

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

August 2, 2021

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 2, 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 and welcomed Anne Evans as our new member of the board replacing the late Sandra Miller. 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 entitled “In Every Circumstance.” Reminding us that good circumstances don’t create great people. Great people create good in every circumstance.

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

No one signed up to speak during the public comments section.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for recognition of 3A NCHSAA State Wrestling Champion winner Aldo Hernandez, a rising junior at MCHS. Dr. Ellis announced Aldo is our first state champion for the MCHS Timberwolves. Dr. Ellis called upon his coaches for remarks. Coach Mike Maness spoke regarding Aldo’s work ethic and the tremendous job he has done. The assistant coach spoke praising Coach Maness for coaching him to a state championship and doing it again with Aldo Hernandez. Coach Panzer also recognized that Aldo was our only wrestler to receive all conference this year and presented him with a badge for his letter jacket.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for 2021-2022 Curriculum and Instructional Management Coordinator of the Year for North Carolina winner Matthew Swain. Dr. Ellis explained that Matthew has been a great liaison between MCS and MCC programs. He leads the effort for certificates and degrees that our students are earning from MCC.

Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Dr. Ellis recommended holding the consent agenda until closed session. The motion carried unanimously with the board.

Following closed session, the board approved the following consent agenda items Bryan Dozier made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding. The motion carried unanimously with the board. The following items were approved:

- 1) Board Minutes from July 12, 2021 Board Meeting
- 2) Personnel and Auxiliary Reports as follows:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORT
Tracy Grit, Associate Superintendent for Operations/HR
August 2, 2021**

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

<u>Certified</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Delana Cagle 8/17/2021	East Middle School PE Teacher	Yes	Nathan McCallum
2) Jodi Cole 8/17/2021	Montg. Central High Health Science Teacher	Yes	Debbie Roach
3) Will Bowers 8/17/2021	Montg. Central High Business Teacher	Yes	
4) Daniel Jones 8/17/2021	East Middle School Science Teacher	Yes	Payton Harrell

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

<u>Resignation/Retirement</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) Amber Britt Resignation	Green Ridge Elementary 1 st Grade Teacher	7/15/2021
2) Jonathan Miller Resignation	Central Office Technology Technician	8/2/2021
3) Katie Morris Resignation	West Middle Assistant Principal	6/30/2021
4) Reginald Jackson Resignation	Montg. Central High Assistant Principal	7/30/2021
5) Tyler Burrow Resignation	Central Office Technology Technician	6/29/2021
6) Tracie Whitley Resignation	East Middle Business & Marketing	7/19/2021
7) Homar Rodriguez Resignation	West Middle PE Teacher	7/19/2021
8) Payton Harrell	East Middle	7/15/2021

Resignation 7th/8th Grade Science

9) Jo Ann Jenkins Troy Elementary 7/12/2021
Resignation 2nd Grade Teacher

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

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Jordan Wilson 8/17/2021	East Middle School 6 th Grade Math Teacher	Yes	Colin Peters

d. Report of the following transfers:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Wanda Blue 8/17/2021	All Locations P.T Attend. Coord.	All Locations F.T Attend. Coord.	Logan Jordan
2) Chris Williams 8/17/2021	Montg. Central High EMT Teacher	Mont. Central High Trade & Indust. Ed. Publ. Safety	
3) Nathan McCallum 08/17/2021	East Middle School PE Teacher	East/West Midd. Schools Health Science	Meredith Massey
4) Laura Dawkins 8/2/2021	Montg. Central High Science Teacher	Page Street Elem. Instructional Facil.	Rachel Leonard
5) Mandy Hall 7/19/2021	Montg. Central High Instructional Fac.	Montg. Central High Assistant Principal	Jon Lachance

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

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Jonathan Purcell 8/17/2021	Troy Elementary Non-Certified PE Teacher	Pending	Quelyn Voorhees
2) Farren Dunn 8/1/2021	East Middle School Bookkeeper	Pending	Kryste Van Hoose

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

Montgomery Central High School

Damien Decatur – Football
Rivers Hall – Football
Rachel McKenzie – Varsity Volleyball

g. Superintendent reports the following termination of employee:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Shywanna McGuine	Bus Driver	7/13/2021

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dale Ellis

DATE: August 2, 2021

SUBJ: Addendum – Consent Agenda Item #3 (Personnel Report)

Please accept the following addendum to the August 2, 2021 Personnel Report:

g. Upon recommendation approval of the following administrative contract:

Interim Principal- Interim term beginning August 2, 2021 concluding TBD

- Ellen Jones, Troy Elementary School

Principal – Annual 12-month term commencing TBD contract ending June 30, 2023.

- Amanda Deaton, Troy Elementary School

Assistant Principal – Annual 11-Month Term Commencing TBD contract ending June 30, 2023

- Adam Matthews, West Middle School
- Brian Harvey, Montgomery Central High School

Upon recommendation, approval of release from Montgomery County Schools requested for the 2021-2022 school year.

Montgomery County Schools to Richmond County Schools

3) Agio Specialties, Laura Love Contract

Steve DeBerry called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for 2021-2022 Mask Guidelines. Dr. Ellis shared informational guidelines set by other districts around the state. At the time of our meeting ten districts are requiring masks. Twenty-three districts are making masks optional. Six districts are making masks optional but are required on buses. Seventy-six districts are currently undecided. Dr. Ellis noted that there is no way to make everyone happy and no matter what you do decide there will be a disagreement and a lack of understanding. Dr. Ellis shared data regarding death rates of children ages 5-17 from the American Academy of Pediatrics who recommends masks for all. Dr. Ellis reminded the board that during summer school we had a parent knowingly send two children to school who had tested positive for COVID. He noted that masks have been successful and have become a political issue in which he hoped not to step into. Dr. Ellis expressed concern of losing children to charter schools if masks are required. Board member Lynn Epps spoke out saying she had several teachers contact her regarding the cleanliness of masks, particularly with young children who chew on their masks. Newly seated board member Anne Evans asked how it worked last year. Ellis said that overall teachers reported things going well. Ellis also noted that we have an abundance of masks for children if they do not have them. Board member Jesse Hill also spoke in support of the masks, noting the delta variant and how deadly it is. Evans advocated for wearing masks inside and giving breaks when outside. In regards to sports, the board said they will follow the guidelines of North Carolina High School Athletic Association. After discussion with the board Dr. Ellis made the recommendation to require masks inside all facilities. Masks will not be required while outdoors. The board will revisit this decision at our October board meeting. Bryan Dozier made a motion to approve with Cindy Taylor 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 we are definitely excited about our kids coming back to school. We have several events coming up. We have our Back to School Bash coming up on Thursday. We are trying to get our kids and community back to an "in school mood." Being online as long as we were was very difficult for our staff and our kids. The one thing I would say, and people may disagree but the decision we made here today was made for safety. More importantly we will have our students back in school five days a week. That is what we need. We need that one on one interaction with students and teachers. That is what we are going to provide. I do agree with points made her tonight by Ms. Epps. We have to be flexible and we have to let our parents know that there are options. We want them here in Montgomery County Schools. Charter schools are not the best option in my opinion. The best option is here in Montgomery County Schools. We will continue to work and communicate the best we can. We are excited for this new school year coming up. I can't wait to get our kids back in their seats in their classrooms where they belong.

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 Tommy Blake 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, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary