

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

October 3, 2016

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Steven W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Jesse Hill, Ann Long, Bryan Dozier and Sandra Miller. Shirley Threadgill was absent.

Chairman DeBerry called the meeting to order and moved to adopt the agenda as shown. With a motion by Sandra Miller and a second from Tommy Blake, the agenda was adopted as presented.

Chairman DeBerry opened by reading a devotional on Charles Schulz. Mr. Schulz was known as a child as “Sparky”, a name given to him by his uncle. Sparky was socially awkward; he just didn’t fit in. He tried golf, but lost the most important game of the season. School was no better; he failed every subject in eighth grade. Sparky knew that even though there were things he was not good at; he loved to draw and was proud of his artwork. After high school, he submitted his artwork to Walt Disney Studios, but they rejected his idea. Sparky didn’t give up. He decided to tell his own life story in cartoons. The main character would be a little boy who symbolized the “perpetual loser and chronic underachiever”. People identified with this lovable loser. The character became known as Charlie Brown of the “Peanuts” cartoon strip. Charles Schulz didn’t let rejection stop him and made the most of the talent he had.

Mt. Gilead Elementary students Tucker Dunn and Shannon Hudson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Dr. Ellis and Sloan Browning, Principal at Mt. Gilead Elementary, recognized Mandy Brown and Aletha Greene. Mrs. Brown received the Certified Employee of the Month award, while Ms. Greene is Classified Employee of the Month. Ms. Browning praised both employees as assets to Mt. Gilead faculty and students. Both received a certificate for their accomplishment.

Superintendent Ellis acknowledged Benjie Brown, Principal at West Montgomery, as the 2016-17 Principal of the Year. Dr. Ellis said, “Mr. Brown has been working with us for three years. He has done a tremendous job at West Montgomery. He keeps the staff focused on working with kids. He will make Montgomery County proud at the state level.”

Dr. Ellis then presented banners to the schools who met or exceeded growth for the 2015-16 school year. Schools that met growth include Green Ridge Elementary, Star Elementary, East Middle and Montgomery Learning Academy. Schools that exceeded growth are Mt. Gilead Elementary, East Montgomery and West Montgomery. Dr. Ellis thanked the Principals and Faculty at each school for the great job they do for students each day.

Dr. Takeda Legrand, Chief Accountability and Quality Officer for Montgomery County Schools, was awarded the Education Heroes and Champions Award. Dr. Ellis stated that Dr. Legrand goes to various meetings to keep up with regulations and get the training needed to do the best for students each day. “She does a great job and is very kid focused. We are lucky to have her at Montgomery County Schools.” The award was sponsored by the North Carolina Association for Career and Technical Education.

Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Tommy Blake made the motion, with Sandra Miller seconding. The board unanimously approved the following items:

1. Board Minutes from the October 3rd board meeting;
2. Personnel and Auxiliary Reports:

- 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. Sherri Hall	Donna Kennedy	Yes
2. Jennifer Haywood	Chris Jonassen	Yes

<u>Certified</u>	<u>Recommended By</u>	<u>Record Check</u>
1. Rhonda Mashburn	Teresa Dunn	Yes
2. Bryant Voncannon	Sloan Browning	Yes

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

<u>Resignation/Retirement</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1. Kelly Simpson Resignation	Mt. Gilead Elementary 1 st Grade Teacher	September 20, 2016

- c. Upon recommendation, approval of the following probationary contracts for the 2016-2017 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

<u>Contract/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1. Miranda Adams 09/01/2016	Candor Elem. 5 th Grade Teacher	Yes	
2. Jilinda Freeman 10/03/2016	West Middle 6 th Grade ELA	Yes	Donna Rowland

- d. 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. Sara Perez-Hernandez 09/22/2016	Star Elementary P.T Pre-K TA	Yes	
2. Annie Johnson 09/12/2016	Central Office Child Nutr. Sub	Yes	Kathy Munoz
3. Nikimia Ratliff 09/26/2016	Green Ridge Elem. P/T EC TA Behavior/Academic Support	Yes	

4. Bobbie J. Bruton West Middle Pending
09/30/2016 EC Sub.

e. Report of the following transfers:

<u>Transfer/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1. Jamie Johnson 09/29/2016	Green Ridge Elem. EC Teacher	Green Ridge Elem. 5 th Grade Teacher	Teresa Furr
2. Julie Hurley 09/21/2016	West Middle EC Self Contained	West Middle EC Inclusion	Teresa O'Connor

f. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of recommendation for employment of the following bus drivers, sub drivers and monitors that are dual employees:

Jeffrey Douglas – Bus Driver	Yes
Alejandro De Los Angeles – Bus Driver	Yes

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

Rodney Kelley – Bus Driver	Yes
Elsa De Los Angeles – Bus Driver	Yes
Denise Carpenter – Bus Driver	Yes

h. Upon recommendation, approval of the following administrative contract:

Assistant Principal – Annual 11 month term commencing September 13, 2016 and ending June 30, 2018: Craig Wright, West Montgomery High School

3. Title V Abstinence Education Grant.

Dale Smith with Anderson, Smith and Wike, presented the audit report for 2015-16. Mr. Smith commented that there were no findings and the audit was “as clean as you can get for a governmental audit”. He complimented Chief Finance Officer Mitch Taylor and the Finance Department for a job well done.

Mt. Gilead Elementary Principal Sloan Browning, introduced teacher Laura McCammon and her students, Tucker Dunn and Shannon Hudson. Together they explained the use of Interactive Notebooks. Mrs. McCammon used the notebook idea to keep the students engaged and on task. Tucker and Shannon described using the notebook, the table of contents and the use of pictures to help students understand the main idea of a story, adding that the notebook helps them answer questions and remember what they read.

Jeff James, Takeda Legrand, Alisha Ellis, Phillip Brown and Deidra Steed presented testing accountability results, giving 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 – Candor, East Middle and West Middle. Montgomery Learning Academy was rated as “progressing”. There were no “F” Schools. Strengths from the data include seven schools meeting or exceeding expected growth, increased ACT Composite scores and WorkKeys, graduation rate is at 87.5% and meeting the Math Course Rigor Rate.

Dr. Ellis asked the board to approve the graduation dates for 2017. Montgomery Learning Academy requested June 8 at 6pm, West Montgomery on June 9 at 9am and East Montgomery on June 9 at 7pm. The board asked to table the discussion and revisit it during the next meeting to consider East Montgomery moving their time to 7:30pm.

Next, Superintendent Ellis requested that the board approve an increased teacher supplement scale. The increase was suggested since there was steady improvement in the budget. Dr. Ellis stated that the supplement could not be doubled, but it could be increased ten percent. Teachers receive their supplements twice per year in November and June. After some discussion, Sandra Miller made the motion to approve the increase, with Bryan Dozier seconding. The board approved unanimously.

FirstHealth’s Regina Smith and Sharon Harrell gave an update on the School Health Centers and Dental Clinic for the 2015-26 school year. Ms. Smith reported that the school based health centers had a total of 6,564 visits, including 721 sports physicals, 2173 immunizations, 2,459 nursing visits, 1,913 preventative visits and 493 staff visits. The center continues to focus on childhood obesity and pediatric diabetes. Looking ahead to 2016-17, the staff will continue to provide quality health services to the children and staff of Montgomery County Schools and will continue to actively pursue funding to expand services, including an addition of onsite preventative and restorative dental services. Dr. Harrell continued by saying that school health nurses identified dental care as the number one unmet need for low income students. Thanks to the Duke Endowment, in the spring of 2017, the school-based health centers will expand by adding two dental suites. The suites will have two dental treatment rooms, x-ray room and waiting room. Hours of operation will be Monday and Friday, until the facility is completed.

Dr. Lancaster also presented policy codes 6420 – Contracts with the Board, 9030 – Facility Construction, 9120 – Bidding for Construction Work, and 9130 – Supervision of Construction Contracts for approval. These policies were presented for first reading at the September board meeting. Ann Long made the motion to approve the changes, while Sandra Miller seconded. The board approved the changes unanimously.

Superintendent Ellis presented a timber request for the Central High School site. There is currently twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars of timber on the site. Dr. Ellis requested that Russell Strong, Forestry Professor at Montgomery Community College, have the opportunity to cut the timber. Max Garner reminded the board that the timber offer goes to the county commissioners first. If they decline, the board has the final say. After tabling the vote at the September meeting, to discuss the bidding process, the board voted to approve the request with Board member Bryan Dozier making the motion, Tommy Blake seconding and unanimous board approval.

Dr. Ellis stated that although cuts are painful they are sometimes necessary. Cuts have been made in the form of positions, but not people, which has always been the board’s stance. Dr. Ellis thanked the board for continuing to support teachers by approving the supplement increase.

He also reminded the board that as discussed, the state funds allotted would go to classified employees in the form of merit pay.

Chairman DeBerry then asked for a motion to adjourn and move into closed session to discuss personnel and legal counsel. With a motion by Bryan Dozier and a second from Ann Long, the board unanimously approved going into closed session.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary