

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
END OF THE YEAR
REVIEW MINUTES**

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2016

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened the End of the Year Strategic Plan Review on Monday, August 29, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Board members present were as follows: Steven W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Bryan Dozier, Jesse Hill, Ann Long, Sandra Miller and Shirley Threadgill.

Chairman DeBerry called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. With a motion by Ann Long, along with a second from Sandra Miller, the board unanimously approved the agenda. Chairman DeBerry turned the meeting over to Superintendent Dale Ellis.

Superintendent Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Ellis presented a power point titled, “Preparing for Excellence”. The power point reviewed strategic goals and challenges for Montgomery County Schools. The first year in this strategic planning cycle is 2014-2015, with the period ending 2017. All related performance data aligned to the Strategic Plan is presented as part of our focus on accountability, assuring the board and community that we will not hide from data. Several goals were met and surpassed. Montgomery County Schools has much to be proud of in all areas.

Dr. Jeff James gave a review of globally competitive students, which encompasses the graduation rate, Annual Measurable Outcomes (AMO) and Ready Expected Growth. The graduation rate continued its upward trend from 87.2% to 87.5%, remaining above the state and region. Parent communication, community liaison and social workers, differentiated diplomas at Montgomery Learning Academy (MLA) and the high schools, Career and Technical Education (CTE), the work of student assistant teams and closely monitoring attendance are credited with the rate increase. Numbers are expected to continue to an upward climb. There is no updated data at the time of our meeting to discuss for AMO. As for Ready Expected Growth, both high schools have exceeded growth and Montgomery Learning Academy is progressing. Mount Gilead Elementary jumped from “met to exceeding”, increased from a D to a C and may exit low performing status. Some weaknesses discussed include a drops in Biology at East Montgomery, Math at West Montgomery, seventh grade math and reading at East and West Middle, and third grade reading and math at Page Street. Curriculum team support in these areas will make sure the best practices are being used to target and improve the areas mentioned.

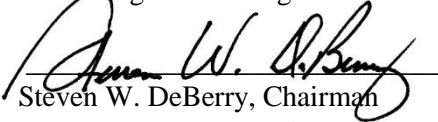
Dr. Kevin Lancaster gave an update of 21st Century Professional/Healthy and Responsible. This section includes goals for teacher satisfaction and attendance, ethical violations, teacher retention, pregnancy rate and Out of School (OSS) suspension rate. The current satisfaction rate is higher than when the last state survey was completed. This is attributed to teacher morale, laptops and additional resources including grants and individualized professional development. Teacher attendance had a slight increase with seven teachers having perfect attendance. Ethical violations were up slightly to seven from six the previous year. Ethics trainings continue for all staff members and an update is in the works. Out of school suspension rates rose from 1,339 last year to 1,686 this school year. Areas credited with improving the OSS rate include MLA, Guidance Counselors, flexible and more consistent discipline and Wi-Fi on the buses. The pregnancy rate for last year is still pending. Areas of prevention include Draw the Line-Respect the Line, the Healthy Living curriculum, School Health Centers counseling, the CARE/DARE program and increased involvement of school personnel.

Katie Hursey updated the Board on the Leadership Guides Innovation portion, including grants and parent contacts. MCS received over eleven million in grants for the 2016-17 school year. The goal is to continue to obtain grants that benefit all grade levels, creating new resources for our students. The total number of parent contacts are high, with eight out of ten schools being over fifty percent. Contacts include phone calls, emails and texts.

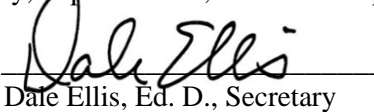
Chief Financial Officer, Mitch Taylor, reviewed 21st Century Systems, which includes audit findings, goals, maintaining adequate fund balance and adequate facilities. There were no findings or comments in the audit this year, crediting good communication between departments and schools. An adequate fund balance was maintained, with support from experienced staff in Finance, support from MCC and businesses in the county, grant funding and the decrease in the price of utilities and fuel. Weaknesses stem from budget cuts being unknown from the State level and Charter school growth making a negative impact. Concerning facilities, collaboration between commissioners is as good as can be remembered. Increased partnership with the college increases the county outlook for educational improvement. USDA process means this goal is essentially met without having to go through a bond vote. Early College and Central High School should be completed by 2019. Capacity to expand technology is basically limitless due to the expansion of fiber networks.

After a question and answer session, Chairman DeBerry gave a motion to adjourn. Bryan Dozier approved the motion with Ann Long seconding. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm.



Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman



Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary