

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Regular Session Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met in a Board Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at the East Mooresville Intermediate School, 1711 Landis Hwy., Mooresville, NC 28115.

Board Members Present: Greg Whitfield, Board Chair; Rakeem Brawley, Vice Chair; Monica Bender; Dr. Debbie Marsh; and, Kerry Pennell.

Also Present: Dr. Jason Gardner, Superintendent; Dr. Sandra Albert, Chief Student Services Officer; Angela Davis, Chief Financial Officer; April Kuhn, Chief Human Resource Officer; Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer and Title IX Coordinator; Dr. Michael Royal, Chief Operations Officer; and, Lisa Neckameyer, Board Clerk.

Media Present: Debbie Page, Iredell Free News

Call to Order: Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Monica Bender, the board voted 5-0 to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Items for Discussion:

- A. Magnolia Street Crossing:** Dr. Gardner referenced a letter from Mooresville Town Manager Tracey Jerome regarding the Board of Education's request to close Magnolia Street between the Main Campus and Magnolia Campus during school hours. The Town of Mooresville proposed a limited closure restricted only to class changes utilizing traffic arms. During the discussion, MGSD Board members expressed strong opposition to this counter-proposal. Ms. Pennell emphasized that third-party safety audits show students cross back and forth throughout the entire day, meaning a full-day closure is the only way to improve student safety. Vice Chair Brawley added that street closure concerns should not override student safety, while Dr. Marsh drew on her personal experience as a Magnolia Street resident and former Mooresville High School employee to warn that school schedules change unexpectedly. She shared that the Town's counter-proposal creates an unnecessary risk of human error and catastrophe. Furthermore, Chairman Whitfield and Vice Chair Brawley pointed out that the town frequently closes roads for extended periods to host social districts, food trucks, and events. They countered the town's arguments regarding emergency vehicle delays by noting that emergency services successfully navigate barriers throughout the town, including extended daily disruptions from trains and construction.

The Board also strongly objected to a stipulation requiring MGSD to manually operate the traffic arms without additional support or School Resource Officers (SROs) from the Mooresville Police Department. Board members also expressed frustration with the Town's reluctance to hold a joint meeting of the MGSD Board of Education and the Town of Mooresville Board of Commissioners. To move forward, the Board instructed Dr. Gardner to respond to the Town's counter-proposal by requesting a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a six-month trial of a full closure from 6:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on school days, restricting the scope strictly to school property between Magnolia & Cabarrus and Student Parking B Lot. Dr. Marsh cautioned that the metric for evaluating the trial should focus on preventative safety rather than a lack of accidents, and Ms. Bender requested a three-month review interval rather than waiting a full year. As next steps, Dr.

Gardner will consult with Board Attorney Kevin Donaldson to review the process for existing town closures and draft a formal counter-proposal letter reflecting these terms. The letter will be shared with the Town of Mooresville prior to the next Board meeting on August 11, 2026, where the Board will review any updates and continue trying to schedule a joint meeting with the Town Commissioners.

Items for Approval:

- A. Budget Amendments:** Ms. Davis presented the budget amendments, which primarily involved transferring funds between purpose codes to ensure coverage for any late invoices. The \$1.2 million allocation for the SBMS project remains in the budget, contingent upon the NCDOT timeline for the stoplight. Additionally, the amendments account for increased revenue for School Nutrition and BASP, as well as a CTE grant from TDS for the SparkLab at MHS. **On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 5-0 to approve the Budget Amendments as presented.**
- B. 2026-27 Interim Budget:** Ms. Davis requested that, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 115C-434, the Board of Education approve interim appropriations allowing the finance officer and superintendent to pay salaries and the usual ordinary expenses of Mooresville Graded School District for the interval between the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2026) until the adoption of the budget resolution. Interim appropriations so made and expended shall be charged to the proper appropriations in the budget resolution. The budget resolution will be adopted no later than October 2026 unless the state fails to adopt a budget within that time frame. **On a motion by Monica Bender, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted 5-0 to approve the 2026-27 Interim Budget as presented.**
- C. NCSBA Spring 2026 Updates:** Tanae McLean presented the NCSBA Spring 2026 Updates at the June 2, 2026 meeting. The updates were presented at the June 30, 2026 meeting for approval. Dr. Marsh stated, for the record, that she views the change on Board Policy 1310/4002 Parental Involvement as part of a broader attempt to restrict the academic environment and puts unreasonable hardships on teachers in the classroom. Chairman Whitfield added that it does have a chilling effect on freedom of discussion. **On a motion by Kerry Pennell, seconded by Monica Bender, the board voted 5-0 to approve the NCSBA Spring 2026 Updates as presented.**

Closed Session: According to **NC G.S. §143-318.11 subsections (a)(1), (a)(3) & (a)(6)**, Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, requested the board go into a closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is not considered public record and review personnel. **On a motion by Monica Bender, seconded by Rakeem Brawley, the board voted 5-0 to go into closed session.**

New Employees:

- Wayne Miller, Math Teacher, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Noah Gates, History Teacher, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Aubrey Carter, PE Teacher, MHS, 07/29/2026
- David Miller, Social Worker, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Malinda Sadowski, School Counselor, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Mia Montover, ELA Teacher, MMS, 07/29/2026
- Katelyn Finkbiner, Math Teacher, MMS, 07/29/2026
- Addison Lasater, ELA Teacher, MMS, 07/29/2026
- Harper Elliott, School Counselor, PVES, 07/29/2026
- Leah Bergner, Music Teacher, RRES, 07/29/2026
- Leah Mullen, PE Teacher, SBMS, 07/29/2026
- Landy Solorzano, ELA Teacher, SBMS, 07/29/2026
- Robert Thompson, Asst. Football Coach, MHS, 07/01/2026
- Jordan Stowe, Band Asst., MHS, 07/18/2026
- Jordan Sledge, Band Asst., MHS, 07/18/2026

- Stacey Haynes, Custodian, MHS, 06/15/2026
- Beatriz Sierra, Custodian, MHS, 06/22/2026
- Hannah Lockhart, Asst. Cheer Coach, SBMS, 07/01/2026
- Kaitlyn Vanderberg, BASP Lead Teacher, SES, 07/27/2026

Role/Location Change:

- Josette Flatts, World Language, MMS, 07/29/2026
- Lindly Guri, Teacher, EMIS, 07/29/2026
- Susan Hudson, 1st Grade Teacher, RRES, 07/29/2026
- Niki Carpenter, Pre-K Teacher, SES, 07/29/2026
- Jeanette Sgroi, Front Desk Receptionist, EMIS, 07/29/2026
- Cynthia Reda, TSC Teacher Assistant, EMIS, 07/29/2026
- Samantha Oswald, Bus Driver, MGSD, 08/03/2026
- Armard Moore, Behavior & Student Support Specialist, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Laura Alley, EC 1:1, MIS, 07/29/2026
- Alexis Danner, EC 1:1, MMS, 07/29/2026

Retiring:

- Lisa Valentine, SS Teacher, MHS, 05/26/2026, 30 Years of service; 18 years to MGSD
- MaryClair Privott, Teacher Assistant, SES, 05/26/2026, 16 Years of service; 9.9 Years of service to MGSD

Non-Continuing:

- Matthew Fazio, Math Teacher, MHS, 05/26/2026
- Bryant Young, Custodian, MHS, 06/03/2026
- Meghan Black, Media Specialist, MHS, 06/10/2026
- Sarah Atwell, Custodian, MHS, 06/01/2026
- Lindsay Ferro, Mental Health Coord., MGSD, 07/31/2026
- Jordan Black, Asst. Principal, MIS, 07/28/2026
- Susan Lewis, School Nutrition, MIS, 05/26/2026
- Christine Sivertson, 3rd Grade Teacher, MIS, 05/26/2026
- Jessina Gonzales, Spanish Teacher, MMS, 05/26/2026
- Fabiola Jose, DI Teacher Asst., RRES, 05/26/2026
- Amanda Lawrence, School Nutrition Mgr., SBMS, 06/22/2026
- Joyce Bethany Burroughs, 7th Grade SS Teacher, SBMS, 07/10/2026
- Olivia Farden, Kindergarten Teacher, SES, 05/26/2026
- Morgan Roberts, Counselor, SES, 05/26/2026

On a motion by Kerry Pennell, seconded by Rakeem Brawley, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn from closed session.

On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Monica Bender, the board voted 5-0 to approve the personnel report as recommended by the Superintendent.

There being no further business, on a motion by Monica Bender, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jason D. Gardner, Secretary
Board of Education