

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 4, 2021

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 4, 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. Jesse Hill made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Chairman Steve DeBerry shared thoughts entitled, “That Closed the Case.” Reading from Job Chapter 29:21. “Unto me *men* gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.” Mr. DeBerry shared a story where it was reputed that five women in the same apartment building in Chicago got into such a brawl they were hauled into court. When the case was called all five women rushed to give bitter indictments about each other. Confusion had the court. The judge waited in thought and said I will hear the oldest one first. That closed the case. Reminding us to choose our words wisely. Sometimes it shows more knowledge to say nothing. Even silence can have an eloquent tongue.

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. Sharon Swanke addressed the board and thanked them for keeping us safe by voting for the mask mandate last month and hoped they consider it again this month. Mitchell Scheer spoke in opposition of the mask mandate. Mr. Scheer shared a study from the University of Florida regarding what is found on masks of students. He listed many bacteria and viruses that have been found and questioned how healthy are they for our students to be wearing eight hours a day every day. Mr. Scheer said he knew this is a hot topic along with critical race theory. Board members are elected officials so tax payers should have a say in how their children are being treated.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for recognitions. Dr. Ellis called upon Chanda Stokes, Principal of West Middle to speak on behalf of Sharon LeGrande classified winner. Chanda Stokes said they like to tell Ms. LeGrande that she has multiple personalities because that is what it takes to work in their front office. She keeps everyone in line and is a first contact for parents. She represents West Middle well and does a tremendous job. Dr. Ellis shared his respect for her as she kept him in line as well. Dr. Ellis called upon Kim Simpson certified winner. Mrs. Stokes said Mrs. Simpson is a huge Harry Potter fan. She has her classroom decorated and inspires her students to wonder. She encourages her students to wonder what if and to ask questions. She is also a great motivator for staff. Dr. Ellis called upon Anne McLean Principal of Montgomery Central High School. Dr. Ellis called upon Wanda Blue classified winner. Mrs. McLean started by saying we have all heard the saying you can run but you can’t hide. That is what Wanda says of students and it is true. It does not matter what time of day it is she will find them. She goes above and beyond to keep our kids in school. Dr. Ellis called upon

Matthew Swain classified winner. Mr. Swain was recently named State Curriculum and Instructional Management Coordinator of the Year. This a big deal but to them he is even more. Matthew has been at the CTE Building since the beginning. He is administrator at the CTE Building and knows scheduling and PowerSchool inside and out. He has been a great help to guidance counselors and in training new staff. He is so much more than the state award. He is their state award. Dr. Ellis called upon Jan Ray for recognitions of businesses who support our OCS students. Mrs. Ray has six businesses that she calls upon every year and wants to recognize them. Tammy Dunn from the Montgomery Herald was presented a plaque for her help in placing students. Deborah Robinson from Montgomery County Schools was presented with a plaque for her help with working with students. John Ross from Badcock Furniture, Caroline Crawford from Caroline's Boutique, David Nichols from Deaton's Auto, Melanie Nichols from Front Porch were not in attendance.

Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Dr. Ellis requested to hold the consent agenda until after closed session.

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

- 1) Board Minutes from September 13, 2021
- 2) Board Minutes from September 22, 2021
- 3) Personnel and Auxiliary Report, October 4, 2021:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORT
Tracy Grit, Associate Superintendent for Operations/HR
October 4, 2021**

A. Superintendent reports the acceptance of the following resignations/retirements:

<u>Resignation/ Retirement</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) James Page Resignation	Montgomery Central High P.T Custodian	9/17/2021
2) Stacey Gilman Resignation	Green Ridge Elementary Student Support Specialist	10/17/2021
3) Louise Little Resignation	Candor Elementary PT STEM Assistant	10/8/2021
4) Jonathan Spell Resignation	East Middle PE Teacher/Coach	9/29/2021
5) Angela Avant Resignation	Troy Elementary 2 nd Grade Teacher	11/24/2021

B. 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) Jennifer Reynolds 9/14/2021	All Locations Child Nutr. Sub.	Yes	
2) Cynthia Morgan TBD	Troy Elementary P.T STEM Assistant	Pending	Jasmine Nicholson
3) Amy Glover 9/28/2021	All Locations Child Nutr. Sub.	Yes	Jamie Freeman

C. Report of the following transfers:

<u>Transfer/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Shenelle Green 9/29/2021	Mt. Gilead Elem. Teacher Assistant	West Middle Bookkeeper	Celeste Reynolds

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| 2) Jasmine Nicholson
9/29/2021 | Troy Elementary
P.T STEM Assist. | Troy Elementary
F.T Teacher Assistant | |
| 3) Shakria Owens
9/29/2021 | Mt. Gilead Elem.
P.T Library Assist. | Mt. Gilead Elementary
F.T Teacher Assistant | Shanelle Green |

D. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following coaches:

West Middle School:

Football – Damien Decatur, Head Coach
Rivers Hall, Assistant
Kyle Greene, Assistant

Volleyball – Shawanna Long, Head Coach

Cross Country – Miranda Duell, Head Coach
Christy McIntyre, Assistant

Boys Basketball – Cody Williams, Head Coach

Girls Basketball – Caitlin Batten

Cheerleading – Toshia Little
Talía Drake

4) Budget Amendment, October 4, 2021:



**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: October 4, 2021
Subject: Agenda Item (Section – Consent Agenda)

Attached you will find a budget amendment for your consideration for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Amendment # 1

State Funds

No change to the State Budget Fund (Fund 1):

\$3000.00 increase in PRC 014 (CTE Programming) and an offsetting decrease of \$3000.00 to PRC 014 –Although the funds were within the same budget, the transaction needed to be listed as a budget amendment since funds were transferred from a 5000 purpose code (school expense) to a 6000 purpose code (District expense).

Local Funds

2) No change to the Local Fund Budget (Fund 2)

Federal Funds

3) A net increase of \$79,480.29 to the Federal Budget Fund (Fund 3):

\$1637.00 increase to PRC 102 (Project Aware – Advancing Awareness and Resiliency in Education) – This funding was carried over from the previous year and is to be used to promote healthy development of school aged children.

\$3000.00 increase in PRC 017 (CTE Programming) and an offsetting decrease of \$3000.00 to PRC 017 –Although the funds were within the same budget, the transaction needed to be listed as a budget amendment since funds were transferred from a 5000 purpose code (school expense) to a 6000 purpose code (District expense).

\$12,747.15 increase to PRC 118 (Special Needs Targeted Assistance) – This funding is to provide educational assistance to exceptional children attending Montgomery County Schools.

\$334.39 increase to PRC 115 (Targeted Support and Improvement) – This funding was carried over from the previous school year and is used to provide educational assistance for the district.

\$2302.22 increase to PRC 119 (Targeted Assistance for Pre-K) – This funding is to provide educational support to Pre-K exceptional children attending Montgomery County Schools.

\$62,459.53 increase to PRC 105 (CSI Comprehensive Improvement and Support) – This funding is to provide educational support to students attending Montgomery Learning Academy.

Capital Outlay Funds

4) No change to the Capital Outlay Fund (Fund 4):

Child Nutrition

5) No change to the Child Nutrition Fund. (Fund 5):

Special Local Fund 8

6) No change to the Special Local Budget Fund (Fund 8):

\$3634.75 increase in PRC 377 (Literacy Grant) and an offsetting decrease of \$3634.75 to PRC 377 –Although the funds were within the same budget, the transaction needed to be listed as a budget amendment since funds were transferred from a 5000 purpose code (school expense) to a 6000 purpose code (District expense).

7) Overall, these adjustments resulted in an increase of \$79,480.29 to the total 2021/2022 budget for Montgomery County Schools.

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

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

Budget Amendment # 1

Montgomery County Administration Unit

The Montgomery County Board of Education at a meeting on the 4th day of October 2021, passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
STATE FUNDS			
Revenues			
	Net Change in State Revenues	\$0.00	
Expenses			
1.5000.014	CTE Program Expenses		\$3,000.00
1.6000.014	CTE Program Expenses	\$3,000.00	
	Net Change in State Expenses	\$0.00	
	Net Change in State Budget	\$0.00	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			\$26,142,141.00
Amount of Increase			\$0.00
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			\$26,142,141.00

Budget Amendment # 1

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
LOCAL FUNDS			
Revenues			
Expenses			
	Net Change in Local Budget	\$0.00	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			\$6,646,016.00
Amount of Increase			\$0.00
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			\$6,646,016.00

Budget Amendment # 1

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
FEDERAL FUNDS			
Revenues			
3.3600.102	Project Aware	\$1,637.00	
3.3600.118	Special Needs Targeted Assistance	\$12,747.15	
3.3600.115	Targeted Support & Improvement	\$334.39	
3.3600.119	Targeted Assistance for Pre-K	\$2,302.22	
3.3600.105	Comprehensive Support	\$62,459.53	
	Net Change in Federal Revenues	\$79,480.29	
Expenses			
3.6000.102	Project Aware (Advancing Wellness)	1,637.00	
3.5000.107	CTE Program Expenses		\$3,000.00
3.6000.107	CTE Program Expenses	3,000.00	
3.5000.118	Special Needs Targeted Assistance	\$9,796.52	
3.6000.118	Special Needs Targeted Assistance	\$2,750.00	
3.8000.118	Special Needs Targeted Assistance	200.63	
3.6000.115	Targeted Support & Improvement	\$334.39	
3.5000.119	Targeted Assistance for Pre-K	\$2,241.39	
3.8000.119	Targeted Assistance for Pre-K	\$60.83	
3.5000.105	Comprehensive Support	\$62,459.53	
	Net Change in Federal Expenses	\$79,480.29	
	Net Change in Federal Budget	\$79,480.29	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget		\$11,871,323.64	
Amount of Increase		\$79,480.29	
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget		\$11,950,803.93	

Budget Amendment # 1

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
<u>CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND</u>			
	<u>Revenues</u>		
	Net Change in Capital Outlay Revenues	0.00	
	<u>Expenses</u>		
	Net Change in Capital Outlay Expenses	0.00	
	<u>Net Change in Capital Outlay Budget</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			\$1,905,474.51
Amount of Increase			\$0.00
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			\$1,905,474.51

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
<u>CHILD NUTRITION FUND</u>			
	<u>Revenues</u>		
		0.00	
	<u>Expenses</u>		
		0.00	
	<u>Net Change in Child Nutrition Budget</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			\$3,246,560.00
Amount of Increase			\$0.00
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			\$3,246,560.00

Budget Amendment # 1

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
LOCAL FUND 8			
Revenues			
	Total Changes in Fund 8 Revenues	\$0.00	
Expenses			
8.5000.377	IAL Literacy Grant	3,634.75	
8.6000.377	IAL Literacy Grant		3,634.75
	Total Change in Fund 8 Expenses	\$0.00	
	Net Change in Local Fund 8 Budget	\$0.00	

Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.

Total Appropriation in Current Budget	\$3,352,065.12
Amount of Increase	\$0.00
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget	\$3,352,065.12

Summary of Budget Changes

Previous Budget	\$53,163,580.27
State Budget Change	\$0.00
Local Budget Change	\$0.00
Federal Budget Change	\$79,480.29
Capital Outlay Budget Change	\$0.00
Child Nutrition Budget Change	\$0.00
Fund 8 Budget Change	\$0.00
Current Budget	\$53,243,060.56

Passed by majority vote by the Board of Education of Montgomery County on the 4th day of October 2021.

Chairman, Board of Education	Secretary, Board of Education
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- 5) Graduation Dates for High Schools and Early College
- 6) EMHS and WMHS Deeds

Chairman DeBerry called upon Mitch Taylor and Dale Smith for the Financial Audit Report from Anderson, Smith and Wike, PLLC. Mr. Smith stated that the report was clean with no errors and the district's finances were expended properly. The audit report is divided into two sections finances and compliance. Total assets were \$4,787,631. Montgomery County Schools has no issues and continues to maintain good financial shape.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Jan Ray for MCHS Occupational Course of Study, "Preparing Students for the Workplace." Mrs. Ray introduced Sandy Byrd who helps her with teaching academic parts of her program. Mrs. Ray introduced several of her students that were in attendance. Mrs. Ray shared her experience of beginning her special education teaching career and being frustrated with the competency test that had to be passed to earn a high school degree. Not matter how hard some students worked they were not able to pass the test. Some students knew the material but did not test well. Many of the special education teachers across North Carolina experiencing the same issues met with Freida Leake from DPI. Together they met monthly to create the OCS program. It took years to create this program working with regular

and special education teachers to create curriculum following the standard course of study. OCS was designed to help their students earn a high school diploma a different way. Today they partner with North Carolina Virtual Public Schools. Mrs. Ray and Sandy Byrd work with regular education teachers that provide the curriculum and they do the special education pieces to prepare these students for the work place. The program is intended to meet the educational and career developmental needs of a small group of students with disabilities who require a variety of substantial instructional supports and accommodations throughout the school day to access and make progress towards grade-level standards. OCS students earn their high school diploma through a combination of academics, career technical courses, and hands-on vocational training. OCS students must meet all academic requirements, pass a minimum of four career technical education classes (modified), and earn 600 work hours. These hours are earned in the school-based enterprise program, community-based program, and paid employment. OCS students must also complete and present (senior year) a career portfolio that showcases their high school achievements. This includes all documented work hours earned, employment evaluations, and summaries of experience gained through vocational training opportunities.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Chanda Stokes for WMS presentation, “A Plan for Math Intervention.” Mrs. Stokes called upon Adam Matthews, Christy McIntyre and Ryan McDonald. Adam Matthews introduced himself as Assistant Principal at West Middle School. This is his first year with Montgomery County Schools. He and his staff shared their excitement with this program. Math FLEX takes place at the end of every Exploratory class for 35 minutes every day. All Exploratory teachers are teaching math FLEX every day. Lessons are preplanned and teachers work together to teach the content of basic skills. All students participate in Math FLEX every day. During this time, Core teachers pull small groups of students for math intervention on a rotating basis. Student intervention/small groups were identified based on 20-21 EOG data. Any student not proficient in math is pulled during FLEX for small group intervention of basic skills with 5-6 other students by grade level core teachers. The outcome of this program has allowed students to receive math possibly three times a day, with regular math class, math FLEX and math after-school tutoring. All students receive math FLEX, enrichment and/or small group math intervention daily. All teachers are engaged in FLEX and have a responsibility to help students with basic math skills, creating a language of math school-wide. Due to the changing rotations and the ABC schedule, students are receiving math instruction from many different teachers. Students are engaged in instruction and are not bored or tuning teachers out due to the changing schedule. Students are seeing the importance of math and how math is used cross-curricular. Students are improving basic math skills and are able to more easily perform math tasks in their regular math class. Dr. Ellis commended the teachers for using such an innovative approach. Explaining these teachers are teaching their grade level which is exponentially harder each year to sixth grade students who were not full time face to face learning since their fourth grade year.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for Face Coverings and COVID 19. The decision on how to handle masks has been pushed down to the local level. We will have to make this decision every thirty days. Dr. Ellis shared data and the plateau is on a downward trend. As far as our data shows we had 74 positive cases in students and seven positive cases in staff. In his opinion that number would have been a lot higher if we had not enforced a mask mandate. I look forward to the day that I do not have to wear this thing and look forward to the day I can recommend we not wear masks. But I am not to that point yet. It is my recommendation that we continue the masks mandate for another thirty days. I work at the pleasure of the board and I am happy to entertain any questions that you have. Board member Bryan Dozier asked how many districts are still requiring masks. Dr. Ellis responded 100 out of 115. Board member Cindy

Taylor asked how students are doing wearing masks eight hour days and their cleanliness. Dr. Ellis responded he will reinforce with principals that students can change masks as often as needed. The supply of masks is there. Steve DeBerry asked if he agreed that if the masks were not enforced there would be more students in quarantine than in school. Dr. Ellis responded absolutely. September has been a horrible month due to allergies. Students have shown symptoms and missed days of school to wait on a diagnosis for sniffles and sore throats. Board member Lynn Epps asked if our reported positive cases were all together or spread out. Dr. Ellis said it was across the board. However, there was a cluster at Mt. Gilead and MCHS but did not warrant a shut down. Everything we do is in consultation with the health department. Lynn Epps shared her frustration with wearing masks but to keep kids in school that is what we need to do. We watched great presentations of good things happening and those things won't happen if students are sent home. Mr. DeBerry asked for a motion. Dr. Ellis recommended to continue the mask mandate for thirty more days. Tommy Blake made a motion for approval with Jesse Hill seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for his Superintendent's Remarks. Dr. Ellis stated that he certainly understands the public's concerns and the board's concerns with the masks. We will re-enforce to the principals that we have thousands of masks available. We will encourage the students to get new masks as needed and make sure they are in every classroom and not just at the door. We want everyone to feel comfortable in what we are doing. West Middle was just here making a great presentation. I ask that you keep that school in your thoughts and prayers as they just lost their SRO Officer Jimmy Rich who passed away over the weekend. That is the second SRO Officer they have lost in the last couple of years. Jack Cagle has made sure that the counselors are there and providing support for students and staff. A good man and a young man just 49 years old, a dedicated officer and SRO passed away. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Chairman DeBerry then asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and consult the board attorney. Tommy Blake made the motion, with Anne Evans 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, November 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary