MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 13, 2021

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Montgomery County Schools Boardroom. Board members present were Steve W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake - Vice Chair, Bryan Dozier, Lynn Epps, Cindy Taylor, Jesse Hill and Anne Evans.

Chairman Steve DeBerry called the meeting to order. Mr. DeBerry moved to adopt the agenda as submitted. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Tommy Blake seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Chairman Steve DeBerry shared thoughts from the book by Dr. James Dobson "The Strong-Willed Child." Giving discipline to our children shows them how much we love them. A child feels more secure and loved if given boundaries that are enforced.

Chairman DeBerry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chairman DeBerry called upon two individuals that signed up to speak during the public comments section. Rick George introduced himself as new to the community and wants to be involved and speak up. He believes mask mandates do not follow science and that kids should not be masked up. He shared his background in respiratory protection with chemical and radiologic emergency in the medical field and he feels masks do not work. That being said he feels the board should do more research and reconsider mask mandates. He also expressed his concern of the harmful racist and Marxist ideology of critical race theory and the harmful effects on children. Mr. DeBerry reminded all of the three minute limit to speak. He called upon Sandra Newell who also signed up to address the board. Mrs. Newell spoke up to say that she agreed 100% with what Mr. George had said.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for recognitions. Dr. Ellis called upon Aletha Greene, Mt. Gilead Elementary Classified Employee of the Month. Principal Sloan Bourgeois spoke on her behalf. Mrs. Bourgeois stated that Aletha Greene is our bookkeeper and data manager and she does both of them very well. Her biggest strength is her nurturing nature with students and staff. She is a tremendous asset to their school. Dr. Ellis called upon Marlene Stewart Certified Employee of the Month. Mrs. Bourgeois stated that Marlene Stewart is one of their fabulous first grade teachers at Mt. Gilead Elementary. She likes to refer to her as the children's little mother. In her classroom she loves and mothers them and speaks to them with kindness. She started her career in eighth grade and has moved to first grade and is doing an exceptional job. Her students and co-workers love her. Dr. Ellis called upon Amy B. Reynolds Principal of the Year. Amy is the Principal of Montgomery Learning Academy and does a tremendous job every year. MLA works with our most at risk students who generally have fallen behind academically. They do a fantastic job reaching out to students during their hardships who otherwise could drop out. She has a tremendous staff at MLA who personalize their education down to the kid level. We are at a little over 94% graduation rate and that is due to her and the staff at MLA. We appreciate her and the work that she does. Dr. Ellis called upon Susan Strong Beginning Teacher of the Year. Assistant Principal Emily Dunn of Greene Ridge Elementary

spoke on her behalf. Mrs. Dunn had the honor of teaching Susan at East Montgomery High School. The energy she has now is the same energy she has in the classroom and that is why her students love her. She is dynamic and does a great job with her kids and staff. They love her at Green Ridge and her enthusiasm is contagious. Dr. Ellis stated he wished you could see her interaction with her kids. You can tell by the way she interacts with them she loves them and they love her. Ultimately that is what any teacher wants and should be. She does a fantastic job and is very deserving of this award.

Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Tommy Blake made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Following closed session, the board approved the following consent agenda. The following items were approved:

- 1) Board Minutes from the August 2, 2021 Board Meeting
- 2) Board Minutes from the August 31, 2021 End of the Year Review
- 3) Personnl and Auxiliary Reports:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS PERSONNEL REPORT Tracy Grit, Associate Superintendent for Operations/HR

September 13, 2021

a. Upon the recommendation of the principal, approval of the following additions to the certified substitute teacher list:

Employee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record <u>Check</u> <u>Replacing</u>	
1) Cameron Scott 08/17/2021	Page Street Elem. 3 rd Grade Teacher	Yes	Megan Epps
2) David Parsons 08/017/2021	East/West Middle Automotive Teacher	Yes	Quint Dunlap
3) Jaquelin Harris 08/17/2021	Green Ridge Elem. PACE Teacher	Yes	Lisa Bunting
4) Caroline Steed 08/11/2021	Montg. Central High Science Teacher	Yes	Laura Dawkins
5) Jocelyn Smith 09/01/2021	East/West Middle Med. Technologies	Yes	Nathan McCallum

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

	ignation/ rement	School/ Assignment	Effective Date
1)	Jessica Batten Resignation	Green Ridge Elem. STEM	September 3, 2021
2)	Courtney Wall Resignation	Communities In Schools Student Support Specialist	August 30, 2021
3)	Nathan McCallum Resignation	West/East Middle Schools Med. Technologies	September 5, 2021
4)	Sonya Chavez Retirement	Montg. Central High Spanish Teacher	September 1, 2021
5)	Susan Read Retirement	Green Ridge Elementary Digital Learning Coach	September 30, 2021

6)	Jessica McLendon Resignation	Green Ridge Elementary 4 th Grade Teacher	July 27, 2021
7)	Bradley Hammill Resignation	West Middle School Health/PE Teacher	August 3, 2021
8)	Elise Smith Resignation	East Middle School Special Ed. Teacher	July 26, 2021
9)	Celeste Reynolds Resignation	West Middle School Bookkeeper	September 2, 2021

c. Upon recommendation, approval of the following probationary contracts for the 2021-2022 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

Contract/ Effective Date		School/ Assignment	Record Check	Replacing
1)	Matthew Greene 08/17/2021	West Middle School Health/PE Teacher	Yes	Homar Rodriguez
2)	Julie Osteen 08/17/2021	Page Street Elem. 5 th Grade Teacher	Yes	Sarah Wooley
4)	Dena Erikson 08/24/2021	Star Elementary 5th Grade Teacher	Yes	Amy Ward

d. Upon recommendation, approval of the following interim contracts for the 2021-2022 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

Contract/	School/	Record	Replacing
Effective Date	Assignment	<u>Check</u>	
1) Ashley Dull 10/1/2021	Green Ridge Elem. Instructional Facilitat	Yes	Leslie Thomas

e. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of recommendation for employment of the following non-certified personnel:

	Cmployee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record <u>Check</u>	Replacing
1)	Jasmine Nicholson 08/18/2021	Troy Elementary STEM Assistant	Yes	Stacie Cheek-Clyburn
2)	Aaron Scott 08/09/2021	Central Office Technician I	Yes	Jonathan Miller
3)	Peter Cagle 08/18/2021	Central Office Technician I	Yes	Tyler Burrow

Section 5 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Federal Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Federal Funds- Expenses		
5000	Instructional Services	9,200,021.70
6000	System-Wide Support Services	2,524,767.42
7000	Ancillary Funds	116,397.00
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	30,137.52
Total Federal Expense	s	11,871,323.64

Section 6 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Federal Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Revenues 3000 Federal Revenues		11,871,323.64
Federal Funds-		

Section 7 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Capital Outlay- Expenses			
	6000	System-Wide Support Services	0
	9000	System-Wide Support Services	1,905,474.51
Total Cap Outla	y Expe	nses	1,905,474.51

Section 8 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Capital Outlay- Revenues		
3000	Capital Outlay Revenues	0
4000	Capital Outlay Revenues	1,905,474.51
Total Cap Outlay Reve	nues	1,905,474.51

Section 9 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Child Nutrition Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Total Chil	d Nutrition Expenses	3,246,560.00
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	210,000.00
7000	Ancillary Funds	3,036,560.00
Child Nut	rition-Expenses	

 Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following coaches for the Fall 2021 sports season:

East Middle School:

Jon Spell - Head Coach Football

Ted Harmon - Assistant Football & Head Boys Basketball

Curtis Holt - Assistant Football

Delana Cagle - Head Girls Basketball and Tennis

Yana Stevenson - Head Coach Volleyball

Barbra Streeter - Cheer Coach

Kenneth Lynthacum - Head Wrestling Coach and Head Baseball Coach

Deanna Stevenson - Head Softball Coach

Daniel Hernandez - Assistant Wrestling Coach

Meredith Massey - Assistant Volleyball Coach

West Middle School:

David Nielsen - Football Assistant

 Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the 2021-2022 North Carolina New Teacher Support Program between Montgomery County Schools and East Carolina University.

4) Budget Amendment:



441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427 Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427

PHONE: (910) 576-6511 • FAX: (910) 576-2044

To:

Board of Education

From:

Mitch Taylor

Date:

September 13th, 2021

Subject:

Agenda Item (Section – Consent Agenda)

 $Attached you will find the 2021-2022 \ Budget \ Resolution \ listing the expenses and \ revenues \ budgeted for Montgomery County Schools for the upcoming year for your consideration.$

I will be available to answer any questions you may have.

This amendment is an action item and will require a vote.

BUDGET RESOLUTION 2021-2022 Montgomery County Schools

 ${\tt BE\ IT\ RESOLVED\ by\ the\ Board\ of\ Education\ of\ the\ Montgomery\ County\ School\ Administrative\ Unit:}$

Section 1 – The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the State Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

State Funds -			
Expenses			
	5000	Instructional Services	22,111,054.29
	6000	System-Wide Support Services	3,931,534.99
	7000	Non-Programmed Charges	99,551.72
Total State Exp	enses		26,142,141.00

Section 2 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the State Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

State Funds- Revenues		
3000	State Revenues	26,142,141.00
Total State Revenues		26,142,141.00

Section 3 – The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Local Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Local Funds-Expenses		
5000	Instructional Services	3,088,627.00
6000	System-Wide Support Services	3,555,389.00
7000	Ancillary Funds	2,000.00
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	0.00
Total Local Expenses		6,646,016.00

Section 4 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Local Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Local Funds- Revenues		
4000	Local Revenues	6,646,016.00
Total Local Revenues		6,646,016.00

Section 5 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Federal Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Federal Funds-			
Expenses			
	5000	Instructional Services	9,200,021.70
	6000	System-Wide Support Services	2,524,767.42
	7000	Ancillary Funds	116,397.00
	8000	Non-Programmed Charges	30,137.52
Total Federal E	xpenses	5	11,871,323.64

Section 6 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Federal Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

3000	Federal Revenues	11,871,323.64
Revenues		
Federal Funds-		

Section 7 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Capital Outlay- Expenses		
600	O System-Wide Support Services	0
900	O System-Wide Support Services	1,905,474.51
Total Cap Outlay Ex	enses	1,905,474.51

Section 8 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Capital Outlay- Revenues		
300	Capital Outlay Revenues	0
400	Capital Outlay Revenues	1,905,474.51
Total Cap Outlay Rev	enues	1,905,474.51

Section 9 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Child Nutrition Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Child Nut	rition-Expenses	
7000	Ancillary Funds	3,036,560.00
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	210,000.00
Total Chi	d Nutrition Expenses	3,246,560.00

Section 10 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Child Nutrition- Revenues		
3000	State & Federal Revenues	2,491.000.00
4000	Local Revenues	755,560.00
Total Child Nutrition R	evenues	3,246,560.00

Section 11 - The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Special Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Special Grants Fund		
8-Expenses		
5000	Instructional Services	2,757,765.44
6000	System-Wide Support Services	343,442.99
7000	Ancillary Funds	0.00
8000	Non-Programmed Expenses	250,856.69
Total Special Grants Ex	penses	3,352,065.12

Section 12 – The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Special Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Special Grants Fund 8-Revenues		
3000	State & Federal Revenues	2,799,725.79
4000	Local Revenues	552,339.33
Total Special Grants Re	evenues	3,352,065.12

Total of all Revenues	<u>2021-2022 Fiscal Year</u>	53,163,580.27
Total of all Expenses	2021-2022 Fiscal Year	53,163,580.27

Section 13 – All appropriations shall be paid first from revenue restricted as to use and second from general unrestricted

Section 14- The Superintendent is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund under the conditions as follows:

- A. Amounts may be transferred between functions within a purpose without limitations and without a report to the board of education being required.
- B. Amounts may not be transferred between purpose codes or funds nor from any contingency appropriation with a fund without board of education approval.
- C. Amounts may be transferred in state or federal projects upon prior approval of the appropriate funding agency. If such transfers require board of education approval under other provisions of this resolution, approval must be obtained prior to the transfers being made.
 - 5) 2021-2022 NC Public School Building Capital Fund Education Lottery Application
 - 6) Montgomery Youth Football MOU
 - 7) FirstHealth MOU

Chairman DeBerry called upon Sloan Bourgeois for Mt. Gilead Elementary's presentation "Girls as Pearls." Principal Bourgeois stated this program is the work of Assistant Principal Adrianne Clarett who could not be in attendance. When children came back to the building they wanted to shift their mindset on the social and emotional needs of the children. After the absence of our after school MERIT program. They wanted to focus on program options for after school. They have partnered with a local church working to come up with extracurricular activities with members of the church to share their hobbies with students. They hope to have this running by spring. They have partnered with board member Anne Evans for a book club honoring Sandra Miller starting September 22nd. The GAP program is the mentoring arm of the SWING PHI SWING, Inc. Social Fellowship which is the acronym for Sisters with Interest Never Gone, Promoting Higher Intelligence, Supporting Women In Need Of Growth. Mrs. Clarett is a member of this sorority. The aim is to encourage and lead students toward becoming

familiar with and advocate for issues and topics that affect young girls today at home, in school, and in their communities. We are starting out small with a max of eight young ladies and will grow each year. Students will meet 1-2 times a month. Our group focuses on building self-esteem through supportive group meetings, enrichment activities, etiquette workshops, and community service projects. We ask these young ladies to respect themselves and others. The need for them to be successful academically is reinforced on a consistent basis. We help students develop the strengths they already have and identify new ones. The girls will also have assignments to complete between meetings.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for myFutureNC Educational Attainment Goal. Dr. Ellis starting by saying this is a non-profit partnership between governmental business entities and the state. Their goal is by 2030 of promoting a high quality credential or a post secondary degree for 2million North Carolinans. A push for economic development that fits in with our work in the consolidation of our high schools and the building of our CTE center. We have already contributed to this with our partnership with MCS and MCC. Several districts have approved a resolution stating they are going on record and support what they are trying to do. This a good alignment with the work we have been doing the last three years. Dr. Ellis requests that we approve the resolution to say we align with their goals. Bryan Dozier made the motion to approve with Lynn Epps seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for Policy #4231/5021/7263 Face Coverings. Dr. Ellis stated the law passed several weeks ago that we must have in policy what we are going to do regarding masks. As you recall the board voted in August to require masks indoors until our October board meeting. With the passage of that law we must have an official policy on record. Basically this policy requires us to vote every month to vote yes to wearing masks or no to wearing masks through the 2021-2022 school year. The first part will discuss approval of the policy and the second to discuss the face coverings. Dr. Ellis recommended the policy be approved. The motion for approval was made by Tommy Blake and seconded by Bryan Dozier. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Chairmand DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for Face Coverings and COVID 19. Dr. Ellis stated at the time he wrote this 109 of 115 districts were operating with mask mandates. Currently there are 112 of the 115 requiring masks. The three districts not requiring masks are sky rocketing with COVID cases and quarantines. Dr. Ellis recommended we continue with wearing masks as we approved at the August meeting with additional discussions. Dr. Ellis stated that we had received a recommendation from an individual epidemiologist from the health department to shut down all contact sports indefinitely until numbers decrease. I told Mary Perez that I would bring that recommendation to you. Dr. Ellis contacted several superintendents in the state. We are the only one that has received that recommendation. Steve DeBerry asked if this was a recommendation from NCDHHS. Dr. Ellis stated it was an individual from the NCDHHS. Dr. Ellis shared his discouragement to shut down if we were the only district asked to do so. It is his recommendation not to shut down given no other district had received it. Bryan Dozier commented that he read a report from the Head of Wake Forest Infectious Disease that 45% of new cases in schools have been contributed to sports. In this report they did not advocate for team sports to be shut down but follow CDC guidelines and be vacccinated. Cindy Taylor asked how are they basing who is told to shut down. Dr. Ellis stated that we were considered a high transmission area based on per capita. Dr. Ellis said that we were not the only high capita area but the only one to receive the recommendation. Our positive cases are not that high but quarantine numbers have been. We hope not to run into the issue of playing two weeks and shut

down two weeks and so on. Dr. Ellis reminded us that he works at the pleasure of the board and will do as they ask. It was the consensus of the board to not shut down team sports. Cindy Taylor asked what would be our alternative. Steve DeBerry responded to do as we are doing and hope for no more positive cases. Dr. Ellis mentioned the governor required cabinet level departments to provide proof of vaccination or required testing. There are a number of school districts that are now requiring testing of athletes. If this practice is adopted it would come at a cost but could be justified under federal funding. Tommy Blake asked for clarification of who would be tested. Dr. Ellis responded that it would be teams of all sports and not just the coaching staff. Anne Evans asked if parent permission was required for testing. Dr. Ellis responded yes. Steve DeBerry asked if there is a large number for testing athletes. Dr. Ellis will reach out to other districts for numbers. Bryan Dozier asked for more information on the success or lack of success for those that are doing the required testing. Anne Evans asked for clarification of protocal once a student tests positive. Dr. Ellis responded when a student tests positive that is when contract tracing begins. Lynn Epps asked if a player on JV tests positive does that effect shut down for varsitiv as well. They discussed the likelyhood since coaches are being shared at all levels. Lynn Epps wanted clarification on mask wearing protocal. If a student were to test positive would the whole class quarantine? If the students were not wearing a mask anyone within six feet of the child would have to be guarantined. Bryan Dozier asked if staff would be included for the required testing without proof of vaccination. Dr. Ellis responded that it would be across the board. Steve DeBerry asked for a motion for the continuation of masking wearing indoors until the October board meeting. Tommy Blake made the motion for approval with Bryan Dozier seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for his Superintendent's Remarks. Dr. Ellis started by saying that several board members had been approached about the critical race theory and if it is being taught in our schools. Someone had seen a copy of a Principals' agenda and had the title "white privilege" on it and made the assumption that we are teaching critical race theory to students. I want to clarify to the board and the community that we do not teach critical race theory. We teach the standard course of study and CRT is not a component in any of our curriculums. No students have ever attended a principals meeting. What is discussed there is not taught in our classrooms. You might see other complex topics on those agendas. Just because you see something on the agenda meant for adults about pedagogical theories, brain research, adverse childhood experiences, or any other number of complex topics does not mean those theories are taught to our students in our classroom. What we do have is a diversity, equity and inclusion plan that asks educators to think critically about how they teach and how their actions and decisions impact all students in their classrooms. When we do a book study on race "white privilege" is often a topic in one of those chapters. Most teachers are white and come from a middle class background. That is their world view. That is not the world view of most of their students. When we discuss white privilege with the adults in our system. We are asking them to look beyond what they know from their own middle class backgrounds. It could just as easily be known as middle class privilege. Look at that child that is being disruptive and ask why this child is acting this way instead of immediately sending them to the office for discipline. Could it be because this child hasn't eaten since they left school the day before? That may not be something the teacher is familiar with from their background but that is something many of our students face every single day. Asking the adults to think differently before acting is all we mean when we use that term. Don't let unintentional bias from your world view negatively impact your students. We celebrate diversity in Montgomery County Schools. I will not apologize for that. We also work hard to make sure our teaching strategies are equitable and inclusive of all students. When I go into a classroom with a teacher and if they ask three questions and if all of those questions are to white

students because they think they will get the question right that does not impress me. Is that equitable and inclusive of the black and brown children in that classroom? Are we doing what we need to do to meet the needs of all students? That is all we are trying to do. Don't let a poor instructional practice negatively impact any student. Teach them all. That is what the diversity, equity and inclusion plan is trying to do. We do not teach CRT and we will continue to not teach CRT. It is a divisive and controversial theoretical construct that does not help us meet the need of the academic needs of our students. Those needs are many and plenty enough for us to focus on. However, do not confuse CRT with what we are doing with diversity, equity and inclusion. That work will continue. I hope we can agree on one fact. Diversity should be celebrated and instructional practices should be equitable and inclusive of all students. That is just good practice. That is what we are trying to accomplish.

Chairman DeBerry then asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and consult the board attorney. Bryan Dozier made the motion, with Jesse Hill seconding. The board approved entering into closed session unanimously.

Following closed session, Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding, the meeting was duly adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman	Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary