

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
END OF THE YEAR REVIEW
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 25, 2022

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened the End of the Year Strategic Plan Review on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 5:30pm. Board members present were as follows: Steven W. DeBerry – Chair, Tommy Blake – Vice Chair, Anne Evans, Bryan Dozier, Cindy Taylor, Lynn Epps, Jesse Hill was absent. Staff members present included Dr. Dale Ellis, Tracy Grit, Wade Auman, Jack Cagle, Susanna Kornegay, Matthew Woodard, Mitch Taylor, and Shannon Robinson

Chairman DeBerry called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. With a motion by Bryan Dozier, and a second from Lynn Epps, the board unanimously approved the agenda. Chairman DeBerry turned the meeting over to Superintendent Dale Ellis.

Superintendent Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Ellis presented a power point titled, “Preparing for Excellence.” The power point reviewed strategic goals and challenges faced by Montgomery County Schools. All related performance data aligned to the Strategic Plan presented as part of our focus on accountability, assuring the board and community that we will not hide from data. The goal is for continuous improvements, and we have much to be proud of in all areas.

Wade Auman gave a review of globally competitive students, which encompasses the graduation rate, Annual Measurable Outcomes (AMO) and Ready Expected Growth. The unofficial graduation rate for Montgomery County Schools was 95.5%. College Credits increased from mid-year 48.5% for students with at least 1 credit and 44.4% for students with 2 or more credits to the end of the year with 59.8% for students with at least 1 credit and 53.4% for students with 2 or more credits. Unofficial 2020-2021 Grade-Level Proficiency for Montgomery County Schools was 40.5%. State results release after presentation to the State Board of Education. Mr. Auman shared data regarding ready expected growth. Biology performed well, but we transitioned the sequence of courses and had limited student testing. Overall, remote learning had a significant impact on Reading performance. ACT's performance saw the most improvement over previous data. Composite achievement gap data showed African American and Hispanic overall achievement gap- GAP at 9.3%.

Tracy Grit gave an update of 21st Century Professional/Healthy and Responsible. This section includes goals for teacher satisfaction and attendance, ethical violations, teacher retention, pregnancy rate and Out of School (OSS) suspension rate. Teacher attendance for the 2020-2021 school year was 84.1%. Beginning teacher retention rate for 2021-2022 for first year was 91.3%. OSS suspension rates for 2021-2022 reported 424 incidents with 1,126.5 days lost, and 510 saved. This marks a 24% improvement since 2018-2019.

Jack Cagle and Susanna Kornegay updated the Board on the Leadership Guides Innovation portion, including grants and parent contacts. Jack Cagle presented information regarding grants. Grants provide teachers with support in diverse ways, and we have a good variety of them. We have a good relationship with Research Associates. We will continue to apply for more. Susanna Kornegay presented Digital Instruction. Among strengths shared was all teachers got new devices. Technology has aligned standards and plans. Staff are trained in framework; know elements and usage. Triple E is easy to understand. The use of Nearpod and Flocabulary are helpful in the classrooms. Weaknesses noted as inexperienced staff are hired more training is needed. The pandemic has made it harder to track and created unexpected variables as well as ever changing technology.

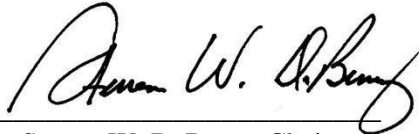
Chief Financial Officer, Mitch Taylor, and Matthew Woodard reviewed 21st Century Systems, which includes audit findings, goals, maintaining adequate fund balance and adequate facilities. Mitch Taylor shared our strengths in adequate fund balance. We have a strong fund balance with great staff

watching over it. The county has maintained a stable level of funding with good support from our community and donors. Continued grants and COVID relief funding have been helpful. We have been able to build and renovate facilities and still maintain fund-balance. Weaknesses shared as long-term economy still unknown. Inflation of food, fuel costs and more. Politics are uncertain and our population is declining. State restrictions continue to hamper us. Enrollment in charter schools and home schools harms the stability of enrollments. Matthew Woodard presented information for adequate facilities. Strengths shared as financial and community support. We continue to upkeep and maintain our older facilities. There is a limited but dedicated county capital fund. Weaknesses shared where funding is inadequate when compared to the need. Inflation and supply chain issues are a continued problem. Staff is limited and grants are often restrictive. Adequate Technology strengths were new devices. GoGuardian provides internet filtering for students, alerting staff of inappropriate searches and keywords regarding safety, mental health, and classroom management features for teachers. SchoolMessenger SafeMail services monitors student email and provides alerts to staff.

Dr. Ellis opened the meeting to questions and discussions.

After a question-and-answer session, Chairman DeBerry asked for a motion to adjourn Tommy Blake made the motion with Cindy Taylor seconding. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2022, at 6:30 pm.



Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman



Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary