

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

January 4, 2021

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery Central High School Auditorium. Board members present were Steve W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Bryan Dozier, Lynn Epps, Cindy Taylor and Sandra Miller. Jesse Hill was absent.

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

Chairman Steve DeBerry read a passage from Luke and an inspirational story for the approaching new year, “How to Be Happy this Year.”

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

During the Public Comments section two attendees spoke. Helen Mahoney, a new teacher at Montgomery Central High School, referenced the show “The Crown” and how politics and polarization has influenced decision making during this pandemic. Ultimately our safety should be paramount. Sharon Swanke spoke on behalf of another staff member, Rebecca Shepherd. She shared the struggle of how COVID has affected several of her family members and her fear of contracting and spreading the virus.

Superintendent Ellis introduced the Certified and Classified Employees of the Month for East Middle. Kryste VanHoose is the classified winner. Principal Della Ingram spoke remotely stating Mrs. VanHoose serves as bookkeeper for East Middle. She is efficient and pleasant to work with. She has a special place in the hearts of East Middle staff and students. Mandy Lucas is the certified winner. Lucas serves as guidance counselor. She is a great support for staff and students. She is cheerful and shares encouraging words during their daily announcements. East Middle is blessed to have them both.

Dr. Ellis called upon Vanessa Valdovinos Cruz a student from Montgomery Central High School. Ms. Cruz is the 2020 Christmas card winner. She was presented a certificate and a fifty dollar gift card.

Chairman DeBerry moved for approval of the consent agenda. Tommy Blake made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding. The motion carried unanimously. The following items were approved:

- Board Minutes from December 7, 2020
- Board Minutes from December 16, 2020
- Personel and Auxiliary Reports

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

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

<u>Certified</u>	<u>Recommended By</u>	<u>Record Check</u>
1) Autumn Hinson	Sloan Bourgeois	Pending

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

<u>Resignation/Retirement</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) Logan Jordan Resignation	Montg. Central High Health/PE Teacher	01/04/2021
2) Rick Smith Resignation	Montg. Learning Acad. PT Custodian	12/18/2020
3) Zachary Cash Resignation	Central Office Transportation Dpt.	12/28/2020

- c. Report of the following transfers:

<u>Transfer/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1) Lisa Wood 02/01/2021	Candor Elementary 4 th Grade Teacher	Star Elementary Inst. Facilitator
2) Jennah King 01/04/2021	Mt. Gilead Elementary Admin. Intern	Mt. Gilead Elementary Instructional Facilitator

- d. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following administrative contract:

Assistant Principal – Annual 11 month contract with a term commencing January 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022

- Adriane Clarett, Mt. Gilead Elementary School

- e. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following reorganization of central office administration

- Jack Cagle – Interim Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

Dr. Ellis called upon Della Ingram for the East Middle presentation “All Roads Lead to Success with the Second-Step Program.” This program is designed to improve the social and emotional well-being of their students. Ingram called upon April Parsons, Kesha Collins and Mandy Lucas to explain their presentation. In the fall of 2020, during remote learning, 197 EMS students participated in an SDQ. This Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire consisted of five questions each with a total of 25 responses: Prosocial Behavior, Hyperactivity/Inattention, Emotional Symptoms, Conduct Problems and Peer Relationship Problems. Results of this questionnaire were shared. Using SDQ allows the user to identify emotional and behavioral difficulties a student may experience. Implementing social and emotional learning through the Second-Step program, scores are expected to improve for each student.

Dr. Ellis called upon Dr. Jim Watson of Pinnacle Architecture for the Five-Year Facilities Study. Dr. Watson presented each board member a bound copy of the complete study along with a PowerPoint presentation. During this presentation Watson discussed several topics including, impact of private, charter, home schools and COVID-19 has had on student enrollment. The decline of Montgomery County population and the potential of new residential possibilities to increase in the future, expense of current declining facilities noting Candor Elementary, MLA and Central Office will soon need new roofs. Safety and security were a directive of MCS administration for this study. A goal was established to provide a safe and secure entrance for all schools. Architectural designs will need to be developed for each individual site. In Dr. Watson's summary he stated MCS should be commended for the progress they have achieved over the past 5-10 years. Montgomery County Schools are projected to experience a slow decline in student enrollments over the next ten years. Due to future enrollment trends there appears to be no need for additional schools or additions. It should be anticipated for the next decade all available school facility funds be used in the areas of repairs, replacements and renovations.

Chairman DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for results of the Central Office Survey. The survey compared years 2016-2017 to 2020-21. Three questions were asked in reference to each department. When I phone, the person whom I speak is personable and pleasant. When I email, phone, or visit, I always receive a response within a reasonable amount of time (24 hours). When I email, phone or visit, the information I receive is always consistent. This year the averages for each department were between 97-100%. Dr. Ellis stated when looking at the survey as a whole we are ultimately serving our schools well.

Steve DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for Mid-Year Review Dates. Proposed dates were presented as Monday, February 15, Tuesday, February 16, and Thursday, February 18, 2021. Shannon Robinson, clerk to the board, will call each board member individually to poll the preference of the board.

Steve DeBerry called upon Tracy Grit for calendar 2021-2022 options. These options are for first reading. These will be brought back to the board in February for approval.

Steve DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for MCHS Field House Bid Acceptance. Ellis presented a bid tabulation from six bidders. He recommended to offer to the lowest bid by HM Kern Corp. with a total cost of \$2,502,000. No bids were offered by local companies although they attended the scheduled meeting. HM Kern Corp. does have ties to Montgomery County. Sandra Miller made a motion to accept with Tommy Blake seconding. The motion carried unanimously.

Steve DeBerry called upon Dr. Ellis for his Superintendent's Comments. Dr. Ellis announced that it is School Board Appreciation Month. He thanked the Board for their service and let them know they were appreciated. We are expecting to receive more funding from the second round of coronavirus relief and we will focus that money on technology, career development and CTE equipment and support for our child nutrition department.

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 Lynn Epps seconding. The board approved entering into closed session unanimously.

Following closed session, Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. With a motion by Bryan Dozier and second by Lynn Epps, the meeting was duly adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery Central High School Auditorium.

Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman

Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary