

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

April 8, 2024

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Montgomery County Schools Boardroom. Board members present were Steve W. DeBerry – Chair, Anne Evans - Vice Chair, Angela Smith, Lynn Epps, Tommy Blake, Bryan Dozier and Cindy Taylor.

Chairman Steve DeBerry called the meeting to order. Mr. DeBerry moved to adopt the agenda as submitted. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Anne Evans seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Chairman Steve DeBerry shared an opening with a reading titled “Out of the Spotlight”. Muhammad Ali and Joe Namath both were well known for the “look at me” attitudes. They both had supreme confidence in their abilities and knew their attitudes sold tickets. The idea of the humble athlete was on its way out. This “look at me” attitude is more prevalent in today’s society where people feel the need to focus more on themselves and blow their own horn. However, this focus on ourselves comes across as self-centered. Whatever field you work in let your work ethic, attitude and skills speak for themselves and others will eventually notice. God honors humility not pride. Humility is more impressive than accomplishment and you will earn respect without words.

Star Elementary student, Chase Lewis, led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

No one signed up to speak during the public comments section.

A Resolution of Esteem for Rebecca Garner Shiver was presented to her daughters. Ms. Shiver passed away on January 8, 2024. Chairman DeBerry read the resolution as follows:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION OF ESTEEM

FOR

Rebecca Garner Shiver

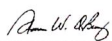
WHEREAS, our Heavenly Father, in His infinite love and wisdom, saw fit to call home Rebecca Garner Shiver on January 8, 2024, and

WHEREAS, her dedication to Montgomery County Schools for twenty-three years as a teacher were a living testament of her integrity and skill, and

WHEREAS, her loss will be deeply felt not only by those with whom she served, but also throughout her entire community and county,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education goes on record in expressing a sense of real loss and regret in her passing; that a copy of this resolution be conveyed to her family as an indication of our deep sympathy; and that a copy of the same be filed as a part of the permanent minutes of the Board of Education.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman



Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary

Tommy Blake - Bryan Dozier - Angela Smith
Anne Evans - Lynn Epps - Cindy Taylor

A Resolution of Esteem for Brenda Morton Johnson was presented to her sons. Ms. Johnson passed away on January 22, 2022. Chairman DeBerry read the resolution as follows:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION OF ESTEEM

FOR

Brenda Morton Johnson

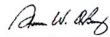
WHEREAS, our Heavenly Father, in His infinite love and wisdom, saw fit to call home Brenda Morton Johnson on January 22, 2022, and

WHEREAS, her dedication to Montgomery County Schools for thirty-three years, were a living testament of her integrity and skill, and

WHEREAS, her loss will be deeply felt not only by those with whom she served, but also throughout her entire community and county,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education goes on record in expressing a sense of real loss and regret in her passing; that a copy of this resolution be conveyed to her family as an indication of our deep sympathy; and that a copy of the same be filed as a part of the permanent minutes of the Board of Education.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman



Dale Ellis, Ed.D., Secretary

Tommy Blake - Bryan Dozier - Angela Smith
Anne Evans - Lynn Epps - Cindy Taylor

APRIL 2024

Dr. Ellis then called upon Janet Deaton, for the Certified and Classified Employees of the Month for Star Elementary School. Verenise Valdovinos, Receptionist/Translator was the classified winner. Danielle Hurley, 4th Grade Math Teacher was the certified winner.

Dr. Ellis at this time recognized the District Spelling Bee winner Meredith Lee from Star Elementary School.

Dr. Ellis then recognized the Regional Science Fair winners Gage Williams (Star Elementary), Andrew Thomas (Mt. Gilead Elementary), and Bailey Arthur, (Page Street Elementary). Sawyer Ceneskie (Page Street Elementary) was unable to attend.

Dr. Ellis then recognized Montgomery County Schools 2023 PTEC Signature School – Montgomery Central High School.

Chairman DeBerry stated the next item is the consent agenda. Dr. Ellis has requested to hold the consent agenda until after the closed session. The board approved unanimously.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Janet Deaton, principal at Star Elementary for their presentation “Community Engagement Strengthening Education Together”. Ms. Deaton and Ms. Lisa Wood spoke on the importance of collaboration between schools and their communities. Ms. Deaton stated that she truly believes that education is a shared responsibility and the more that we can tap into those strong community resources, the more successful our students will be. Star Elementary welcomes events such as the Star Fiddler’s Convention, Miss Merry Christmas Pageant, Girls on the Run 5K, and new this year our PTO will host the Cinco de Mayo Festival. Schools are evolving into central hubs where people come together to learn, connect, and build stronger communities. By focusing on this we are able to provide our students with enhanced learning opportunities, support for student and community needs, increased parental involvement, student activism, community empowerment, and cultural diversity. One example of our enhanced learning opportunities is the outdoor classroom. The materials for this classroom

were supplied by a grant that Star UMC received to work with our afterschool program. Church members come two days a week to do enrichment activities such as planting flowers, making foods, and creating crafts. Our student council members decided they would also like to support the needs of our community by conducting a schoolwide non-perishable food drive. Star Elementary also had a big need for new playground equipment due to many safety concerns. This need was discussed with students and members of our community, and it was decided that we needed to replace our old equipment. The student council lead a Pennies for the Playground service project and raised over \$2000 to help pay for the installation of our new playground equipment. Also, our running club hosts the annual Twinkle Toes 5K fundraiser. By participating in this event, students and their families become more active and due to support from runners and sponsors the club was also able to donate towards a new piece of playground equipment. Ms. Deaton also stated that they applied for and received The Power of Good Grant from First Bank in the amount of \$10,000 to help fund the purchase of new playground equipment, installation, ground cover, and border around the equipment. Between the Pennies for the Playground project, community support and this grant we will be able to complete our new playground and possibly have funds left over for an additional purchase. Our PTO is also planning to host a Cinco De Mayo Festival in May. This festival is the first of its kind in our county and will highlight the Hispanic Culture. We are planning to have a mariachi band, traditional dancers, Hispanic food vendors and games. The MCHS Spanish club will also be assisting with games during the event. We have also invited other schools to come, and we are expecting it to be an exciting event for our community.

Chairman DeBerry then called upon Dr. Emily Shaw for the 2024-2025 Calendar Options. The options being presented are for approval. Ms. Evans ask for clarification on the planning days that are new to the calendar. Dr. Shaw and Mr. Auman explained that this is a dedicated planning day for teachers to be in their rooms to do nothing but prepare. Dr. Shaw noted that this is a required day and has replaced the no day that was on previous calendars. Anne Evans made a motion to approve the calendar with Bryan Dozier seconding. The board unanimously approved.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Matthew Woodard for the MCHS athletic fields update. Mr. Woodard stated that as directed by the Board we requested and have received an independent evaluation of the baseball/softball project. The items from this report are, estimate of costs for project under current market conditions: \$577,224; costs of dugout relocation (as part of overall price): \$219,444; costs of bull pens (as part of overall price): \$35,521; general sitework (as part of the overall costs): \$78,608. The County declined to fund the project at the original bid price of \$640,000 but has offered to revisit the project in the next fiscal year 2024-25. Therefore, we have two options. Option #1: wait for the County and rebid. Option #2: Change Design (smaller phases): relocate the softball bleachers, build bull pens for baseball and softball, and increase the height of the existing baseball backstop fencing. We have also received a request to relocate the softball outfield fencing from 225ft to between 185-200ft per State guidelines. This change would allow us to relocate the spectator bleachers from behind home plate to the right field outfield. This will allow for an unobstructed and safer view. A concrete sidewalk and bleacher pads will be poured for the new seating area, and this will be completed concurrently with the creation of a home bullpen down the right field line. We will also provide a dedicated "bag chair" seating area in the right field section and the existing windscreen will be removed. Additional seating in the center field and left field section could be added later. There will be no changes to the baseball dugouts, but the existing baseball backstop chain-link fencing will be increased by 6-8'. Also, the baseball dugout relocation and soft netting projects will be pushed to a later date. None of option #2 will result in duplication of cost/effort if the baseball

dugouts are moved at a later date and this project will be managed in-house. We will be able to use existing vendors for the field/landscaping and fence construction. Once completed, these updates will address the majority of the safety concerns presented to the board. To better understand the safety concerns and what would be best to correct the issues, the board decided to visit the baseball/softball fields during the school visit to Montgomery Central on Thursday.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for the Superintendent's Comments. One of the unfortunate parts about COVID, on top of not allowing people to attend our meetings due to closures, we moved away from presenting our Resolution of Esteem. At the encouragement of the board, we have now re-started that process. We love to have family members attend so that we can share stories and short statements about what their loved ones meant during their career and how they influenced us and entire generations of Montgomery County citizens. We know that in that three year time period that we probably missed acknowledging some of our past employees. One of our employees that passed away in 2022 was honored here tonight. I will encourage Ms. Dunn at the Montgomery Herald that when she reports on this meeting to please highlight this information from this meeting so that anyone who may know of a past employee that may have been missed to please let us know so that we may research and present a Resolution of Esteem to the family. This is a very positive part of our meetings and along with the students presenting the pledge of allegiance, we are very happy to be able to make this a part of our meetings again. Finally feels like we are getting back to normal. We appreciate the Boards leadership.

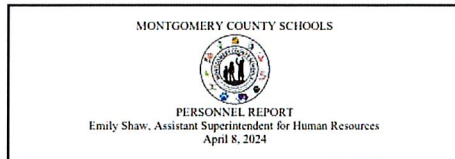
Mr. Dozier requested to address one final issue regarding Lowe Warner. Mr. Dozier asked the question as to how many people on this board were taught who Lowe Warner was while they were in school? He stated that there are only six towns in North Carolina that have a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from World War II. It is unbelievable what Lowe Warner did by himself at only twenty years old and that we are not even teaching our children anything about this man from Montgomery County. He stated that he would like to see maybe an hour presentation just to introduce who this individual was to our rising sixth graders as they enter middle school. We should be very proud that he came from Montgomery County. Mr. Dozier stated that he attended school with Mr. Warner's nephew for twelve years and never knew until Lowe Warner Park was built. Dr. Ellis stated that the best way to start this conversation is with someone submitting a nomination for him to the Hall of Honor. He stated that he had been waiting for that application to come. It is unfortunate that it was that long ago, and it might be good if we could speak with Garrett Maynard.

Chairman DeBerry then asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and consult the board attorney. Tommy Blake made the motion, with Bryan Dozier seconding. The board approved entering closed session unanimously.

Upon returning to open session, Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to add an addendum to the personnel report. Bryan Dozier made a motion, with Angela Smith seconding. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. DeBerry then called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bryan Dozier made a motion, with Angela Smith seconding.

The following items were approved:

- 1) Board Minutes from February 22, 2024 MYR
- 2) Board Minutes from March 4, 2024 meeting
- 3) Personnel and Auxiliary Report



A. Superintendent reports the acceptance of the following resignations/retirements:

<u>Resignation/ Retirement</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) James Marshall Resignation	Montg. Central High P.T. Bus Driver	6/7/2024
2) Shetty Diggs Resignation	Montg. Central High P.T. Custodian	3/11/2024
3) Helen Nicholson Retirement	Page Street Elementary Teacher Assistant	6/13/2024
4) Sherry Ferree Retirement	West Middle School 7 th /8 th Grade Math Teacher	7/1/2024
5) Nancy Williams Retirement	Montg. Central High Except. Child. Teacher	4/1/2024
6) Della Steele Resignation	Mt. Gilead Elementary P.T. Bus Monitor	2/22/2024
7) Sandra Sneed Retirement	Montg. Central High Teacher Assistant Bus Driver	6/30/2024
8) Lynne Terry Retirement	East Middle School Transition Coordinator/ Educational Diagnostician for the Except. Child. Program	7/1/2024
9) Jessica Teeter Resignation	Green Ridge Elementary Kindergarten Teacher	2/26/2024

10) LaVerne Smith Retirement	Mt. Gilead Elem. Pre-K Teacher	6/30/2024
11) Hannah Harmon Resignation	Mt. Gilead Elem. Kindergarten Teacher	6/14/2024
12) Rosalina Hoyt Retirement	Montg. Central High Custodian	7/1/2024
13) David Nugent Retirement	Montg. Central High English Teacher	6/30/2024

B. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of recommendation for employment of the following non-certified personnel:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Shakria Owens 3/6/2024	Mt. Gilead Elem. P.T. Media Assistant	Yes	Shevon Little
2) Natasha McIbride 3/18/2024	Mt. Gilead Elem. P.T. Tutor	Yes	
3) Sherri Butler 3/25/2024	West Middle GEARUP Coach	Yes	
4) Hannah Shepherd 3/18/2024	Page Street Elem. P.T. Tutor	Yes	

C. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following certified sub. teacher:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Darenese Harris 3/12/2024	West Middle Except. Child. Teacher	Yes	Stephanie Parker

D. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following coaches:

West Middle School
Softball – Daniel Strider (Head), Faye Strider (Volunteer)
Baseball – Cody Williams, Levi Barnes (*Pending Background check*)
Soccer – Christy McIntyre (Head), Greg Golden (*Pending Background check*)
Tennis – Sasha Golden



441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427
Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427
PHONE: (919) 576-6511 • FAX: (919) 576-2011

Montgomery Central High School
Jamie Hinson – Softball (Volunteer)
John Marciniak – Football (Volunteer)

E. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following probationary contracts for currently employed personnel for the 2023-2024 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

Justice Parker, Mt. Gilead Elementary School, 3rd Grade Teacher

F. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following interim contracts for currently employed personnel for the 2023-2024 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

Abigail Amundson, Troy Elementary School, Exceptional Children's Teacher

TO: MCS Board of Education
FROM: Dale Ellis, Ed. D
DATE: April 8, 2024
SUBJ: Addendum to Personnel Report

The Personnel Report should be amended to include the following:

G. Upon recommendation, approval of the following administrative contracts:
Principal-Annual 12-month term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2026

- Rufus Samkin, Montgomery Central High School

To: Board of Education
From: Mitch Taylor
Date: April 8, 2024
Subject: Budget Amendment

Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Amendment # 7

[illegible]

5) Safety Vestibule Recommendation



March 27, 2024

Dr. Dale Ellis, Superintendent
Montgomery County Schools
441 Page Street
Troy, NC 27371

RE: Safety Vestibules Projects

Dear Dr. Ellis:

Pinnacle Architecture, P.A. received bids on behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Education on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, for the above referenced projects. Please find attached the Bid Tabulation Sheet with the contractor's bid.

Pinnacle Architecture, P.A. is pleased to recommend to the Montgomery County Board of Education, H. M. Kern Corporation as being the lowest responsible bidder for these projects with a total bid of \$617,000.00. Bid per school are as follows:

Candler Elementary School	\$ 227,000.00
East Middle School	\$ 216,000.00
Page Street Elementary School	\$ 174,000.00

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Randall E. Baker, AIA
Vice President

REB:mhd

Attachment(s)

PINNACLE ARCHITECTURE, P.A.
P.O. BOX 107, MATTHEWS, NC 28105-0107 FAX (704) 847-8853

GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S BID TABULATION SHEET MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS CANDOR ELEMENTARY - SAFETY VESTIBULES

DATE: March 26, 2024 2:00 PM

TABULATION SHEET					
CONTRACTOR	H.M. Kern Corporation				
BOND	/				
BASE BID	\$227,000.00				
DAYS	30				
General	H.M. Kern Corporation \$222,000.00				
Plumbing	N/A				
HVAC	N/A				
Electrical	CS James Electric \$5,000.00				
UNIT PRICES					
Suspended Acoustical Ceiling (1/SF)	\$8.00				
Resilient Flooring (VCT) (1/SF)	\$8.00				
Carpet/Carpet Tile Installed (1/SF)	\$10.00				
Painting (1/SF)	\$3.00				



GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S BID TABULATION SHEET MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL - SAFETY VESTIBULES

DATE: March 26, 2024 2:00 PM

TABULATION SHEET					
CONTRACTOR	H.M. Kern Corporation				
BOND	/				
BASE BID	\$216,000.00				
DAYS	30				
General	H.M. Kern Corporation \$210,500.00				
Plumbing	N/A				
HVAC	N/A				
Electrical	CS James Electric \$5,500.00				
UNIT PRICES					
Suspended Acoustical Ceiling (1/SF)	\$8.00				
Resilient Flooring (VCT) (1/SF)	\$8.00				
Carpet/Carpet Tile Installed (1/SF)	\$10.00				
Painting (1/SF)	\$3.00				



GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S BID TABULATION SHEET MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS PAGE STREET ELEMENTARY - SAFETY VESTIBULES

DATE: March 26, 2024 2:00 PM

TABULATION SHEET					
CONTRACTOR	H.M. Kern Corporation				
BOND	/				
BASE BID	\$174,000.00				
DAYS	30				
General	H.M. Kern Corporation \$158,000.00				
Plumbing	N/A				
HVAC	N/A				
Electrical	CS James Electric \$6,000.00				
UNIT PRICES					
Suspended Acoustical Ceiling (1/SF)	\$8.00				
Resilient Flooring (VCT) (1/SF)	\$8.00				
Carpet/Carpet Tile Installed (1/SF)	\$10.00				
Painting (1/SF)	\$3.00				



6) Resolution Authorizing Increase in Micro-Purchasing Threshold



441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427
Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427
PHONE: (919) 576-4511 • FAX: (919) 576-2911

Montgomery County Schools

Resolution Authorizing Increase in Micro-Purchasing Threshold

WHEREAS, from time to time, Montgomery County Schools purchases goods and services using federal funding subject to the procurement standards in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart D; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Schools procurement of such goods and services is subject to the Purchasing and Procurement Policy, as most recently amended on March 1, 2024 effective as of April 8, 2024 and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Schools is a non-Federal entity under the definition set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.1; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(ii), a non-Federal entity may award micro-purchases without soliciting competitive price or rate quotations if the non-Federal entity considers the price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history or other information and documents that the non-Federal entity relies accordingly; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iii), a non-Federal entity is responsible for determining and documenting an appropriate micro-purchase threshold based on internal controls, an evaluation of risk, and its documented procurement procedures; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv), a non-Federal entity may self-certify on an annual basis a micro-purchase threshold not to exceed \$50,000 and maintain documentation to be made available to a Federal awarding agency and auditors in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(v), such self-certification must include (1) a justification for the threshold, (2) a clear identification of the threshold, and (3) supporting documentation, which, for public institutions, may be a "higher threshold consistent with State law"; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-12(b) and G.S. 143-131(a) require Montgomery County Schools to conduct a competitive bidding process for the purchase of (1) "apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment" where the cost of such purchase is equal to or greater than \$30,000, and (2) "construction or repair work" where the cost of such purchase is greater than or equal to \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law does not require a unit of local government to competitively bid for purchase of services other than services subject to the qualifications-based selection process set forth in Article 3D of Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes (the "Mini-Brooks Act"); and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.32 permits units of local government to exercise, in writing, an exemption to the qualifications-based selection process for services subject to the Mini-Brooks Act for particular projects where the aggregate cost of such services do not exceed \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(vi), the Board of Education for Montgomery County Schools now desires to adopt higher micro-purchase thresholds than those identified in 45 C.F.R. § 2.101.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education for Montgomery County Schools that

Section 1. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv) and the applicable provisions of North Carolina law, Montgomery County Schools hereby self-certifies the following micro-purchase thresholds, each of which is

a "higher threshold consistent with State law" under 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(v)(C) for the reasons set forth in the recitals to this resolution;

A. \$30,000, for the purchase of "apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment"; and

B. \$30,000, for the purchase of "construction or repair work"; and

C. \$50,000, for the purchase of services not subject to competitive bidding under North Carolina law; and

D. \$50,000, for the purchase of services subject to the qualifications-based selection process in the Mini-Brooks Act; provided that such threshold shall apply to a contract only if the Unit has exercised an exemption to the Mini-Brooks Act, in writing, for a particular project pursuant to G.S. 143-64.32. If the exemption is not authorized, the micro-purchase threshold shall be \$10,000.

Section 2. The self-certification made herein shall be effective as of the date hereof and shall be applicable until the April 8, 2025, but shall not be applicable to Federal financial assistance awards issued prior to November 12, 2020, including financial assistance awards issued prior to that date under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Support (CARES) Act or 2020 Pub. L. 116-136.

Section 3. In the event that Montgomery County Schools receives funding from a Federal grantor agency that adopts a threshold more restrictive than those contained herein, the Unit shall comply with the more restrictive threshold when expending such funds.

Section 4. The Unit shall maintain documentation to be made available to a Federal awarding agency, any pass-through entity, and auditors in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

Section 5. The Finance Director of Montgomery County Schools is hereby authorized, individually and collectively, to revise the Purchasing Policy of Montgomery County Schools to reflect the increased micro-purchase thresholds specified herein, and to take all such actions, individually and collectively, to carry into effect the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution.

This Resolution shall become effective April 8, 2024.

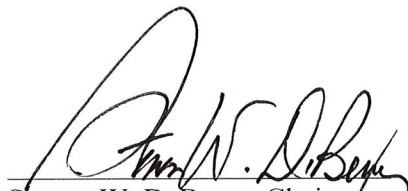
ADOPTED, this 8th day of April 2024.

Chairman – Board of Education

Secretary – Board of Education

Following approval of the consent agenda, Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Angela Smith seconding; the meeting was duly adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.


Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman


Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary