

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES**

**May 6, 2019**

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 6:30 pm at West Montgomery High School. Board members present were Steve DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Jesse Hill, Sandra Miller, Bryan Dozier, Trikena Simmons and Shirley Threadgill.

Chairman DeBerry called the meeting to order and moved to adopt the agenda as shown. Tommy Blake made the motion with Sandra Miller seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous board approval.

Chairman DeBerry read a devotional.

West Middle students Erica Shank and Kevin Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

No one signed up to address the board during the public comment period.

Superintendent Ellis and Chanda Stokes, Page Street Elementary Principal, acknowledged Kyle Greene and Cindy Williams as their certified and classified Employees of the Month for May. Mr. Greene was unable to attend. Mr. Stokes said that Mrs. Williams clocks in early, keeps her straight and is her right hand person.

Dr. Ellis and Principal Anne McLean recognized West Montgomery staff members Terri Absher and Donna Brown as their certified and classified Employees of the Month. Mrs. McLean called Mrs. Absher the face of West and said, “Being at West for 23 years, she does all she can to make sure all staff members and students have all they need. They are blessed because of her”. Mrs. McLean said about Mrs. Brown, “she is a TA in the EC department, but she is truly a teacher. Her students love her”.

Dr. Ellis awarded Barbara Jo Leake, Craig Cloninger and Lynn Reynolds with a certificate of appreciation from the board. Barbara Leake is a bus driver who was recognized for her quick actions during a bus accident. Mrs. Leake avoided a head on collision with another vehicle on her morning route, saving several children from being seriously hurt. Mr. Cloninger and Ms. Reynolds performed CPR on a student who had a seizure and stopped breathing. As part of the school crisis team, they both went into action performing CPR until the paramedics could arrive. Montgomery County Schools is proud of these employees.

Dale Ellis and Teresa Dunn, Principal, acknowledged Science Fair Regional Winner Alaysia Britton from Page Street Elementary.

Dr. Ellis recognized Erica Shank from West Middle as the Montgomery County Schools Speech Contest winner.

Dr. Ellis and Tracy Grit introduced the Math Olympics winner Lillian Greene. This is the first year Montgomery County Schools has hosted Math Olympics. One hundred, twenty-five students attended the event. April Daywalt, Teacher, and Heather Seawell, Principal, organized the event.

Chairman DeBerry asked to hold the consent agenda until closed session. The board agreed.

West Middle School Principal Chanda Stokes, Parent Heather Blevins, Teacher Ravon Shepperd and students Erica Shank and Kevin Hernandez discussed the ways the school has improved the culture to increase student achievement. The goal is to build a community in and outside of the school by designing processes that increase community engagement, support and ownership. This process should decrease

discipline referrals, improve communication between school and home and improve Teacher Working Conditions Survey data. Steps taken to improve the school include behavior incentives, positive grade assemblies, increased parent contacts and creation of a student advisory committee. The school has also added words of encouragement to the walls in different areas. This year, there have been 1253 hours of instruction saved due to the new school environment.

West Montgomery presented a power point on SkillsUSA. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure that America has a skilled work force. Students compete with other schools using the skills they have learned at high school. They complete resumes, are tested and have face-to-face interviews with prospective employers. Industry leaders attend the competition and scout for new employees for their companies. Students walk away from high school and right into jobs from contacts made through SkillsUSA. Some of the following areas students compete in are technical drafting skills, firefighting, motorcycle service technology and automotive skills.

In preparing for the opening of the new CTE Center and Montgomery Central, MCS will offer a weeklong summer STEAM camp for rising 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Camp Timberwolf will run from 8am to 3pm and is free, with transportation and meals provided. Courses offered will be aligned with those offered at MCHS, MCC and the CTE Center. Wade Auman, CTE Coordinator, explained that the students would divide into two groups: Teams and Project Groups. The team group will learn team building exercises and leadership development. The project group will choose projects to complete, based on their personal interests. Students will also visit different industries in the area to see what Montgomery County has to offer.

Dr. Ellis proposed to the board a two-year plan to increase our teacher supplement by roughly 25% on average. Dr. Ellis said, "it is my desire to reevaluate the plan at this time next year and increase it even more, if possible". He said he wanted our teachers to know that we care about them and are making a sustained commitment to them through an increase over the next couple of years.

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, the board unanimously approved a proclamation to declare May 6-10, 2019 as Teacher Appreciation Week. Bryan Dozier made the motion to approve with a second by Trikena Simmons. The proclamation reads as follows:



**PROCLAMATION**  
*National Teacher Appreciation Week*  
*May 6-10, 2019*

**WHEREAS**, Montgomery County Schools is proud to join other school districts and education organizations across the country in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10) and National Teacher Day on Tuesday, May 7, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Teacher Appreciation Week is one of our most important observances because it brings attention to the teaching profession, which is worthy of honor and praise; and

**WHEREAS**, success in Montgomery County Schools begins in the classroom, and our teachers are the people who inspire students every day and instill a lifelong love for learning; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers are more than just instructional leaders – they are also role models, mentors, motivators, listeners, encouragers, caregivers and coaches who significantly impact the lives of children; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that all educators play a significant role in the vitality and economic prosperity of our community because they are the people responsible for shaping our future.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, to honor all teachers who deserve the utmost respect and adulation for the contributions they make to our schools and for their efforts to positively influence the leaders of tomorrow, the Montgomery County Board of Education proclaims the week of

*May 6-10, 2019*    *Teacher Appreciation Week*

in Montgomery County Schools and encourages students, parents, school employees and others to express their appreciation for all of our teachers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Superintendent

At the April board meeting, Superintendent Ellis asked the board’s guidance on selling memorabilia at West and East Montgomery. The board asked him to draw up a plan and bring it to the May meeting. After researching the process and speaking with other districts, Dr. Ellis recommended a silent sealed bid auction. After some discussion, the board suggested that any state or championship trophies be displayed at Montgomery Central to honor the heritage of the two schools. If an individual won the trophy, the trophy will be given back to that person. The remaining will be inventoried for silent auction bid, to be scheduled for the fall or early spring.

During his superintendent comments, Dr. Ellis commented that spring was testing season and that the staff and kids have worked hard. Looking forward to a successful end of the year.

Chairman DeBerry then asked for a motion to move into closed session to discuss personnel. Bryan Dozier made the motion, with Sandra Miller seconding. The board approved entering into closed session unanimously.

During closed session, the board approved the following items:

- 1) Board Minutes for April 1, 2019;
- 2) Personnel and Auxiliary Reports:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS  
PERSONNEL REPORT  
R. Kevin Lancaster, Deputy Superintendent  
May 6, 2019**

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) Esther Fowler	Della Ingram	Yes

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

<u>Resignation/Retirement</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) Alisha Ellis Resignation	Central Office Dir. of Elem. Ed/Curr. Supp.	4/07/2019
2) Sarah Greene Resignation	Mt. Gilead Elementary Guidance Counselor	5/06/2019
3) Brittney Stone Resignation	West Middle School 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	6/14/2019
4) Seeley Finicum Resignation	Troy Elementary Elementary Teacher	5/03/2019
5) Grant Hinson Resignation	Troy Elementary PT One on One	4/15/2019
6) Teresa Greene Retirement	Candor Elementary Data Manager	7/01/2019

c. Upon recommendation, approval of the following interim contracts for the 2018-2019 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>
1) Rachel Leonard 4/29/2019	Page Street Elem. Instructional Facilitator	Yes

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) Diane Beaman 4/17/2019	Troy Elementary P.T One on One	Yes	Grant Hinson

e. Upon recommendation, approval of the following interim employee:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Deidra Steed 5/01/2018	Central Office Dir. of K-5/Curr. Support	Yes	Alisha Ellis

f. Upon recommendation, approval of the following certified employee:

1) Kay Cagle-Kirch 7/01/2019	Montg. County Early Co. P.T Teacher Cadet	Yes
---------------------------------	--	-----

g. Report the following transfers:

<u>Transfer/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Adam Cycotte 7/01/2019	West High Foreign Lang.	Montg. Co. Early Co. S.S/Latin Teacher	
2) Terri Absher 6/2019	West High Instructional Fac.	Central Office Dir. of Elem Ed/Curr. Sup.	Alisha Ellis
3) Cody Williams TBD	Montg. Lear. Ac. Math/Science	East/West Middle Agriculture	
4) Kelley Hensley 9/17/2019	East Middle 7 <sup>th</sup> ELA	West High Instructional Facilitator	Terri Absher
5) Laurie Brown 8/19/2019	Candor Elem. Principal	TBD K-6 Teacher	





4) Green Ridge Tolling Agreement.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary