months. Mrs. Kuhn shared that MGSD held the New Teacher Orientation and over 60 new teachers attended the event. She thanked the HR staff and district C&I staff for their support, and Dr. Marsh & Mrs. Mays for leading the Mooresville Tours. Lastly, Mrs. Kuhn shared that the district recently hosted its first Substitute Teacher Training for the 2023-2024 school year.

Culture of Relationships - Mrs. McLean shared that planning is underway for the District's 15 Annual MFEE Golf Tournament, which will be held on September 29, 2023, at the Mooresville Golf Course. This annual golf tournament is an important fundraising event that raises money to help students throughout the school year, assists new teachers, and provides funding for professional development opportunities. Mrs. McLean advised MGSD and the Iredell United Way will co-sponsor the first Long Table Event in our community on Sunday, October 1, 2023. This event will be held in Downtown Mooresville, and we hope our community will join the festivities to enjoy the free meal and fellowship. She thanked the Red Cart Program and the United Way for expanding the Red Cart Program to Selma Burke Middle School, and shared that over 500 hygiene products were given out to students this summer. Lastly, Mrs. McLean reported Mitchell Community College has partnered with MGSD, and nursing students in their Nursing Program will begin their school nurse rotations with MGSD school nurses this semester.

Opening of School Report - Dr. Smith provided an updated School Opening report that included the following updates: 5,180 students have completed Powerschool registration, and 99.7% of our families are contactable using the Parent Square app. The Before and After School Program (BASP) currently has 188 K-5 students participating in the BASP program. The Maintenance Department is busy preparing schools for the new school year, finishing summer renovation projects, and helping SMBS get up and running. The School Nutrition department is implementing a new School Nutrition App for parents, and has served 575 breakfast meals and 2500 school lunches to students during the first 3-days of school. In Technology: new Promethean Boards were installed in all 1st & 2nd grade classrooms this summer; and 259 laptops were deployed to new students in grades 3-12. Dr. Smith thanked the technology team for their hard work and for going through the rigorous process of running through all our systems to find and replace the equipment damaged during the recent power outages caused by the storm, which caused days of internet connectivity issues, and issues with our telephone system. Dr. Smith provided a Transportation update and shared that buses transport currently 3,998 students each day. He reported that the start of the 2023-2024 school year had gone smoothly for the transportation department, and attributes the smooth start to the district's new bell times, and accurate student data. He gave a special thank you to Ginger Huffstickler, and data managers at each school, for their help. Lastly, Dr. Smith

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shared that MGSD is still hiring bus drivers, and advised that any MGSD employee who recruits a new driver, will receive a \$1,000 bonus if the new bus driver is hired and works at MGSD for 6 months.

Superintendent - Dr. Gardner shared that the MGSD Convocation ceremony to open the 2023-2024 school year was held last week. The following staff members were recognized at the convocation: Ms. Samone Graham, Principal of the Year; Ms. Jennifer Lloyd, Teacher of the Year; and Mr. William Gray, Beginning Teacher of the Year. He shared that the open house at K-8 schools went well, and thanked school administrators & staff for their hard work. Dr. Gardner shared that South Elementary School was awarded the Lowe's Hometown Grant of \$50,000 dollars to help support their fundraising efforts to purchase a new playground. He expressed his appreciation for such strong community support that helps us provide for the needs of our students. Finally, Dr. Gardner proudly announced that MGSD officially opened the Selma Burke Middle School to students and staff last week.

Board Events - Mr. Whitfield reviewed and highlighted the upcoming events listed on the upcoming events and calendars included in the September board packet.

Public Comment: Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney, provided the MGSD Public Comment guidelines and introduced the person listed on the public comment sign-up sheet: ***Jannie Jones, 34 Selma Dr. Mooresville, NC, 28115***

2023 Summer School Program Updates - Mrs. Jemma Conley, Director of Elementary Education, and Dr. Tracey Waid, Director of Secondary Instruction, presented to the board the 2023 Summer School Programming Report. They provided an overview of the MGSD summer programs and the various learning opportunities offered to approximately 2,090 MGSD students in the Elementary and Secondary grade levels. In addition, Mrs. Conley & Dr. Waid shared the data results for the following five main summer programs: Read to Achieve (grades 2-3); EOG/EOC Summer Testing (grades 3-12); "Traditional" Summer School (grades 7-12); Summer Career Accelerator CTE Camps (Grades 5-9); and Transitions Year Orientations (Kinder Jump Start, 6th/7th Grade Orientation, 9th Grade Orientation, and MIWAYE Open House). These Summer programs were funded through local and state Funding, and Esser Funds.

Board Policy Revision - FMLA 7520 - For Approval: Mrs. Kuhn presented and requested board approval of the Board Policy Revision - FMLA 7520, which was first presented to the board for first read at the June 6, 2023, board meeting. **On a first motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the revision to Board Policy FMLA 7520 as presented. Motion carried.**

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Approval of School Nutrition Pizza Bid: Mrs. Davis presented and requested board approval of the school nutrition pizza bid that was awarded to Domino's Pizza. Mrs. Davis shared the school nutrition bid opened to local businesses on June 20, 2023, and was awarded to Domino's Pizza. Domino's pizza will be delivered daily and served as a premium meal at Mooresville Middle School, Selma Burke Middle School, and Mooresville High School. **On a first motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the School Nutrition Pizza Bid as presented. Motion carried.**

Approval of the 2023-2024 Consolidated Federal Programs Plan (Title I, III, IV): Dr. Waid and Ms. Conley presented and requested board approval of the 2023-2024 Consolidated Federal Programs Grant Application for Title I, III, and IV. The Consolidated Federal Programs Plan will help MGSD address the needs of all students through supplemental federal funds. MGSD receives federal funds in the following areas: Title I - support for students from low-income households; Title III - support for multilingual learners of English; and Title IV - support for all students to be safe, healthy, and well rounded. Mrs. Conley provided a summary of the Title I program and advised Parkview Elementary, South Elementary, East Mooresville, and Mooresville Intermediate will continue to operate under the Title I school wide model. Dr. Waid provided a summary of the Title III and Title IV programs. They both shared the purpose of each program grant, the key 2023-2024 activities for each program, program requirements, student data, and district allotments. **On a first motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Dr. Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 Consolidated Federal Programs Plan (Title I, III, IV), as presented. Motion carried.**

Closed Session: Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, announced that pursuant to NC G.S. §143-318.11 subsections (a)(6) & (a)(3), 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. Brawley, the board unanimously voted to go into closed session. Motion carried.**

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

Approval of Personnel Report: On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel report, as presented and recommended by the superintendent. Motion carried.

New Employees:

Mikayla Bates, Kindergarten Teacher, PVES, 08/07/2023

Amy Bice, CTE Business Teacher, SBMS, 08/08/2023

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Kayla Bonnell, 2nd Grade Teacher, SES, Growth Position, 08/01/2023
Minda Calcete, EC Learning Lab Teacher, MMS, 08/07/2023
Adrienne Goddard, School Psychologist, PVES/SBMS, 08/01/2023
Tonya Kepley, 4th Grade Math Teacher, EMIS, Growth Position, 09/11/2023
Ethan Krupa, Science Teacher, MHS, 08/01/2023
Bradley Mabe, PE Teacher, MIS, 08/01/2023
Alejandra Saladen, Dual Immersion Teacher, MIS, 08/14/2023, Participate Learning
Danielle Walker, 4th Grade Teacher, MIS, 08/01/2023
Evan Watlington, School Counselor, SES, 08/01/2023
Tracy Weatherford, Media Coordinator, MMS, 08/08/2023
Fetia "Darlene" Barber, Bus Driver pm only, Transportation, 08/09/2023
Kasandra Beck, Substitute, School Nutrition, 08/11/2023
Stephanie Edmonds, Technology Assistant, SBMS, 08/01/2023
Ralph Giorgio, Custodian, EMIS, 08/14/2023
Erin Hieb, PowerSchool Data Manager, PVES, 08/14/2023
Harley Hill, Custodian, SBMS, 08/15/2023
Brian Ihm, Custodian, PVES, 08/04/2023
Karen Lehe, School Nurse, SES, 08/14/2023
Sarah Little, EC Teacher Assistant, RRES, 08/01/2023
Macheera Patterson, Transportation Office Assistant, Transportation, 08/09/2023
Darling Sorto Ventura, Custodian, MIS, 08/07/2023
Ryan Weiss Jr., Custodian, SBMS, 08/14/2023
Candice Wilson, Custodian, MMS, 08/10/2023

Rehire:

Lisa Gruneiro, 1st Grade Teacher, RRES, 08/01/2023
Stephanie Leccese, Kindergarten Teacher, RRES, 08/01/2023
Andrea Abele, Tutor, RRES, 08/09/2023
Courtney Ferrell, School Nutrition Assistant, SBMS, 08/01/2023

Promotion/Change:

Kristin D'Amico, EC Teacher (50%), PVES, 08/04/2023, Previously an SGI tutor at PVES
Julia Vero, 2nd Grade Teacher, SES, 08/04/2023, Previously an Interim Teacher Assistant at PVES
Shirley Cintron Alcaide, District Translation Specialist, MGSD, 08/14/2023, Transferred from Dual Immersion Teacher Assistant at RRES
Cathy Cambier Grise, Teacher Assistant, MIS, 08/04/2023, Transferred from Title One Tutor at MIS
Danielle Mangouri, Teacher Assistant, RRES, 08/01/2023, Transferred from 1st Grade Teacher at RRES
Ronni Volta, Custodian/Bus Driver, MHS, 08/04/2023, Transferred from Substitute Bus Driver

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With no further business on a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Jason D. Gardner, Secretary
Board of Education