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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dale Ellis

DATE: September 9, 2019

SUBJ: ACTION ITEM (NCSBA Nomination for County Commissioner Award)

I have enclosed for your review the beginnings of the application for nominating the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners for the Commissioners of the year award with the NC School Boards Association. I also included the one page narrative for your review. I recommend approval of the documents so that we may move forward with the nomination.

I am available to answer any questions you might have.

The Montgomery County Schools Board of Education hereby nominates the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners for the prestigious County Commissioners of the Year award with the NCSBA. It is our belief that the association would be very hard pressed to find a Board of Commissioners who have been more supportive of a school system than you would find in Montgomery County.

As a small, rural county in the central region of NC, poverty and lack of resources is a constant concern and it affects the daily life of all of our citizens. Since 2011, the County Commissioners have partnered with the school system and the local community college to review and study various facilities plans to make sure that our students have facilities that are second to none. As part of that process, the County Commissioners approved, sought out, and secured funding for a brand new state-of-the-art high school for our school district (consolidating two, old dilapidated high schools) and a shared Career and Technical Education Center for the school system and Montgomery Community College. The Commissioners were very innovative in seeking out a rural development loan through the USDA that would make such an investment possible. They were able to accomplish this goal, with a total price tag of just under \$70,000,000, with only a small ad valorem tax increase of 5 cents per \$1,000 in valuation. We were able to accomplish the impossible dream without any support from the state; it was all on the backs of our commissioners. To even attempt such a school consolidation in a small, rural county with a declining tax base makes them worthy of the award alone in our opinion. Being able to accomplish it in a way that the average citizen does not even realize it financially is nothing short of astounding.

This important and revolutionary work was started and completed during the previous decade, as mentioned before. Tracing back the entirety of the past decade, all the way back to 2008 and the worst recession since the Great Depression, the County Commissioners have always been very supportive of the school system and the work of the Board of Education. During this time, they have provided the funding to allow us to increase our teacher supplement on two separate occasions. They have provided additional funds to provide for greater security in our schools and they have purchased new activity buses. In short, if our kids need it, they have gone above and beyond in finding a way to provide it. We simply could not ask for more. In fact, it is hard to keep this narrative to a single page.

It is with great pleasure that we nominate the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners (and County Manager, Mr. Matthew Woodard) for the Commissioners of the Year Award. You will not be able to find a more deserving group that has done more for a local school system when they needed it most.