

MGSD Board of Education
November 6, 2023, Regular Meeting

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Monday, November 6, 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 Operations Officer; Dr. Sandra Albert, Chief Student Services Officer; Mrs. Angie Davis, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs. April Kuhn, Chief Human Resource Officer; and Mrs. Cindy Teague, Interim Board Clerk, were also present.

Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, called the meeting to order, and held a moment of silence. Mr. Whitfield shared a quote by Corretta Scott King. He welcomed special guest, Melissa Neader, Board Chair of Iredell Commissioners.

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 October 17, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

Students of the Month: The School Board recognized & presented the Students of the Month Award to Ta'Monda Feaster, 2nd grade student at South Elementary. Ms. Ompach and Ms. Heineman, SES teachers, nominated the student and Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the student was selected as listed on the nomination form.

Artist of the Month: The School Board recognized & presented the Artist of the Month Award to Anabella Hernandez, 2nd grader at South Elementary. Ms. Penny Tucker, Art Teacher, nominated the student. Dr. Gardner shared the reasons the student was selected as listed on the nomination form.

ABCD Award: The board recognized and presented the monthly Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award to Mrs. Brittany Wardrip, Teacher Assistant at South Elementary. The South Elementary Administration Team nominated Mrs. Wardrip. Dr. Gardner shared the reasons she was chosen, as written on her nomination form.

Spotlight on People (a): Selma Burke Football Team – 2023 Undefeated Divisional and Conference Champions. The Selma Burke Middle School Football Team and Coaches were recognized and congratulated for their hard work in completing the 2023 season as undefeated Divisional and Conference Champions with an 8-0 record.

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The final Team Roster: Coby Wise-Smith; D.J. Little; Jakayden McCombs; Javel Lewis; Kaheem Parker; Doc Caldwell; Christopher Church; Nick Medley; Aiden Gonzalez; Zymir Williams; Jaliel Prospst; Zakarius Robinson; Jaxson Lamorder-Dieckmann; Logan Place; Carson Prentice; Brian McDuffie; Justice Hammonds; Lamari Wardlow; Marvin Simpson; Jalen Paige; Finnegan Reilly; Jamarion Morrison; Brian Margueiz-Guillen; David Leiner; Braden Horkey; Kaiden Okam; Tavis Yoder; Zachary Nowell; Julien De la Cruz; Caden Jennings; Jai'Keise Robinson; Slade Cartee; Ahyan Hammond; William Drury; Adolfo Flores; Drake Caldwell; De'Ron Brice; Ironye Vanderburg. Head Coach: Caleb Kistler & Assistant Coaches: Sam Allen; Chris Beaver; John Bustle; Chevy Bryant; Chris Church. Athletic First Responders: Julie McKeon; Keri White.

Spotlight on People (b): Mr. Roger Hyatt – MGSD Board Member. Dr. Gardner recognized Mr. Hyatt for his dedication and service to MGSD. Mr. Hyatt began his service with MGSD in December 1983 as the principal of Mooresville Senior High School. He has served various leadership roles in the district. Upon his retirement he continued to support the school system and is completing his 16th year as an MGSD Board Member. Dr. Gardner thanked Mr. Hyatt for his service and for the impact he has made on MGSD. Dr. Gardner introduced Mrs. Melissa Neader, Chairman of Iredell Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Neader gave a tribute to Mr. Hyatt and his years of service. Mr. Whitfield presented him with a plaque and two Appalachian stadium chairs in appreciation of his service. He was also presented a Mooresville jersey with his name and years of service on it. Each Board Member shared memories and thanked him for his leadership, guidance, mentorship, wisdom, and friendship.

Instructional Highlights: “A Renewed Core Behavior Support System” - South Elementary Jill Zsuppan, Assistant Principal, Haley Johnson, Instructional Coach and Brittany Wardrip, Teacher Assistant shared a presentation and overview on their behavior tracking system that will reduce office referrals. They developed a universal behavior tracker so that students can follow their progress individually toward meeting their goals to attend PBIS reward celebrations each month. A token system was created to reinforce the desired behavior in the cafeteria. Major changes in behavior have taken place at South due to using this system.

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

Staff Reports:

- A. **Maximize Opportunity and Achievement:** Dr. Royal presented an update on fall sports at Mooresville High School. Fall sports are wrapped up except for teams playing in playoffs: Men's cross country; Men and Women's cross country; Women's golf; and volleyball have participants at a regional level. MHS football team will play in the second round of state playoffs. Inaugural girls flag football finished 2nd in their regular season and will play in their ending season tournament at the Bank of America Stadium in early December. Winter athletics are underway in middle and high schools.
- B. **Instructional Reports:** Dr. Royal shared updates for Curriculum and Instruction. Report card went home last week, and numerous parent teacher conferences have been held. Selma Burke and Mooresville Middle students attended the “Career on Wheels” event at Iredell Fair Grounds. Dr. Royal reviewed the various professional developments that were held November 1, 2023 for teachers and staff. Workkeys assessment will be held at MHS, November 15, 2023.

- C. **Safe Healthy, and Happy:** Dr. Albert presented an update on the Safe, Healthy, and Happy Team. They are looking at discipline practices and interventions especially for students with disabilities as they plan for alternative learning opportunities for our students. Turning Point Family Services along with Life Stance will work with our schools. Our first EC Parent Night will be held on November 28, 2023, at EMIS from 6:00-7:30. Dr. Albert recognized School Physiologists and their importance during School Physiology Week.
- Dr. Smith shared that the Safety Grant is ready for submission. Funds will be used for equipment for school and student safety; to provide mental health service to students who are under insured or uninsured as well as staff training. We have a new Resource Officer (SRO), Tamisha Smallwood, that will serve the Intermediate Schools.
- D. **Recruit, Grow, and Retain:** Mrs. Davis reported that the classified salary study that has been in process for almost a year has been implemented. All employees received the state mandated raises in October. Classified employees also received additional raises based on the salary study results. Total cost is \$2,019,800.00 which includes matching benefits. We will continue to monitor market rates each year.
- Mrs. Kuhn presented an update on supporting our beginning teachers. Collaboration with the curriculum instructional team helped to provide aligned instructional practices that teachers are learning at all levels.
- E. **Culture of Relationships:** In the absence of Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Davis presented an update on our first Parent Advisory; Teacher Advisory; and Student Advisory committee meeting that was held in October where priority areas were the focus. We received valuable feedback on our strategies and will meet again in December. Our first calendar committee meeting was held October 26, 2023. A working draft was taken back to schools, parents, and PTOs for additional feedback. The next meeting will be on November 8, 2023. Our goal is to present the final draft for consideration at the December Board meeting. The next “Family Steam and Treat Night” will be held on November 30, 2023. We closed the Parent/Guardian survey, and we are pleased to report that 19% of our Parents/Guardians took the survey. The Town of Mooresville Christmas parade will be held on November 21, 2023. Leadership looks forward to participating and handing out treats.
- Mrs. McLean expressed her appreciation to everyone involved in making the first annual “Longest Table Event” a huge success.
- F. **Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Gardner reported on the growing narrative that public education is failing. One reason this narrative exist is because of the current “A-F” model in place to measure schools’ performance and to designate schools as low performing. Each school in North Carolina is given a letter grade based on 80% proficiency and 20% growth data. Dr. Gardner compared North Carolina with four other States that also issue the “A-F” letter grade. NC performed at the same level or better than all these States on every NAEP exam.

American views on public education has dropped in recent years. On our recent survey we asked the question, “How likely is it that you would recommend this district to a friend or colleague,” and 92% gave a favorable response. MGSD will continue to push back on the narrative that public schools are failing. Our doors are open to anyone in the community that has questions or concerns. The community is also welcome to come and see what our amazing students and staff are doing daily.

- G. **Board Events/Announcements:** Mr. Whitfield shared highlights of the upcoming events listed in the November and December calendars included in the November board packet. He gave a special recognition to our military and their families. He advised that the school board participates in the Mooresville Christmas Parade on November 21, 2023.

Public Comment: Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney, provided the MGSD public comment guidelines and instructions and introduced to each individual listed on the public comment sign-up sheet: Mr. Eddie Karriker, 568 N. Broad Street, Statesville, NC 28115. Mr. Kauiker expressed his appreciation to Roger Wyatt and his legacy for all he had done for the community.

Items for Information:

Board Policies: First Reading – Dr. Smith presented to the board Policy 4326, Random Suspicionless Student Drug Testing for first read and review. This policy will be presented to the board for approval at the December board meeting.

Items for Approval:

- A. **2023-24 Budget:** Mrs. Davis presented a summary of the State and Local budgets. The State budget has been approved and we are now planning accordingly. Teacher and certified instructional staff have received pay increases along with classified staff and bus drivers. With the addition of a new school the local budget will be absorbing these positions and overall operating cost. **On a first motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt the board voted unanimously to approve and adopt the budget resolution for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 as presented. Motion carried.**
- B. **Selma Burke Project Budget Transfer:** Mrs. Davis presented the Selma Burke project budget transfer. This transfer is a zero effect since the county pays the invoices on our behalf. Per the project ordinance requirement, we are requesting to make transfers in the following categories:

- (1) Increase Professional Service Architect - \$ 50,000**
- (2) Reduce Contingency - \$ 525,959**
- (3) Increase General Construction - \$ 2,425,929**
- (4) Reduce Furniture and Technology – \$ 1,950,000**

We are moving money where we anticipate needing funds in the project. Mr. Whitfield has a request to approve the Selma Burke Middle School budget transfer as outlined those are line-item adjustment as needed in the budget to maintain Iredell County project ordinance requirements

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On a motion by Mr. Hyatt, seconded by Mr. Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the SBMS project budget transfer as presented. Motion carries.

C. **MMS School Improvement Plan:** Dr. Royal presented the second reading of the MMS School Improvement Plan. The goals have remained the same as the first reading in October. Mr. Kosal was present to answer any question. Mr. Whitfield has requested approval of the MMS SIP as outlined. MMS will return in February 2024 with an update. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the MMS SIP as presented. Motion carries.**

Closed Session: According to NC G.S. §143-318.11 subsections (a)(6) & (a)(3), Mr. Greg Whitfield, Board Chair, requested the board go into a 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. Motion carried.**

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

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

New Employees

Jennifer Costello, Substitute, SN, 10/25/2023
Tameeka Deloach, Bus Driver/Teacher Assistant, 10/24/2023
Luz Lazo Cosme, Custodian, MHS, 11/06/2023
Pamela Howard, Teacher Assistant, SES, 11/06/2023
Robert Petit Sr, Assistant Wrestling Coach, MMS, 10/30/2023
Holly Rahtes, Receptionist/Adm. Asst., CO, 11/01/2023
Cynthia Reda, BASP Lead Teacher, PVES, 11/06/2023
Wilma Redding, Bus Monitor, Transportation, 10/25/2023
Abigail Smith, Substitute, SN, 10/24/2023
Kathryn Wilson, Substitute Bus Monitor, Transportation, 10/25/2023
Julie Higgins, 8th Grade Math & Science Teacher, SBMS, 11/06/2023
Angela Peel, 7th Grade Math & Science Teacher, SBMS, 12/06/2023

Promotion/Change:

Yolanda Clifton, Custodian, SES, 10/19/2023
Keona Foye, Therapeutic Support Class Teacher Assistant, PVES, 11/01/2023

Retirement:

Charles Hopkins, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, MHS, 02/29/2024, 25.5 years of service to MGSD and 28.5 years at NC State.

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Non-Continuing:

Erin Heib, Power School Data Manger, PVES, 11/10/2023

Kimberly McCall, School Nutrition Director, SN, 11/01/2024

Karissa Petisce, Custodian/Bus Driver, PVES, 10/20/2023

Ashley Tomlinson, School Counselor, PVES, 12/20/2023

Adjournment: With no further business, on a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hyatt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Greg Whitfield, Board Chair
Board of Education

Jason Gardner, Secretary
Board of Education