

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 2, 2017

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Steven W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Jesse Hill, Bryan Dozier, Ann Long, Tommy Blake and Shirley Threadgill. Sandra Miller was absent.

Chairman DeBerry called the meeting to order and moved to adopt the agenda as shown. Ann Long made the motion with Jesse Hill seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Chairman DeBerry opened by reading a devotional on “Stairs of Opportunity”. Spending your time looking up them and dreading the climb does not get you anywhere. As with life obstacles, you have to conquer the staircase one step at a time.

Mt. Gilead Elementary students Luke McIntyre and Madison Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

First on the agenda, Chairman DeBerry called on Superintendent Ellis to present a power point showing the reasons for the consolidation of East and West Montgomery. The power point featured pictures taken from tours of both schools by the Facilities Task Force, displaying the deterioration of both facilities. With no one signing up to address the board, Dr. Ellis made the recommendation to vote on the consolidation of East and West Montgomery High Schools, including the closure of those facilities upon the completion and occupancy of Montgomery Central High School. Dr. Ellis made the recommendation based upon the work of the Facilities Task Force and in conjunction with the public hearing of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. Chairman DeBerry asked for the motion. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Ann Long seconding. All board members approved the motion unanimously. Dr. Ellis said he and the board were “eternally thankful” to Matthew Woodard, Jim Matheny and Jackie Morris, along with all the County Commissioners for their support during this process.

Dr. Ellis and Principal Sloan Browning recognized Mt. Gilead Elementary Employees of the Month. Cathy Horne, Teachers Assistant, is the classified employee while Sarah Greene, Teacher, is the certified employee. Both employees received a certificate and a fifty-dollar gift card, sponsored by Badcock Furniture.

Superintendent Ellis presented Sloan Browning with Principal of the Year honors. This is Ms. Browning’s first year as principal at Mt. Gilead Elementary. Dr. Ellis stated that Ms. Browning has had a very successful first year at Mt. Gilead, bringing the low performing school to exceeding growth. Congratulations, Ms. Browning.

Dr. Ellis then called on Brent Thompson to join him up front. Mr. Thompson designed the logo for Montgomery Central High School and Montgomery County Early College. Superintendent Ellis presented Mr. Thompson with a plaque with the MCHS Timberwolf logo etched on it and a one hundred dollar check for his winning entry.

Mark Sorrells, with Golden Leaf Foundation, presented Superintendent Ellis and Dr. Jeff James with a check for one hundred and five thousand dollars. Golden Leaf has worked with rural schools since 2007, supplying money for grants and supporting communities in need by

investing in their futures and helping them succeed. Golden Leaf was given a certificate of appreciation for the work they have done with Montgomery County Schools.

Superintendent Ellis presented principals with their growth banners for 2016-17. East Montgomery and Mt. Gilead Elementary exceeded growth. Green Ridge Elementary, Candor Elementary, East Middle, Page Street Elementary, Star Elementary and West Montgomery all met growth.

Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as shown. The board agreed unanimously with a motion by Tommy Blake and a second by Bryan Dozier. The following items were approved:

- 1) Board Minutes from the September 11th board meeting;
- 2) Personnel and Auxiliary Report as follows:
 - a. Upon the recommendation of the principal, approval of the following additions to the substitute teacher list:

<u>Noncertified</u>	<u>Recommended By</u>	<u>Record Check</u>
1) Montie Cloud	Rikki Baldwin	Yes
2) Megan Hoover	Teresa Dunn	Yes
3) Quelyn Voorhees	Maxine Brown	Yes
4) Sarah Perez-Hernandez	Teresa Dunn	Yes

<u>Certified</u>	<u>Recommended By</u>	<u>Record Check</u>
1) Stephanie Stevens	Jennifer Beck	Yes

- b. Superintendent reports the acceptance of the following resignations/retirements:

<u>Resignation/Retirement</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) Ryan Brock Resignation	West Middle School 7 th Grade Teacher	September 17, 2017

- c. 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) Michelle Capel 09/08/2017	Star Elementary Dragon Time Assistant	Yes	
2) Michael Culler 09/21/2017	West Middle School Custodian	Yes	Jeffrey Douglas
3) Betty Stubbs 09/14/2017	All Locations Child Nutrition Sub.	Yes	
4) Areli Leyva-Perez 09/13/2017	All Locations Child Nutrition Sub.	Yes	

5) Elsie Smith 09/11/2017	All Locations Child Nutrition Sub.	Yes
6) Summer Alvarez 09/19/2017	All Locations Child Nutrition Sub.	Yes
7) Vanida Byrd 09/20/2017	All Locations Child Nutrition Sub.	Yes
8) Mary Greene 09/25/2017	All Locations Child Nutrition Sub.	Yes

d. Report of the following transfers:

<u>Transfer/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Nikki Ratliff 09/25/2017	West Montgomery PT One on One	Troy Elementary PT One on One	

e. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of recommendation for employment of the following bus drivers, sub drivers and monitors that are not dual employees:

Amethyst Watkins – Bus Driver

3)FirstHealth Provider Agreement 2017.

Next, the board heard an audit report from Dale Smith with Anderson, Smith and Wike. Mr. Smith reported that MCS had “clean, unmodified reports” and no improper use of grant funds. The fund balance was maintained and the only money used is what is needed for operating costs. The audit went well and as expected. Dr. Ellis thanked Mr. Smith for the account and recognized Mitch Taylor, Chief Finance Officer and the finance department for their thorough accounting.

Mt. Gilead Elementary teacher Christy McIntyre, along with her son Luke, presented “Gator Science”. Mrs. McIntyre explained the things she did with her class to make them love science, such as singing songs with each chapter, letting the students teach and lead in their learning, balloon races, and educational field trips to Fort Fisher and Camp Caraway. Mrs. McIntyre says technology is the basis of learning in her classroom.

Dr. Ellis asked the board for approval of the Strategic Plan for 2020, with the removal of the pregnancy goal, which will be moved to operational. Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve the plan. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Ann Long seconding. The plan was approved with unanimous approval from the board.

Gina Smith with FirstHealth School Health Centers presented a power point on visits to the centers in the past year. Data shows there has been an increase in mental health visits. This increase is contributed to demographics and home issues, such as parent’s divorce/separation, job status and bullying. The clinic also sees students and staff for various vaccinations, including flu shots with nine hundred and eighty-two given this year. The clinic performed five hundred and

sixty-four sports physicals. The nurses work with students on weight loss, nutrition and lowering their body mass index. East Middle has the highest rate of overweight and obese students in the county. The center is launching a new program called “Arches Marches” to get students walking to combat the obesity problem. Program participants will meet at the Biscoe Community Center two evenings per week for kids to play and parents to use fitness machines. The center is a safe and inclusive place to hold the meetings on two evenings per week. The program is currently seeking volunteers from the high schools.

Deidra Steed, Dr. Jeff James, Wade Auman, Dr. Alisha Ellis and Dr. Takeda Legrand presented the accountability and testing results for 2016-17. The power point gave an overview of state data, reporting and comparisons, school performance grades and test results. Key updates include proficiency and school performance grades, which are B - East Montgomery, C - Green Ridge, Page Street, Mt. Gilead, Star and West Montgomery, D – East Middle and West Middle. Montgomery Learning Academy has an alternative accountability model. There were no “F” Schools. Strengths from the data include eight schools meeting or exceeding expected growth, outperformed comparable counties on ACT Composite scores and WorkKeys and the graduation rate is 89.9 percent. In past years, MCS has struggled with proficiency in the lower grades; however, the gap is closed by the time students leave high school.

Superintendent Ellis suggested three dates for the groundbreaking ceremony for Montgomery Central. After some discussion, the board decided on Tuesday, October 24 at 9am. With a motion by Bryan Dozier and a second by Tommy Blake, the date was approved unanimously.

Dr. Ellis showed the board several renderings of the Career and Technical Education building. The renderings show the colors to be used in different areas of the school.

Dr. Ellis reserved his Superintendent remarks for the November meeting.

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

After returning from closed session, Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. With a motion by Bryan Dozier and a second by Jesse Hill, the meeting was duly adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary