MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

August 5, 2024

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Montgomery County Schools Boardroom. Board members present were Steve DeBerry – Chairman, Anne Evans – Vice Chair, Angela Smith, Lynn Epps, Tommy Blake, Cindy Taylor and Bryan Dozier.

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

Chairman Steve DeBerry read a passage from Proverbs 3:34, "The Lord mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble." Humility earns the respect that pride seeks. When you are humble you are acknowledging your own worth, while focusing on the worth of others. If you know someone who is quietly supporting you in some way, thank that person today.

Chairman DeBerry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for recognitions. Dr. Ellis then called upon Wade Auman to speak on behalf of Brooke Howell, winner of the Central Office Employee of the Month award.

Chairman DeBerry then requested to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Tommy Blake seconding. The board approved unanimously.

Chairman DeBerry then called upon Matthew Swain for the presentation on Summer Camps Overview 2024. The summer camps are hosted by Montgomery County Schools and Montgomery Community College. They offer our students career development opportunities and prepare them for future academic and career success. Our Summer Academy at the middle and high school level offers students a chance to get the credits that they may have missed or to regain proficiency. Camp Timberwolf is aimed at our rising 9th grade students to help with the transition to Montgomery Central and Montgomery County Early College by using team-building activities, academic readiness workshops and campus tours. Students participate in classes on leadership, collaboration, and communication. We also partnered with Montgomery Community College to provide camps to our 4th grade – 8th grade students. Some of the camps provided were the Culinary Camp, Health Science and First Aid, First in Flight Drone Camp, Ag Central, and Sheriff's Camp. Each of these camps engaged the students with hands on learning and by allowing them to use each in real life situations.

Chairman DeBerry then called upon Dr. Emily Shaw for the presentation of Building Bridges: Connecting Talent and Opportunity. Dr. Shaw and Jordan Hamilton, Beginning Teacher Specialist, discussed our partnership with UNCC and TailorED. We are currently in our 4th year partnership with UNCC. They provide us with an Instructional Coach who offers one-on-one and

group support for twelve BT 1 teachers. We are also in our first year partnership with TailorED and focusing on providing support for our BT 2 and BT 3 teachers. TailorED works well with UNCC by being able to provide one-on-one and group support for more of our beginning teachers as well as offering support for our EPI teachers. The teachers receive three face-to-face visits per school year and they can also call, email or request a ZOOM meeting as many times as necessary. Jordan stated that the Instructional Coach keeps a spreadsheet to track the teacher's activity and progress. This information is also shared with us so that we can understand how things are going in the classroom.

Chairman DeBerry then called upon Dr. Emily Shaw for the policies being presented for first read. Most of these policies reflect numerous updates and changes to stay in compliance with the new Title IX updates that went into effect August 1, 2024. These policies will be brought back at the September BOE meeting for approval.

Chairman DeBerry stated that the next item on the agenda was the Board Training Update. Ms. Epps, Ms. Evans and Ms. Taylor all attended the Summer Leadership Conference in Wilmington. Ms. Epps stated that she attended a session on athletic training and the benefits of having an emergency action plan in place for a cardiac event. By having an action plan in place and practicing what to do, we would be much better prepared to help a student, coach or parent if the need arises. Dr. Ellis stated that we do have plans, but he would follow up to make sure we are practicing them correctly. Ms. Epps also stated that she attended a session on Policies Governing the Boards Actions. She stated she felt that it would be beneficial for the incoming board members to attend the CORE training provided by NCSBA. Ms. Smith stated that she had just attended the CORE training in July and that she also attended the CORE training at the beginning of her service with the board. She felt after serving on the board for several months she could better understand the information they provided. One of the speakers was an experienced board member and the guidance she shared with handling various board situations was very beneficial. Ms. Evans then stated that she attended a session on AI that explained the importance of PD for our teachers on AI literacy and the DPI resources that are available. Dr. Ellis stated that we are putting together an AI core team and will have a presentation in September. She also stated that the NCSBA is doing a public media campaign on Facebook and Instagram to push public schools. On the NCSBA Facebook and Instagram page they have the Public School Win of the Week. We will be able to submit something great that has happened in our schools to be highlighted on the NCSBA page. Ms. Taylor also stated that she attended a session on the use of electric vehicles in our schools and the training that we need to be doing to prepare. She also attended a session on Board Governance that discussed the advantages of having a board member work session and she felt this could be beneficial for our members.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for his Superintendent's Remarks. Dr. Ellis stated he wanted to thank our staff for all the hard work. Our HR department, Jordan Hamilton, the Curriculum Team (putting together Leadership Week), Matthew Woodard (behind the scenes at facilities), and Dr. Cagle (student services piece) just to name a few. I get the question "do you work during the summer?" and it is always a yes, we do. It is not me but the wonderful work of our staff, not only the work here at the Central Office but also the people at our schools, from our principals to our cafeteria managers, and we really appreciate the job they do. It is just a very busy time, but we have great people taking care of our schools and we will open the school year successfully thanks to them. We have also received notice that is time to consider the Public School Needs Capital Grant Fund. This is the same grant that we missed out on with Montgomery Central High School because two years after the funding was approved for Montgomery Central it was announced that you could request up to $60 million dollars per high school. We applied and tried but unfortunately because the school had already been funded, we were

denied. Therefore, every dollar of that fell on the taxpayers of Montgomery County. We are at a point now that in the near future we will need to start looking into the possibility of a West side elementary school. Primarily for the growth that is continuing to happen at and around Lake Tillery. It is something that we need to start thinking about, but I am sure even the mention of this will cause lots of questions in the community. Most of the questions we do not have answers to yet because ultimately, we do not know where the site will be, what the configuration will be or where the boundary lines will be. We do know that we already have kids at the top of Badin Lake that drive twenty miles to Troy Elementary and almost fifteen miles to Mt. Gilead Elementary and that is an issue. As you look at all the building permits, we know that the growth is going to happen at the lake. As it continues to grow it will have an impact at some point and with the four lanes already to Charlotte we need to start thinking about five or ten years from now. It is hard to have a robust conversation when you don't have any money. This grant would allow us to apply for up to $42 million dollars. We are not even sure that $42 million would build a school, especially when you figure in the purchase price of land around the lake but with the grant the county would only have to agree to a five percent match of $2 million. I would rather start that conversation with $42 million in hand than to start that conversation with no money because that would be a disservice to our community. Our first step, if we have board consensus to at least apply to see what happens, would be for the county commissioners to sign off on it and then we would fill out the application at that point. It is usually a three to four month process so we should know by December if we are approved, and we could then have a more serious conversation. In the past there has been no deadline for using the funds. Once we get through the process, it could possibly take two years to acquire the land and have discussions with the county and then another two years to build the school, so we are looking at least four to five years down the road. This does not require a motion, just a consensus from the board to start the application process. The board agreed unanimously.

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

The following items were approved:

1) Board Minutes from July 1, 2024
2) Personnel Report:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORT
Emily Shaw, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
August 5, 2024

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

Resignation/Retirement	School/Assignment	Effective Date
1) Aubrey Williamson Resignation	Green Ridge Elementary Teacher Assistant/Bus Driv.	June 27, 2024
2) Stephanie Andrufski Resignation	Page Street Elementary ESL Teacher	July 15, 2024
3) Kristin Beck Resignation	Page Street Elementary Guidance Counselor	July 21, 2024
4) Amanda Williams Resignation	Central Office Speech Language Pathologist	June 17, 2024
5) Tammie Parsons Resignation	Troy Elementary Teacher Assistant/Bus Driv.	June 13, 2024
6) James Bryant Resignation	West Middle School Behavior Support Spec.	July 29, 2024

b. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following additions to the substitute teacher list:

	Non-Certified	Record Check
1)	Graciela Gonzalez	Yes
2)	Catherine Thompson	Yes
3)	Linda Baldwin	Yes
4)	Robbin Wall	Yes
5)	Kera Clyburn	Yes
6)	Myra Lamonds	Yes
7)	Jordan Phillips	Yes
8)	Ferecia Tyson	Yes
9)	Chrystal Mabe	Yes
10)	Tabitha Bass	Yes
11)	Shecanna Collins	Yes
12)	Jennifer Bass	Yes
13)	Heather Jackson	Pending
14)	Shelia Perry	Pending
15)	Donna Jackson	Pending
16)	Susan Caddell	Pending
17)	Carltina Johnson	Pending
18)	Kay McCallum	Pending
19)	Sue Ann Davis	Yes

	Certified	Record Check
1)	Tracie Whitley	Yes
2)	Susan Ashworth	Yes
3)	Debbie Roach	Yes
4)	Beth Bailey	Yes

c. Report of the following transfers:

Transfer/ Effective Date	From	To	Replacing
1) Nora Beasley 08/19/2024	Mt. Gilead Elem. STEM Teacher	West Middle 6th Grade Studies/Science	Sam Julen
2) Linda Sanders 08/19/2024	Montg. Central High Techn. Technician	Central Office Technician II	

d. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following probationary contracts for the 2024-2025 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

Employee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record Check	Replacing
1) Shelby Canady 08/19/2024	East Middle School Band/Chorus Teacher	Yes	Patrick Wichowski
2) Mary Steltz 08/19/2024	West Middle School 8th Grade Math Teacher	Yes	Karen Dumasis
3) Annette Ammons 08/19/2024	Montg. Central High Guidance Counselor	Yes	Vera Richardson
4) Michelle Comer 08/19/2024	Green Ridge Elementary ESL Teacher	Yes	Stephanie Andrufski

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

Employee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record Check	Replacing
1) Dabreka Richardson 08/19/2024	West Middle School Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Pending	Naomi Drake
2) Andrea Lomax 08/19/2024	Page Street Elementary Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Pending	Bianca Green
3) Amber Goodwin 08/19/2024	West Middle School P.T. Media Assistant	Yes	Joyce Cassidy
4) Mayra Trejo 08/16/2024	Green Ridge Elementary P.T. Translator	Pending	
5) Amanda Brown 08/19/2024	Green Ridge Elementary Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Yes	Laura Wilson
6) Kylie Kidwell 08/16/2024	Page Street Elementary NC Ed Corp Tutor	Yes	Sherry Jacobs

f. Upon recommendation, approval of the following coaches:

Montgomery Central High

Travis Talley – Men's Basketball
Samantha Aguilar – Tennis

West Middle School

Kesha Collins – Athletic Director

3) Auxiliary Report:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
AUXILIARY REPORT
AUGUST 5, 2024

Upon recommendation, approval of release from Montgomery County Schools requested for the 2024-2025 school year.

Montgomery County Schools to Stanly County Schools

-Cayden Low Burris

-Jonathan Burris

-Roman Wilson

4) Testing Notification LTR Averages:

441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427
Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427
PHONE: (910) 576-6511 • FAX: (910) 576-2044

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Wade Auman

DATE: August 5, 2024

SUBJ: TESTING INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Montgomery County Schools must provide the local standardized testing data for the Board to review each even numbered year in accordance with General Statute §115C-174.12(d1). I am pleased to report that we are not over the state averages for number of tests administered or number of hours for testing. We will not be required to submit a local plan to the NCDPI based on our previous two year average.

This report indicates the district and state averages for testing the district elects to administer during the school year. This aligns with the TESTING REDUCTION ACT OF 2019.

I am available to answer any questions you might have.

fwa
Attachment: [LTR_Averages_620_2024]

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

lea_code	name	total_tests_2024	total_time_2024	total_tests_2023	total_time_2023	total_tests	total_time	avg_test	avg_time	Over_Avg_Test	Test_Plan_Waived	Over_Avg_Time	Time_Plan_Waived
NC-SEA	State of North Carolina	6146	6895.8	9790	12720.4	15936	19716.2	69.3	85.7	N	N		
620	Montgomery County Schools	29	30	86	129	115	159	57.5	79.5	N	N/A	N	N/A

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.

_____	_____
Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman	Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary