

# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**August 7, 2023**

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Montgomery County Schools Boardroom. Board members present were Tommy Blake - Vice Chair, Angela Smith, Lynn Epps, Anne Evans, and Bryan Dozier. Steve DeBerry – Chairman and Cindy Taylor were not present.

Vice Chairman Tommy Blake called the meeting to order. Mr. Blake moved to adopt the agenda as submitted. Lynn Epps made the motion with Anne Evans seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Vice Chairman Tommy Blake read a passage from Matthew 15:16. “Let your light shine before others so that you may see your good work and give glory to your father who is in heaven.”

Vice Chairman Blake 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.

Vice Chairman Blake called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for recognitions. Dr. Ellis called upon Casey Galloway to speak on behalf of Billy Hart, winner of the SkillsUSA National Firefighting Championship. This award is not only the first national award for the Montgomery County Schools, but this is also the first national award for the State of North Carolina.

Vice Chairman Blake then requested the family of Ms. Ann Simmons Long to please step forward to accept a Resolution of Esteem for her nineteen years of service with the Board of Education for Montgomery County Schools. Ms. Long passed away in May. As a Point of Personal Privilege Dr. Ellis would like the record to reflect what a wonderful person she was and the great job she did as a board member. We speak of a person being a great board member, but she was an even better person. We really appreciate her son, Rudy Bruton, being present here tonight. The resolution reads as follows:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION OF ESTEEM

FOR

*Ann Simmons Long*

WHEREAS, our Heavenly Father, in His infinite love and wisdom, saw fit to call home Ann Simmons Long on May 30, 2023 and

WHEREAS, her dedication to Montgomery County Schools for nineteen years as a board member were a living testament of her integrity and skill, and

WHEREAS, her loss will be deeply felt not only by those with whom she served, but also throughout her entire community and county.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education goes on record in expressing a sense of real loss and regret in her passing; that a copy of this resolution be conveyed to her family as an indication of our deep sympathy; and that a copy of the same be filed as a part of the permanent minutes of the Board of Education.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

  
Tommy Blake, Vice Chairman

  
Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary

Steve DeBerry, Chair - Bryan Dozier - Angela Smith  
Anne Evans - Lynn Epps - Cindy Taylor

AUGUST 2023

Vice Chairman Blake stated the next item is the consent agenda. Dr. Ellis has requested to hold the consent agenda until after closed session. The board approved unanimously.

Vice Chairman Blake called upon Emily Shaw for the CTE Highlights 2022-2023 presentation. Ms. Shaw started by again congratulating Billy Hart for being selected as the SkillsUSA National Champion in Firefighting. She also congratulated all the students who participated in the SkillsUSA competition and who also won State and Regional awards. Ms. Shaw began her presentation by introducing everyone to the new mobile CTE lab. We were able to purchase and outfit the mobile career lab with a Modernization Ancillary grant. The purpose of the grant was to find an innovative way to engage fifth through eighth grade students in different career pathways. With this mobile lab we can be more equitable, and we can allow more students to have some engagement with the career pathways we offer at the middle and high school level. The mobile lab is equipped with Career Exploration VR headset goggles which can be set to a variety of careers that will allow the student to participate and feel like they actually completing the task selected. Two other aspects of the mobile lab are the Forklift and Firefighting simulators. These simulators give the student the chance to experience what it feels like to operate a forklift or use a fire extinguisher while in the safety of the mobile CTE lab. We are planning to take the mobile lab to community events to allow everyone to see the wonderful real-life experiences we are providing for our students. Ms. Shaw also presented and explained the importance of credentials for our high school students. Our earned credential totals have significantly improved from only 57 in 2020-2021 to 1163 in 2022-2023. Through the career pathways we offer, students can earn industry recognized credentials which will help them to secure employment once they graduate. We are so proud of all the hard work our teachers are



doing to prepare our students for these credentials and proud of our students for being motivated to earn these credentials.

Vice Chairman Blake called upon Dr. Dale Ellis for his Superintendent's Remarks. Dr. Ellis stated that we did present a Resolution of Esteem here tonight for Ms. Ann Long. This is something that we stopped doing during Covid, but we are now planning to bring back. To the best extent possible we are going to try to get together and go back through the obituaries during that three-year period to see if there were other employees to be acknowledged. Unfortunately, we will not be able to bring them all in, but we would like to at least send a letter to the family on behalf of the board acknowledging the loss. I do regret that we have not brought this back before now, but it was a member of the community that asked about the resolution for Ms. Long that reminded me that Covid no longer impacts us as negatively as it once did in the past. I am looking forward to bringing this back so that we can recognize our former employees and thank the families for their service. Also, next month we will begin inviting our students back to lead the pledge of allegiance which is something that had also been put on hold due to Covid. I am very excited to bring this back because there is nothing more exciting than watching a five-year-old lead the pledge of allegiance. Unfortunately, my comments will kind of end on a sour note for me because it was reported late this afternoon that house speaker Tim Moore has stated that he does not see a budget being passed by September 1. Ultimately that is very disappointing to the point that there are talks about doing mini budget bills and I would encourage them to do that. This becomes very problematic when our first paycheck for all ten-month employees will be August 25<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, they will get one amount in a paycheck in August, if it is passed after August, they will get another amount in their September check, but it will not be until October until they know exactly what they will make with the State raise. If it is after September, it could be November and when you speak about someone who makes \$27,000-\$28,000 per year \$40-\$50 a month could be life changing. I feel like they need to look at the mini budget bills and I will communicate that on behalf of the board to our legislators. This has become problematic for our finance staff as they have everything entered now but will have to adjust for two months in a row. This also leads to confusion for the staff. The house already has a number but they are arguing over things that do not impact state employees so I would support going ahead with the mini budgets so that our state employees can be paid, and we can move forward.

Upon completion of the Superintendents remarks Mr. Dozier asked if we could partner with the sheriff's office to perform some active shooter scenarios in the schools so that we can be proactive. Dr. Ellis stated that we have done that in years past. He stated that he would be sitting down with staff later this week to set up a meeting with the sheriff and his staff to discuss the coming year, the new SRO's, etc. Matthew Woodard was present and stated that we completed the last one in 2021. He stated that the county receives an Emergency Management grant every year and the funds are to be used for these exercises. This process is run through the Emergency Management services, Robby Smith, which includes First Health, fire, law enforcement, etc. The school staff members are trained in the proper procedures and upon completion of the exercises each school is evaluated, interior and exterior, by the Emergency Management team. Once the evaluation is completed the results are reviewed and any issues addressed. The board members requested that they would like to invite someone from the Montgomery Herald to one of the future scenarios to take pictures and write an article on the process so that the public could see our schools be proactive.

Vice Chairman Blake 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 closed session unanimously.

Upon the return to open session, Dr. Ellis requested that the Board make a motion to grant him the limited ability to remove certain documents from a single employee's personnel file. Upon a motion by Bryan Dozier and a second by Anne Evans, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Blake called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon a motion by Bryan Dozier and a second by Angela Smith the consent agenda was approved.

After closed session the following items were approved:

- 1) Board Minutes from July 10, 2023
- 2) Personnel and Auxiliary Reports:

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS  
PERSONNEL REPORT  
Kevin Lancaster, Interim Director of HR  
August 7, 2023**

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

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Dominique Elliott 8/21/2023	East Middle School Art Teacher	Yes	Bonnie Batista
2) Brittany Parmentier 8/21/2023	Page Street Elementary ESL Teacher	Yes	Stephanie Andruski
3) Justice Parker 8/21/2023	Mt. Gilead Elementary 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	Yes	Amber Britt
4) Ashley Shae 8/21/2023	Troy Elementary 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher	Yes	Melissa Harris

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

<u>Resignation/Retirement</u>	<u>School/Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1) Lynn Webb Retirement	East Middle School 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher	7/1/2023
2) Angel Shepherd Resignation	Mt. Gilead Elementary 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	8/2/2023
3) Ashlynn Beaver Resignation	THD P.T. TA Apprentice	7/21/2023
4) Amber Britt Resignation	Mt. Gilead Elementary 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	7/24/2023
5) Carlee K. Casteneda Resignation	East West Middle Schools Agriculture Teacher	7/18/2023

- f. Report the following transfers:

<u>Transfer/ Effective Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Carlton Johnson 8/21/2023	Candor Elementary P.T. Tutor	Montg. Learn. Ac. T.A. Edmentum/ AISD Coord. Bus Driver	Kim Turner
2) Kenston Scott 8/1/2023	Central Office Behavior Specialist	Central Office Lead Behavior Specialist	Krystal Kinney
3) Gavin Watts 8/21/2023	Montg. Central High Science Teacher	Montg. Central High Except. Child. T.A. Bus Driver	

- g. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of the following school nurse:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
1) Erica Poole 8/21/2023	Central Office School Nurse	Yes	Jessica Hurley

- h. Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approval of recommendation for employment of the following part-time personnel:

<u>Employee/ Effective Date</u>	<u>School/ Assignment</u>	<u>Record Check</u>
1) Jay Myrick 8/28/2023	Montgomery Central High P.T. Math Tutor	Yes

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

**Assistant Principal** – Annual 11-month term commencing August 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025

• Toby McLaurin, Montgomery Central High School

**Administrator** – Annual 12-month term commencing August 8, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025

• Emily Shaw, Central Office, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

- e. 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) Jonathan Hopkins 7/24/2023	Central Office Transportation Mechanic II	Yes	
2) Brooke Chappell 8/21/2023	Montgomery Central High Distance Learning Bus Driver	Yes	Cheryl Johnson
3) Callie Thornton 8/21/2023	Green Ridge Elementary Pre-K T.A. Bus Driver	Yes	Candi Hernandez
4) Sheal Lindsey 8/21/2023	Page Street Elementary P.E. T.A. Bus Driver	Yes	Yvonne Lucas
5) Alexis McCormick 8/21/2023	Candor Elementary Pre-K T.A. Bus Driver	Yes	Deborah Allen
6) Shaquia Bruton 8/21/2023	Green Ridge Elementary Teacher Assistant Bus Driver	Yes	Laura Wilson
7) Chabosca White 8/1/2023	Central Office Technology Tech. I	Yes	Aaron Scott
8) Shaquille Little 8/21/2023	Green Ridge Elementary Pre-K T.A.	Pending	Betty Edwards

- 6) Beth Gordon  
Resignation

East Middle School  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher

7/13/2023

- 7) Sarah Blanton  
Resignation

Montgomery Central High  
Marketing Teacher

7/11/2023

- e. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following probationary contracts for the 2023-2024 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) Logan Russ 8/21/2023	Troy Elementary School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	Yes	Kristie Lynhacum
2) Melanie Stewart 8/21/2023	Star Elementary School ESL Teacher	Yes	Jamie Woodruff
3) Colby Garner 8/21/2023	Green Ridge Elementary 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Yes	Celia McKinney
4) Tracy Blake 8/21/2023	East Middle School Agriculture Teacher	Yes	Carlee Casteneda
5) Francisco Cortes 8/21/2023	Montgomery Central High Culinary Arts Teacher (CTE)	Yes	Meredith Massey
6) Rachel Temple 8/21/2023	Montgomery Central High Except. Children Inclusion	Yes	Caroline Steed
7) Brittany Smith 8/21/2023	Montgomery Central High Science Teacher	Yes	Gavin Watts
8) Angela Avant 8/21/2023	Green Ridge Elementary 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	Yes	
9) Craig Wright 8/21/2023	West Middle School Math Teacher	Pending	Ken Mynck

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS  
AUXILIARY REPORT  
AUGUST 7, 2023

Upon recommendation, approval of release from Montgomery County Schools requested for the 2023-2024 school year.

The following overnight field trips are requested:

Montgomery County Early College

Travel Tracker # 4572-Great Wolf Lodge-Concord, NC

Trip Dates: 10/9/2023-10/10/2023

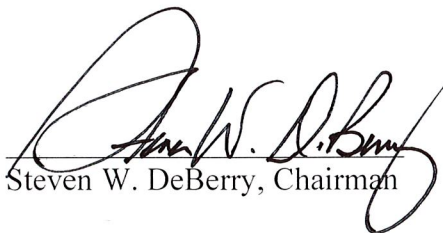
Montgomery County Schools to Moore County Schools

Montgomery County Schools to Stanly County Schools

Montgomery County Schools to Randolph County Schools

Following approval of the consent agenda, Vice Chairman Blake asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anne Evans made the motion with Bryan Dozier seconding; the meeting was duly adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.



Steven W. DeBerry, Chairman



Dale Ellis, Ed. D., Secretary