



441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427 • Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427
(910) 576-6511 FAX (910) 576-2044

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dale Ellis
DATE: September 12, 2011
SUBJ: ACTION AGENDA ITEM (MCC Letter of Support)

Enclosed is a letter of support for Montgomery Community College as it relates to recent efforts by a budget committee in the General Assembly to try and close a small number of community colleges. We do not feel that the budget savings will justify the damage it would do to the local economy to lose the Community College. While this issue has cooled somewhat lately, I would like these documents approved for future use should the need arise.

I am available to answer any questions you might have.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

BEFORE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Montgomery County, North Carolina currently suffers from among the highest county unemployment rates in the state of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, given all of the economic challenges facing Montgomery County, it is essential for our future that citizens continue to enjoy first-rate educational and job training opportunities through our local community college, Montgomery Community College ("MCC")

WHEREAS, MCC's partnerships with the Montgomery County Board of Education and the Montgomery County Schools make possible, for high school students to take college credit courses and enhanced Career Technical Education opportunities at East Montgomery and West Montgomery High Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator at MCC and the Montgomery County Board of Education are presently collaborating on a new TUNNEL model for January 2012 startup in which the three tunnels are career, college, and early college, all of which will further enhance the education and job readiness of Montgomery County students.

WHEREAS, consolidation of MCC's administration with that of other community colleges far removed from Montgomery County would inevitably detract from the administrative responsiveness and flexibility which have fostered a uniquely productive working relationship between MCC and the Montgomery County Schools; and

WHEREAS, given the current economic conditions in Montgomery County, loss of local community college administration would be an unnecessary, devastating blow to an already struggling community.

WHEREFORE, the Montgomery County Board of Education, at its regular monthly meeting on September 12, 2011, and upon a proper motion and a second, unanimously adopts this resolution adamantly opposing any consolidation of the administration of MCC with other community colleges as proposed by the Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee.

This 12th day of September, 2011.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman
Montgomery County Board of Education

ATTEST:

Richard Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Superintendent and Secretary
to the Montgomery County Board of Education



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September 12, 2011

Representative Thom Tillis
North Carolina House of Representatives
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Representative Tillis:

Montgomery County is located in the geographic center of North Carolina and its location creates the potential for great opportunities; however, the county's rural location creates many hurdles to development not seen by more urban counties. Montgomery Community College and its administration know the positive and negative aspects of the community. Dr. Mary Kirk and her predecessors have worked hard for the betterment of Montgomery County through educational opportunities offered at Montgomery Community College for students from high school to adult students. Having a local administration has been invaluable to the Montgomery County Board of Education.

For this reason, the Montgomery County Board of Education strenuously opposes the proposal to consolidate community college administrations. We feel the consolidation would inhibit our collaboration with community college administration in that Montgomery County is often overlooked in regional alignments because of our lower and often poorer population base than others in our region. While we understand the need to cut state expenses, it appears shortsighted to cut the valuable avenue to education and job development that the local administration of Montgomery Community College provides. Our best opinion is that only through economic development can our county and our state recover from the devastating recession.

We ask you in the General Assembly to think carefully before removing local administration from Montgomery Community College. Montgomery County can ill afford the job loss that would result from the consolidation. The job losses are twofold: the obvious losses at the college and the job losses created by a regional administration with less interest in local job growth than local administration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven W. DeBerry
Chairman
Montgomery County Schools Board of Education

Dale Ellis, Ed.D.
Superintendent

*Board of Education
Members:*

Steven DeBerry
Chair

Tommy Blake
Vice-Chair

Bryan Dozier

Jesse Hill

Ann Long

Sandra Miller

Shirley Threadgill

Our Vision:

*Montgomery County Schools
will graduate life-ready,
globally competitive students
that perform academically in
the top 25 of North Carolina
school systems.*

Our Mission:

*Montgomery County Schools
will graduate life-ready,
globally competitive citizens
by engaging in rigorous
educational experiences and
by building positive
relationships and strong
partnerships.*

Website:

www.montgomery.k12.nc.us



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September 12, 2011

President Pro Tempore Phil Berger
North Carolina Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2008
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dale Ellis, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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