

# MONTFORD



# MUSTANGS

## Minutes

Montford Middle School/School Advisory Council

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Via Microsoft Teams / 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

1. Call to Order: *The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Dr. Fran Close*
2. Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mr. Berry; a second to the motion was made by Martha Cummings. Motion was carried to approval by the SAC body.*
3. Approval of February 2020 Meeting Minutes: *This is the meeting prior to going home during the pandemic. Motion to approve by \_\_\_\_\_; second by Mrs. L. Thomas.*
4. Principal Blessing School Updates
  - Welcome New Member: Dana Youngblood
  - Welcome Secretary: Dr. Robin Wood

*Mr. Blessing provided an update on the school year; I appreciate all that the teachers have done to prepare but the very first day of school was the first day teachers got to implement this new model. It is getting better and I think it will get better though it has been a steep learning curve. Thank you to the community for their resilience; wi-fi and power issues have caused some issues, but the community has been supportive. A shout out to Mr. Andrew Keltner who packed up computers, webcams, etc. to help families with technology needs. Once the chromebooks come in where every child has the same computer; broken computers will be replaced or repaired when necessary- right now, students are using a variety of different types of desktops at home which makes it hard to troubleshoot. We are getting there but we are not there yet; we will continue to improve. Our teachers are making a collaborative effort to share and assist others and I am very appreciative of their efforts as we ensure our students' safety.*

*We are starting with two athletic groups- softball and cross country. Softball will have extra dugouts; Coach Williams has been meticulous about ensuring girls are wearing their masks. I have asked Club Sponsors about a plan as to how they will meet with their clubs and continue their activities; zoom and teams allow DA and BM students to participate.*

*We are still not sure about standardized testing; next year we will have new standards so this may be a good year to not test due to the test changing. We have three open positions but two are filled and one teacher just resigned. Teachers are making the best choices for what they need for themselves and their families.*

*Dr. Close applauds the efforts of the teachers; we are high achieving school and she appreciates how the teachers are working together to make it work. Mr. Blessing re-emphasizes that though he wants the accountability, he does not want teachers to stress out about standardized testing.*

*Dr. Close welcomes Dana Youngblood and Dr. Robin Wood. Dr. Wood asks participants to please state your first and last name when making motions so it can be recorded accurately. Dr. Close echoed this sentiment to make it easier for the record-keeping during the meeting.*

5. SIP- Dr. Thomas

- *Public Hearing Summary: We published it today on our website; it is a few more pages because all roles on the leadership team and the “Roll Forward” money. We tried to supplement money for classroom teachers and the ESE aides whose hours were cut so we used a portion to pay money for salary and benefits. The plan is due to the district by the 24<sup>th</sup>*
- *Review SIP Goals: We left in March so we did not fulfill our goals; we will try to maintain the same goals to make it easier on teachers. So, we increased it 1% The bottom 35% we will try to increase our goals by 1% We will try to increase our Science goals by 1% If we maintain or increase by 1% instead of the 2% from previous years. We are trying to do the best we can whether students are DA or BM; we are hoping that DA students are getting what they need at home since some parents are not at home to help their DA students. We do want everyone to be safe.*
- *Questions: Martha Cummings stated that the SIP link is from 2015-16; Dr. Thomas will change it to the correct year. It will be done by tomorrow; the current document was emailed. Kim Revell said that her email was incorrect, consequently, Dr. F. Close will forward the SIP information to her after the meeting; she has corrected the email address. Angela Holden had a comment on the core ideas (i.e. Vision, Mission)- is there any way to make the document more concise without re-stating everything; the job duties and responsibilities of staff, can it be either bullets or paragraph formats. Dr. Thomas will look at it tomorrow and Dr. Close agrees to condense the core ideas without repeating the full vision/mission statement. Normally, Dr. Thomas has a color-coded folder for us normally if we met in person, Dr. Close discloses. The state has changed the requirement this year, so we had to list out all those job duties. Lillie Thomas asked if funds transfer from one year to the next and the answer was “yes” by Dr. Thomas. Keith Berry and Lillie Thomas applaud the efforts of Mr. Blessing and the Montford faculty on their dedication and efforts as well as to the ESE Dept. Dr. Close thanked Dr. Thomas for her hard work and efforts on the SIP. Our SIP is the model plan and they have recommended some changes which have been done; Dr. Thomas will make the necessary recommendations for formatting issues by the morning. We are approving how the money was spent and if dropping to the 1% goals from the 2% last year.*
- *SAC Vote of Approval: We can make a motion to approve with changes SIP by Lillie Thomas and second by Angela Holden. The motion was approved by the SAC body. We will do our mid-term report in February.*

6. DAC Update: *The DAC Update was given by Mr. Keith Berry and Mrs. Lillie Thomas. Mr. Keith Berry-1<sup>st</sup> DAC meeting is next Thursday; the district will revise the ESE DAC in conjunction with the \_\_\_\_\_ Disabilities..... Mrs. Lillie Thomas is also a member of the ESE DAC committee. Mr. Blessing and Dr. Close appreciates both of these volunteers for holding down “double DAC” duties and reporting their findings to SAC.*
7. PTSO Update:  
*Mr. Blessing gives an update from the meeting from yesterday’s meeting. Fundraising \$1600 sold in spirit sales with profit of \$600-700. Discussed how the celebrations will be done; ideas would be pre-sorted bags for the various celebrations. They asked what Mr. Blessing needed- he suggested little pick-me-ups for the teachers (i.e. Lucky Goat, ect.) Need to facilitate ideas to bring the DA kids closer to campus- virtual dance with a zoom DJ was one idea. Fundraising is not in the forefront, so we need to not emphasize fundraising from the kids. The Patrons program is on hold because they didn’t want to overtax parents, but it was not discussed in the PTSO meeting, but Mr. Blessing says it is not a priority this year (Angela Mitchell, PTSO President). Are their parents on the board who have DA students was a question by Martha Cummings. There will continue to be brainstorming ideas to bring DA and BM together as a group. Mrs. Cummings will consider being a DA representative and this info will be vetted to the PTSO during the next meeting by Mr. Blessing.*
8. Old Business- *None*
9. New Business- *Meeting dates for the year  
 October 22, 2020, February 25, 2021, April 22, 2021  
 Virtual Open House 9/24-teachers will be making videos to introduce their procedures for their various classrooms.  
 Introductions were done for those in attendance  
 M. Cummings- 12 years at Montford; has a 7<sup>th</sup> grader here  
 A. Holden-has a 6<sup>th</sup> grader  
 K. Berry- has a 7<sup>th</sup> grader  
 L. Blessing- Principal for 9 years  
 D. Thomas- AP & last year ☺retiring at the end of the year and he appreciates all she has done. Has been here to open the school  
 C. Hanna-Science teacher 6<sup>th</sup> grade been here from inception  
 K. Revell- 5 children; 8<sup>th</sup> grade triplets  
 L. Thomas-8<sup>th</sup> grader at Montford  
 Meredith Carter-4<sup>th</sup> year at MMS; has a 6<sup>th</sup> grader  
 T. Ward-8<sup>th</sup> grade team leader; teach 8<sup>th</sup> gr Geometry/Algebra Honors  
 Dr. F. Close- Chair for 2<sup>nd</sup> year; have 3 daughters and a 8<sup>th</sup> grader at MMS*
- Adjourn: *The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm by Dr. Close.*