

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 24, 2022

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in its Mid-Year Review Session on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Montgomery County Schools Central Office. Board members present were Steven W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Lynn Epps, Cindy Taylor, Anne Evans, Bryan Dozier and Jesse Hill.

Chairman Steve DeBerry called the meeting to order and moved to adopt the agenda with an amendment of adding a brief closed session at the end. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Superintendent Dr. Dale Ellis started by saying we are excited to share with you where we stand. Remote was not good but we do have some things to celebrate. I used to hear arguments all the time that online technology would take over brick and mortar schools because it is cheaper. I can tell you one thing nothing replaces a teacher in front of a kid. We learned that. Although, there are areas to celebrate we also have many deficits as well. The purpose of this review is to share our vision, mission and core values. Ultimately, we want to highlight what we have done well and more importantly put a focus on what we need to improve on.

Wade Auman, Assistant Superintendent of Learning, gave a review of Globally Competitive Students that encompasses strengths and weaknesses of the graduation rate, College and Career Ready Proficiency, Ready Expected Growth and the most recent assessment data. The goals for Graduation Rate and Post-Secondary Education presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, the 4-year cohort graduation rate will increase to meet or exceed 92.5% and 50% of all graduates will have received a minimum of two post-secondary credits. Five-year: By 2025, the 4-year cohort graduation rate will increase to meet or exceed 93% and >95% of all graduates will have received a minimum of two post-secondary credits. Grade-level proficiency goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, Grade-Level Proficiency will increase to meet or exceed 60%. Five-year: By 2025, Grade-Level Proficiency will increase to meet or exceed 70%. Ready expected growth goal presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, the percentage of MCS schools that meet or exceed READY expected growth targets will be 100%. Five-year: By 2025, the percentage of MCS schools that meet or exceed READY expected growth targets will remain 100%. Composite Achievement Gap goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, the MCS composite achievement gap measure will decrease by 10%. Five-year: By 2025, the MCS composite achievement gap measure will decrease by 15%.

Tracy Grit, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, gave a review of 21st Century Professionals – Healthy/Responsible. Teacher attendance goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, MCS will maintain an overall teacher attendance rate that meets or exceeds 95%. Five-year: By 2025, MCS will maintain an overall teacher attendance rate that meets or exceeds 96%. Beginning Teacher Retention goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, MCS will retain beginning teachers in a 3-year cohort at a rate of 60%. Five-year: By 2025, MCS will retain beginning teachers in a 3-year cohort at a rate of 75%. Out of School Suspension Rates goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, the out-of-school suspension incident rate will be reduced by 5%. Five-year: By 2025, the out-of-school suspension incident rate will be reduced by 10%.

Jack Cagle, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Student Services, and Katie Hursey, Public Information Officer, gave a review of Leadership Guides Innovation covering grants and digital instruction. Grant goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, MCS will increase grant submissions by four. Five-year: By 2025, MCS will increase grant submissions by eight. Digital Instruction goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, teachers will implement Triple E methodology into lesson plans and use the Framework Measurement Tool to improve student lessons. Five-year: By 2025, teachers will continue use of Triple E methodology into lesson plans and use the Framework Measurement Tool to improve student lessons.

Mitch Taylor, Chief Financial Officer, and Matthew Woodard, Executive Director for Auxiliary Services/Emergency Management, gave a review of 21st Century Systems. Adequate Fund Balance goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, MCS will maintain an adequate fund balance for operations and capital as measured by recommendations from the external auditor and internal budget committee. Five-year: By 2025, MCS will continue to maintain an adequate fund balance for operations and capital as measured by recommendations from the external auditor and internal budget committee. Adequate Facilities goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, MCS will complete a revised five-year facilities study to identify facility improvement strategies as measured by the facilities study. Five-year: By 2025, MCS will complete 25% of the revised five-year facilities plan as measured by project completion documents. Adequate Technology Resources goals presented as follows. Two-year: By 2022, MCS will refresh student and staff devices as outlined in the master technology plan as measured by the plan. Five-year: By 2025, MCS will continue to refresh devices and maintain adequate digital access for all students as measured by the plan.

Dr. Dale Ellis asked if there were any questions or discussions from the board. Now is the fun time we talk about masks. I think with the availability of vaccines. We have done everything humanly possible to protect people. The general assembly passed a bill called “Free the Smiles Act” that was vetoed by the governor today. School boards are being forced to vote on this every month. I checked today and we are at 13.2% positive this is a 14-day average. Two weeks ago, we were at 30 some percent. That makes us at an extremely low percentage right now. As discussed in the Friday Update. It is my recommendation to move to masks optional with masks still being required on buses starting Monday, February 28, 2022. We will spend the day tomorrow communicating with all our constituents. We will provide whatever they need to feel comfortable. Anyone testing positive will be required to quarantine for five days. Upon their return, they will be required to wear masks days six through ten. Face coverings will still require a vote each month. Steve DeBerry asked more a motion to approve. Lynn Epps made the motion with Jesse Hill seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tommy Blake made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding. The meeting was duly adjourned.

Steve DeBerry made a motion to enter closed session. Tommy Blake made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery Central High School Auditorium.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary