

MGSD Board of Education
December 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a regular monthly session on Tuesday, December 12, 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; Dr. Debbie Marsh; Rakeem Brawley; Mrs. Monica Bender.

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. April Kuhn, Chief Human Resource Officer; Mrs. Angie Davis, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer and Title IX Coordinator. 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 Walt Disney. He welcomed special guest, Mayor Chris Carney and Commissioner Eddie Karriker. Kellyse Jenkins led the pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Greg Whitfield introduced Judge Dale Graham, Senior Resident District Court Judge of the 22A Judicial Court who administered the oath of office to the Mooresville Graded School District school board members, Dr. Debbie Marsh, and Kerry Pennell who were re-elected on November 7, 2023. Monica Bender was newly elected on November 7, 2023.

Dr. Jason Gardner asked for nomination for Board Chairman. **On a motion by Debbie Marsh, Greg Whitfield was nominated as Board Chairman, the nomination was seconded by Rakeem Brawley and with no other nominations, the board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Greg Whitfield as Board Chairman.**

Dr. Jason Gardner asked for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. **On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, Kerry Pennell was nominated as Board Vice-Chairman, the nomination was seconded by Monica Bender, and with no other nominations, the board voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Kerry Pennell as Board Vice-Chairman.**

On a motion by Kerry Pennell, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

Student of the Month: The School Board recognized & presented the Student of the Month Award to Kellyse Jenkins, 12th grade student at NF Woods. 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 Art of the Month to Jose Padilla Arellano, a 10th grade student at NF Woods. 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 Ms. Karen Ellis, Head Custodian at NF Woods. The NF Woods Administration Team nominated Ms. Ellis. Dr. Gardner shared the reasons she was chosen, as written on her nomination form.

Spotlight on People: (a): Mooresville High School Football team – 2023 G4 Undefeated Conference Champions.

The final Team Roster: Tiquan Cromartie; Josiah Hunter; Ziquel Adams; Nahiem Harrison; Randy Fulmore; AJ Baker; Marley Samuel; Caleb Edstrom; AJ Graham; Jay Wilson; Carter Elkin; Jarin Wali; Jalen Wright; Brody Norman; Jaiden Ferrell; KJ Gillepsie; Dominic Morin; Bryan Calderon; Ja'Darius McCombs; Darian Reid; Eric Heal; Kamelo Little; Charlie Cline; Tristian Compton; Trevor Compton; Landon Young; Jamari Farmer; Khamoni Blackwood; Tyler Hackney; Mason Rihards; Jojo Davidson; Lilly Rumrill; Chayzon Torrence; Andrew Cummings; Tyger Blackwood; Xzavion Gardner; Johnathan Hunter; DJ Turner; Aizai Mosley; Jacob Goodin; Luke Modrak; Noah Thomas; John Robinson; Austin Everett; Brady Raab; Sam Breece; Kendyn Smith; Holden Faison; Drew Davis; Gavin Bisco; Justin Kinahan; Aiden Jones; Skyz Carr; Mykell Ferguson; Devin McNeil; Rhylan Young; Amir Reid-Beatty; Cooper Bevins; Cameron Bradley; Alec Lawrence; Owen Crowley; Tyrron Morrison; Chanse Bost; Zyon McGowan; Seamus Goodwin; Jason Schutt; Caydon Sloop; Ryan Williams; Jacob Monsour; Joseph Hernandez.

Spotlight on People (b): Eight students from Mooresville Intermediate School won Honorable Mention at the NCSBA Elementary School Poster Contest: Emily Sharpe; Garrison Eller; Emelia Burleyson; Rylee Philipp; Zaeli Horne; Alexandra Christenson; Addie Helms; Jaklyn Cottone.

Spotlight on People (c): Mooresville High School NCSBA High School Video Contest Winners: Maverick Owen and Parker Corder placed 1st. Melanie Inman and Lynzee Howell placed 2nd. Honorable Mention went to Aidan Abbott and Benjamin Moore.

Instructional Highlights: “Positive Behavior Support” – Ms. Melanie Allen, Principal of NF Woods shared a presentation and overview on their Individualization & Positive Behavior Support Program. They presented several ways they are implementing positive behavior: Case Management and Individualized Scheduling, Fun Fridays (earned) & Campus Community Events, School Store, Service Learning. Several students presented how these programs has made a positive impact.

Schedule Next Regular Board Meeting: The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School, at 6:00 p.m.

Staff Reports:

Maximize Opportunity and Achievement:

- A. Dr. Royal presented athletic updates for the winter season. Last month the tennis team was inadvertently left off. The girl's tennis team and coaching staff was recognized for their successful season. The wrestling teams competed in the conference tournament and Mooresville Middle School had three conference champions: Tripp Petit, Gavin Bryant, and Landon Teal. Our middle school varsity basketball teams all made the semi-final round of the tournament.
- B. Dr. Royal presented Curriculum & Instruction updates. December 12th is the 80th instructional day for students. MHS students will begin their teacher-made CTE exams on December 13 and final exams will be next week. He thanked the Board and community for a calendar that allows our high school students to finish their exams and coursework prior to leaving for winter break.

The subcommittee for Maximizing Opportunity and Achievement will meet again in February to continue to implement and research strategies to help meet our goals for the strategic plan. MHS hosted gateway projects this week. This is the last year of our transition to have our high school students complete their gateway projects during the junior year in Civics.

Mooresville Middle School and Selma Burke Middle School had teams that competed in the First Lego League competition. One team from Selma Burke, Master of Pieces have qualified for the state competition in January.

The after-school tutoring program has started at two intermediate schools. Tutoring will be provided to 4th and 5th grade students two day a week. Approximately 180 students are being served. Transportation is not being provided currently.

- C. **Safe, Healthy, and Happy:** Dr. Sandy Albert presented an update on the Safe, Healthy, and Happy Team. Due to the loss of an MGSD student, our support staff were available at our schools to help students and staff who needed support. Community partners were also on-site to provide support.

Rainbow Kidz is currently serving about 50 students and have added a new therapist.

Lifestance & Turning Point Family Services continue to provide in-school mental health services.

The EC child count has been submitted which provides Federal funding for SWD next school year. Currently 782 students are being served. We are also serving 283 students with 504 plans. We held our first EC parent night with 10 families attending. A follow-up will be held in February.

- D. **Recruit, Grow, and Retain:** Mrs. Angie Davis reported on the RGR committee meeting that was held on December 6, 2023. A total of 4 items are the focus for implementation for 24/25 school year. Of the 4, discussions were started on "creating an all-inclusive onboarding system to immerse employees in the MGSD culture".

Mrs. Davis congratulated MGSD teachers who have completed their Maintenance of Certificate renewal process for their Nation Board Certification as well as those who have earned their National Board Certification for the first time.

- E. **Culture of Relationships:** Mrs. McLean presented an update on the Winter STEAM Event. We had an excellent turnout. We had 400 cookies with approximately 100 left. Mrs. McLean

thanked Christopher Roland and Selma Burke Recreation Center for allowing us to use the center.

- F. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gardner reported that the holiday season was kicked off before Thanksgiving break with the Mooresville High School and Mooresville Middle School holiday chorus performance. Holiday season events will wrap up next week in various schools. We continue to make progress on implementation of our new strategic plan. Information will be shared in January about the implementation progress we have made in each priority area as well as the focus areas for the second semester. Mid-year data will be shared in February.
- G. **Board Events/Announcements:** Mr. Whitfield shared highlights of the upcoming events listed in the December and January calendars included in the December board packet.

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: Ms. Jennifer Pawley, 314 Almora Loop, Mooresville, NC. 28115. Ms. Pawley expressed her concern about the high school start time. She gave Board member a handout referencing teenage sleep science. Ms. Pawley recommend high school students start school no earlier than 8:30 a.m.

Items for Information:

Proposed MGSD School Calendar 2024-2025: Mrs. McLean presented the proposed MGSD School Calendar for 2024-2025 academic year. This calendar was created utilizing input from the MGSD Calendar Committee. This year's committee was composed of school-level and district-level employee, parent representatives from each school, and student representatives from secondary schools. The draft calendar is presented for initial review and will request approval at the January 2024 business meeting.

MGSD BOE Policy Revisions: Mrs. McLean presented revisions of MGSD BOE policies. We work with the NCSBA to ensure we complete timely revisions of our BOE policies. All the policy revisions have been recommended by the NCSBA with revisions made specific to Mooresville Graded School District policies and procedures. The policies are being presented for initial review and we will request approval at the January 2024 meeting.

Items for Approval:

- A. **Random Suspicionless Drug Testing Policy:** Dr. Smith presented the Random Suspicionless Student Drug Testing. The district consults with the NCSBA to review and revise board policies to ensure alignment with current practices as well as new legislation. The district is considering a minor revision to our process for random, suspicionless drug testing for students, which would require an update to our policy. This change involves utilizing saliva samples in addition to urine samples as part of the primary testing protocol. The policy is presented for approval.

On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Rakeem Brawley, the board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Board Policy 4326 – Random Suspicionless Student Drug Testing. Motion carried.

B. **Apple Device Refresh:** Ms. Angie Davis and Dr. Scott Smith presented information on the “Apple Device Refresh.” They are proposing the following steps be taken as part of our next refresh cycle:

1. Refresh all 3rd-12th student devices (MacBook Air – M1 chip)
2. Refresh all teacher devices (MacBook Air – M1 chip)
3. Provide all 3rd – 12th grade teachers with iPads (9th generation)

The following will not be part of the refresh cycle: K-2 iPads (8th/9th generation), School and District leadership MacBook Pros (2020 model)

The total cost of this refresh is broken down as follows:

\$4,614,400.00 – 5,600 MacBook Air Devices
 \$251,720.00 – 5,600 MacBook Air Cases
 \$834,400.00 – 3-year AppleCare for MacBook Air Devices
 \$147,000.00 – 500 iPads
 \$7,998.00 – AppleCare OS Support
\$394,707.60 – Sales Tax
 \$6,250,225.60 – Total

The procurement of the refresh is covered under North Carolina statewide term contract number 204N. Payment of the devices will be structured under a 0.00% lease agreement with the lease schedule outlined below:

Payment #	Payment Date	Payment Amount	Outstanding Balance
1	1/1/2024	\$700,000.00	\$5,550,225.60
2	7/1/2024	\$1,850,075.20	\$3,700,150.40
3	7/1/2025	\$1,850,075.20	\$1,850,075.20
4	7/1/2026	\$1,850,075.20	\$0.00

On a motion by Kerry Pennell, seconded by Rakeem Brawley the board voted unanimously to approve the Apple device refresh as recommended. Motion carried.

Dr. Royal presented overnight field trips for approval. The Mooresville High School JROTC is requesting permission to attend the Parris Island Marine Corp Recruit Depot on February 14-16, 2024, for an Introduction to USMC Basic Training. The trip involves 22 students and 2 staff chaperones. The cost of this trip is fifty dollars per student.

The Mooresville High School basketball team is requesting permission to attend a holiday basketball tournament in Durham, NC on December 27-29, 2023. The trip involves 14 student athletes and 3 staff chaperones. There is no cost.

On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Monica Bender, the board voted unanimously to approve the field trips outlined as presented. Motion carried.

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. Brawley, seconded by Mrs. Marsh, the board unanimously voted to go into closed session. Motion carried.**

During closed session the board discussed personnel and discussion regarding a student discipline/incident.

New Employees:

Hayley Teague, Speech-Language Pathologist, EMIS, 12/08/2023
Anna Boeglin, Substitute Teacher, 12/07/2023
Sara Barrier, Substitute, School Nutrition, 11/30/2023
April Nichols, Substitute, School Nutrition, 12/12/2023
Gary Simms, Head Coach, SBMS,

Promotions/Changes:

Brent Bustle, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, MHS, 03/01/2024
Madison Cory, EC Teacher Assistant, RRES, 12/04/2023
Melissa Foley, Power School Data Manager, PVES,
Rossi Maris Grande, Substitute Bus Monitor, Transportation/Custodian at MIS, 12/07/2023

Rehire:

Lisa Feller, Substitute Teacher, 12/04/2023

Leave of Absence:

Jennifer Kepley, TA/STARS, 01/16/2024, Education Leave/App State

Non-Continuing:

Jennifer Beverly, Bus Driver/Teacher Assistant, NF Woods, 11/30/2023
Jacinta Cartee, Head Custodian, EMIS, 12/20/2023
Wendy Lewis, Mathematics Coach, C&I, 12//20/2023
Morgan Williams, Director of Maintenance, 12/01/2023
Trista Yow, Adapted EC Teacher, MHS, 01/07/2024

On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Monica Bender, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel list as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted unanimously to adjourn from closed session.

There being no further business, on a motion by Monica Bender, seconded by Rakeem Brawley, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jason D. Gardner, Secretary
Board of Education