

I've always been an advocate for our students in Montgomery County. I've spent 42 years in public education. My stance is that we pay taxes for public schools and feel we should continue to support our public schools. I don't want to go against the constitution, and if 90% of kids in Kentucky attend public schools, we should keep the money in public schools.
- Sharon Smith-Breiner, Board Chairperson

OCTOBER 2024

LATEST KSA DATA SHOWS OVERALL GROWTH IN DISTRICT

In Dr. Thompson's Superintendent's Report, supported by a presentation from Chief Academic Officer Stephanie Harris, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Stacy Linn, and Director of Special Education Marti Escalante, during the special session board meeting, it was affirmed that Montgomery County Schools achieved commendable results on the 2023-24 Kentucky Summative Assessment.

Mapleton Elementary School, Northview Elementary School, and Montgomery County High School earned green-rated statuses, and McNabb Middle School significantly increased overall!

Mapleton is in the top 25% of elementary schools in the state! Their significant increase in reading and math resulted in a blue rating. They also increased in combined science, social studies, writing, and the quality of school climate and safety, resulting in a green rating. They also improved reading, math, and the quality of school climate and safety for students with disabilities.

Northview is in the top 30% of elementary schools in the state! Their significant increase in combined science, social studies, and writing resulted in a blue rating. They also improved in reading and math for students with disabilities.

MCHS is in the top 14% of high schools in the state! Their significant increase in reading and math resulted in a blue rating. They had an increase in combined science, social studies, writing, graduation rate, and post-secondary readiness, resulting in a green rating. They had an increase in school climate and safety control, resulting in a yellow rating. They reduced students scoring novice in reading, math, science, and social studies and improved in all areas for students with disabilities.

Across all levels, the district saw increases in reading and writing, while reducing the number of students scoring novice in multiple areas. We are so proud of the hard work of our students and staff!



HOW TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS' SAFETY

The Board continued its discussion regarding school safety, specifically how school safety is best described as a layered approach. Each piece of what we do adds an additional layer designed to keep students and staff safe. We have layers focused on training for students, staff, and SROs. We have layers focused on infrastructure such as the safety foyers and camera/buzzer systems at the front entrances of each school. We also have layers focused on staffing and partnerships which include having a full-time SRO at each school and collaboration with our local law enforcement agencies.

Earlier this month, when the Board approved the Centegix safety platform, this was a continuation of a discussion that began before the weapon incident at McNabb and was focused on providing an additional layer of safety that was not in place prior. The Centegix platform provides our staff with a way to notify administration and law enforcement immediately in the event of a critical incident as well as put the school on lockdown quicker. It also provides a much more robust visitor screening process.

The Board discussed the draft safety survey that has since been sent out to all students, staff, families, and the community. This survey allows all stakeholders to provide feedback on their thoughts regarding school safety in general as well as possible long-term safety improvements such as increased counselors and mental health providers as well as additional infrastructure purchases such as metal detectors or weapons detection systems.



BOARD DISCUSSES AMENDMENT 2

During Tuesday night's meeting, the board discussed the critical issue of Amendment 2. It is crucial for everyone to understand what the amendment is asking and the facts surrounding the issue.

A "YES" vote on Amendment 2 would enable the legislature to fund non-public schools (such as private and charter schools) in the future by removing constitutional safeguards that currently protect public funds for common public schools. Conversely, a "NO" vote would maintain the state constitution and the protections in place for public education funding.

The board discussed facts and potential impacts to Montgomery County Schools regarding Amendment 2, including:

- If passed, the amendment would allow legislators to pass bills that would allow the use of public dollars to fund any type of school outside the system of common schools (e.g., private schools, religious schools, home schools, charter schools), as determined by the legislature.
- If passed, the amendment creates exceptions for the legislature to disregard seven sections of the Kentucky constitution.
- 52% of private schools are in 3 counties (Jefferson, Fayette, and Kenton)
- 80% of private schools are in 8% of zip codes in Kentucky
- Local funding, including local tax dollars, will leave rural districts and go to counties with private schools, and fixed (stranded) costs will remain

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- The MCHS Girls Cross Country Team won the Area 7 XC Meet! They beat Russell, Ashland, Mason, and Raceland to claim 1st place.
- The girls' golf team had a remarkable season this year! The Lady Indians won the 12th region and secured 8th place in the final round of the KHSAA Girls State Golf Tournament!
- MCHS soccer players earned 10th Region Post-Season Honors: Avery Poole and Lauren Willoughby made the 1st Team All-Region, while Cam Kenney, Ava Davidson, Cooper Slagle, and Colton Kenney made the 2nd Team All-Region. Addison Arnold earned a spot on the 3rd Team All-Region.

APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF CHENAULT AGRICULTURE BARN

In response to a proposal by board member Alice Anderson, the board unanimously voted to extend the Chenault Agriculture Barn by an additional 25 feet. This expansion aims to create more spacious accommodations in the livestock area, enhancing the barn's overall functionality. With this extension, it is anticipated that there will be improved conditions for livestock management and increased capacity for agricultural activities.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

- All fundraising initiatives and facility usage requests.
- Second reading of the revisions to the Sick Leave Bank policies - Due to extremely low number of days available in the bank, beginning July 1, 2024 the Sick Leave Bank will no longer accept enrollment of new members into the Bank. The Bank shall remain active in existence until all available days/hours have been exhausted. At that time, the Sick Leave Bank will become defunct, and employees may participate in the Sick Leave Donation Program (Board Policy 03.1232). Any new employee who enrolled in the Sick Leave Bank after July 1, 2024, will have their sick day returned to them.
- Three buses will be purchased without financing. The district will save approximately \$62,000 by purchasing them outright and not financing them.

Montgomery County Board of Education

Sharon Smith-Breiner, Board Chair (District 3)

Daniel Freeman, Ed.D, Vice Chair (District 5)

Alice Anderson (District 4)

Carmela Fletcher-Green (District 1)

Emily Settle, DMD (District 2)

