

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

March 18, 2021

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a special called meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Montgomery Central High School Auditorium. Board members present were Steven W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Bryan Dozier, Lynn Epps, Jesse Hill, and Cindy Taylor attended virtually.

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

Chairman DeBerry explained the purpose of this special called meeting was to discuss the newly passed Senate Bill 220. Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis to begin the discussion. Dr. Ellis referred Board members to the packet of information previously provided to discuss adjustments of the existing calendar to meet requirements of Senate Bill 220. March 24 will be a half day for staff development. March 25 will be a regular school day. March 26 will be a regular school day. March 29 will be a half-day remote school day. These changes allow staff to participate in their second round of COVID 19 vaccines starting at 1:00 pm. March 30 will be a regular school day for Group A. March 31 will be a regular school day for Group B. April 1 will be a half-day remote school day to allow staff to participate in COVID 19 vaccines starting at 1:00 pm. April 2 will become a no day also being Good Friday. Dr. Ellis discussed the pros and cons of the four options presented. In his opinion, Option 1 is the best option. Stating from what he has heard staff will feel more at ease once they receive their second round of vaccines. Board member Bryan Dozier asked how many of our staff members have been vaccinated. Dr. Ellis responded he did not have the exact number but estimated between 60% and 75% participated in the first round of vaccines provided by FirstHealth. Bryan Dozier asked for clarification of whether he intended for K-5 or K-12 to return. Dr. Ellis responded he preferred the K-12 start. Chairman DeBerry asked if the majority of teachers took the vaccine. Dr. Ellis responded from what he had witnessed it was a variety of teachers and staff who participated. Tommy Blake questioned if everyone who wanted to receive the vaccine had the chance. Dr. Ellis confirmed that yes everyone has had the opportunity. Steve DeBerry asked if there any reasons not to bring middle and high school students back. Dr. Ellis responded no and stated we would have to submit a plan for returning students. Lynn Epps asked if the amount space we have would be adequate for the number students who will be returning and asked for clarity if distancing would be 6 feet or 3 feet apart. Dr. Ellis responded yes he felt good about the ability to keep them safe. The CDC now states three feet apart is safe while wearing a mask. Mask wearing is the key to safety. Tommy Blake asked for consideration to spend time outside when possible. Bryan Dozier asked for clarification of which day of the week would be the remote day. Dr. Ellis responded Wednesday would remain remote to allow for cleaning. Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve Dr. Ellis's Recommendation 1 defined as follows: I recommend that the Board define "Plan A" as four days of in-person instruction per week, with one virtual day for remote instruction/planning/deep cleaning per week. Lynn Epps made the motion to approve with Tommy Blake seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the Board. Dr. Ellis presented Recommendation 2 as follows: I recommend that the Board begin "Plan A" for all grade levels on April 1, as legally required by legislation and State Board Policy, and that Thursday, April 1 be considered the virtual day for that "Plan A" week. Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board. Dr. Ellis presented Recommendation 3 as follows: I

recommend that the Board continues “Plan A” for all grade levels following Spring Break on April 12, and that Wednesday be designated as the remote day each week, from that point forward. Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve. Tommy Blake made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Bryan Dozier asked Dr. Ellis if remediation will be offered at the end of the school year. Dr. Ellis responded remediation will be provided but only for students that did not perform well on end of grade testing.

Tommy Blake asked who is responsible for keeping up with students. Dr. Ellis responded that Jack Cagle and his team along with guidance counselors are keeping up and performing home visits when necessary.

Lynn Epps wanted to make sure teachers are thanked and know that they are appreciated for what they are doing.

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

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery Central High School Auditorium.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary