

MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Regular Session Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met in a Board Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Mooresville Town Hall, 413 N. Main St., Mooresville, NC 28115.

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

Board Members Not Present: Monica Bender

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; Jonathan Ribbeck, Chief of Schools; Dr. Michael Royal, Chief Operations Officer; Kevin Donaldson, Board Attorney; and, Lisa Neckameyer, Board Clerk.

Call to Order: Mr. Whitfield, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and called for a moment of silence before congratulating the MGSD community on a successful school year. After expressing his gratitude, Mr. Whitfield also shared a quote from Horace Mann, referring to education as the “great equalizer.” He went on to encourage the MGSD community to use this time to rest, reflect and recharge so that we can start next year on a high note.

Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Gardner then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted 4-0 to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Approval of the Minutes: On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2026 meeting as presented.

Chairman Whitfield then recognized and thanked Commissioner Karriker for his attendance at today’s meeting and his continued support of the Mooresville Graded School District.

ABCD Award: The School Board recognized and presented the June 2026 Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award to Ms. Kara Russell HR Licensure Specialist for the Mooresville Graded School District. Ms. Russell was nominated by Chief Human Resource Officer, April Kuhn, for demonstrating the MGSD Core Values of Authentic Relationships and Integrity.

Schedule Next Meeting: The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 30th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the East Mooresville Intermediate School, 1711 Landis Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28115. The first school board meeting of the 2026-2027 school year will be Tuesday, August 11th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Mooresville Town Hall, 413 N. Main St., Mooresville, NC 28115.

Staff Reports:

- **Maximize Opportunity & Achievement:** Jonathan Ribbeck, Chief of Schools, shared:
 - End-of-Year testing concluded successfully. Mr. Ribbeck extended thanks to Mr. Rob Orrill and all testing administrators. Public release of the results is forthcoming.
 - Summer professional development training is underway. This includes an immediate support session for school teams on their 2026–27 School Improvement Plans, alongside

- upcoming sessions (June 9–10) with a presenter from the Robert Marzano Group to continue work on The New Art and Science of Teaching.
 - Grade-level teams conducted End-of-Year Data Reviews on May 12–14 to analyze celebrations, needs, and suggestions for the 2026–27 school year, led by school instructional coaches.
 - Enrollment for the 2026–27 school year is continuing. Parents are urged to register early to ensure accurate staffing, resource allocation, and classroom spacing.
- **Safe, Happy, and Healthy:** Dr. Michael Royal, Chief Operations Officer and Dr. Sandra Albert presented updates on the Safe, Happy, and Healthy strategic initiative:
 - Last month, the NCHSAA voted to officially sanction two new sports- women's flag football and men's volleyball for the upcoming school year. Mooresville HS is excited to be able to offer these athletic opportunities for our student-athletes.
 - The district celebrated its annual Operations Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on May 22, recognizing vital staff across bus drivers and monitors, in our before and after school program, as school nutrition employees, custodians, our maintenance department, office professionals, our technology department, and our SROs.
 - Two summer evaluation teams have been deployed to meet state and federal compliance timelines for play-based and school-age eligibility assessments. Additionally, preparation is complete for the EC Boot Camp at EMIS on June 17, focusing on behavior strategies, accommodations, explicit instruction, and goalbook planning.
- **Recruit, Grow, and Retain:** April Kuhn, Chief Human Resource Officer and Angela Davis, Chief Financial Officer presented the updates:
 - Onboarding is steadily processing for the 2026–27 school year. HR is currently planning New Employee Orientation for all full-time permanent staff hired since February 2026, as well as training for substitutes and Beginning Teachers.
 - The Finance department is focused on the fiscal year closeout, including final payroll execution and finalizing invoices. On-site auditors from Anderson, Smith & Wike are scheduled for the second week of July.
 - This month our teachers and certified instructional support personnel can look forward to receiving the supplemental funds for teacher compensation special allotment set aside from the state. Each eligible individual that remained employed through the end of the school year will receive a supplement in the amount of \$1,096 per employee as approved at the April board meeting.
- **Culture of Relationships:** Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer presented updates:
 - A new Volunteer page and updated handbook are now live on the district website.
 - June social media campaigns are focusing on promoting literacy and the "Joy of Reading."
 - The summer feeding initiative has launched at Park View Elementary, running from June 2 through July 10 (excluding June 19 and July 6). The program provides free breakfast and lunch to youth 18 and under, alongside access to books.
 - The annual Back to School Bash is scheduled for July 18 at Mooresville Middle School.
 - Highlights from the annual overview of our MGSD School Health Department's include: 25,726 Total Students seen, with a 94% Return to Class rate (exceeding the state average of 86%). In addition, our school nurses treat 276 students with a chronic condition, 78 students who receive at least one scheduled medication daily, and maintain orders for 182 students who have emergency interventions. Additionally, 1385 vision screenings were completed, with 149 students referred for follow-up care and 103 receiving glasses.
- **Superintendent Comments:** Dr. Gardner reiterated the gratitude and appreciation for MGSD's classified staff recognized at the May 22 Operations Luncheon, sharing that MGSD is fortunate to have an all-star operations team that is the backbone of our district. He also shared that the weather held off for us just long enough for us to hold our graduation ceremony for the class of 2026 on May 23rd at Joe Popp Stadium, where MGSD celebrated 471 graduates. Dr. Gardner

extended special thanks to District maintenance staff, technology staff, the leadership team, and counseling department at Mooresville High School for going above and beyond to make sure the event was a success. Lastly, Dr. Gardner shared that students are already back in our buildings for things like credit recovery, remediation and retesting for English II, as well as the Y summer readers program, and the Read to Achieve summer program. He expressed gratitude to our district Curriculum & Instruction team and school leaders for their work in making our summer instructional programs a success.

Board Events: Chairman Whitfield provided information on several upcoming events including:

- May 21, 6:30 p.m.: MHS Baccalaureate
- May 22, 11:00 a.m.: Operations Awards & Luncheon
- May 23, 8:30 a.m.: MHS Graduation

Public Comment: There was 1 individual signed up for public comment. Gary Smith of Mooresville spoke regarding the School Improvement Team, and the MTSS & EC programs. Public comments concluded at 6:23pm.

Items for Information:

- A. Random, Suspicionless, Drug Testing Report:** Dr. Michael Royal and Eric Babbitt presented an overview of the Random, Suspicionless, Drug Testing (RSDT) program for the 2025-26 academic year. Ms. Pennell expressed concern that the number of students tested had decreased significantly versus the prior school year. Dr. Royal shared that due to the test now being a cheek swab, it was more efficient and completed before students without first block classes were required to report to school. Mr. Babbitt and Dr. Royal are working to address this concern for the upcoming school year.
- B. NCSBA Spring 2026 Updates:** Tanae McLean presented a change to BOE policy 1510/4200/7270. This change adds section F: Annual Safety Review which clarifies annual requirements and timelines for student safety drills, training for staff members, as well as training for students on the "See Something, Say Something" reporting platform. Ms. McLean also presented a change to BOE policy 8350. This change increases the threshold for what constitutes a fixed asset from a value of \$5,000 to \$10,000 or more. This recommendation is at the advice of our auditors due to increased inflation. The updated policies will be presented at the June 30, 2026 meeting for approval.

Items for Approval:

- A. CTE Local Plan:** Kevin Wilson, Career and Technical Education Administrator and Dr. Tracey Waid, Director of Secondary Instruction, presented an initial draft of the CTE local plan for 2026-2028 at the May 5, 2026 meeting. This plan was presented at the June 2, 2026 meeting for approval. **On a motion by Kerry Pennell, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 4-0 to approve the CTE Local Plan as presented.**
- B. Policy Revision:** Tanae McLean presented a change to BOE policy 1510/4200/7270 at the May 5, 2026 meeting. The updated policy was presented at the June 2, 2026 meeting for approval. **On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Rakeem Brawley, the board voted 4-0 to approve the Policy Revision as presented.**
- C. School Nutrition Bids:** Staci Burchfield, Director of Child Nutrition, presented three bids for the 2026-2027 school year, for milk (Marva Maid Dairy), food and supplies (US Foods Fort Mill), and produce (Keany Produce and Gourmet). The Marva Maid Dairy and US Food Fort Mill bids are year 4 of rollover fixed pricing, while the Keany Produce and Gourmet bid is a new bid. **On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted 4-0 to approve the School Nutrition Bids as presented.**

- D. 2026-27 Student Fees:** Angie Davis shared that MGSD district and school level leaders have reviewed our current student fees and have drafted a proposed fee structure for the 2026-27 academic year. She shared that following changes are proposed:

- a. Out of District Student Tuition (based on Iredell County funding per ADM)
- b. Laptop fee adjusted to grades 6-12 (was previously grades 5-12)
- c. School Breakfast and Lunch
- d. Breakfast increase from \$1.10 to \$1.25
- e. Lunch increase from \$2.25/\$2.50 to \$2.50/\$2.75
- f. Pre-K Tuition (previously approved in the March 2026 Regular Board Meeting)

On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted 4-0 to approve the 2026-27 Student Fees as presented.

- E. Copier Contract:** Ms. Davis requested approval for the District to enter into a new copier contract agreement. This contract was solicited through a formal Invitation for Bid (IFB) process, where the district received 17 competitive submissions. Following a comprehensive evaluation using a standardized scoring rubric, Marco Technologies, LLC was identified as the most responsive and responsible bidder. The projected annual cost estimate, based on historical use across the district, is \$132,113, with projected annual savings compared to the previous contract estimated at \$42,589. **On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 4-0 to approve the Copier Contract, pending final approval of the contract terms by Campbell and Shatley law firm.**

- F. Field Trip:** Jonathan Ribbeck requested approval for the MHS Men's Basketball team to travel to Cartersville, Georgia on June 26-27, 2026 to participate in the GBCA team camp. The cost is \$120 per student with 10 students attending and two chaperones attending. **On a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 4-0 to approve the Field Trip as presented.**

A point of personal privilege was requested by Dr. Marsh and granted by the Chair. Dr. Marsh utilized the time to emphasize the importance of camp safety, encouraging families to investigate summer camp safety measures.

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, review personnel and consult with the board attorney. **On a motion by Kerry Pennell, seconded by Rakeem Brawley, the board voted 4-0 to go into closed session.**

New Employees:

- Jackson Schaen, EC Teacher, EMIS, 07/29/2026
- Matthew McCurry, History Teacher, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Rachel White, History Teacher, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Malinda Sadowski, School Counselor, MHS, 07/29/2026
- Myranda Bertrand, ELA Teacher, MMS, 07/29/2026
- Deborah Mazzola, Preschool Inclusion Teacher, RRES, 07/29/2026
- Christine Grady, ELA Teacher, SBMS, 07/29/2026
- Matthew Harriger, ELA Teacher, SBMS, 07/29/2026
- Kelsey Crowdes, SN Sub. Asst., MGSD, 05/04/2026
- TaVera Smith, SN Sub. Asst., MGSD, 05/05/2026
- Timothy Kyle Barrett, Maintenance Tech., MGSD, 06/01/2026
- Bryant Young, Custodian, MHS, 05/07/2026
- Mikayla King, Asst. Cheer Coach, MMS, Additional Assignment
- Frederick Pilarczyk, Custodian, PVES, 05/11/2026

Role/Location Change:

- Amy Ward, Math Teacher, NF Woods, 07/29/2026

- Desiree Guzman, Media Specialist, RRES, 07/29/2026
- Carla Rosas Riquelme, DI Teacher Asst., PVES, 07/29/2026
- Michael Dailey, Head Custodian, SES, 05/28/2026

Retiring:

- Deborah Vehar , EC Homebound/Sub., MGSD, 06/01/2026, 13 years of service
- Angela Peterson, 8th Grade Teacher, MMS, 05/26/2026, 28 Years of Service; 7 years with MGSD

Non-Continuing:

- Tammy Burnette, Bus Driver, MGSD, 04/29/2026
- Crawford Deveau, Sub. Bus Driver/Monitor, MGSD, 04/29/2026
- Kathryn Wilson, Bus Monitor, MGSD, 05/21/2026
- Nicole Laich, School Nutrition Asst., MGSD, 05/18/2026
- Teresa Willis, School Social Worker, MHS, 05/26/2026
- Veronica Christopher, Digital Media Teacher, MHS, 05/26/2026
- Madison Fluet, School Counselor, MHS, 06/17/2026
- Elisa Greene, Teacher Assistant, NF Woods, 06/11/2026
- Orayana Owens-Smith, TSC Teacher, PVES, 05/26/2026
- Lindsey Hopkins, 1st Grade Teacher, RRES, 05/26/2026
- Kelly Nelson, Music Teacher, RRES, 05/26/2026
- Erica Cain, EC Teacher, RRES, 05/26/2026
- Kari Sisson, Teacher Assistant, RRES, 5/26/2026
- Stacy Nesbitt, BASP Lead Teacher, RRES, 06/01/2026
- Brittany Barker, 7th Grade Science, SBMS, 05/26/2026
- James White, BASP Lead Teacher, SES, 05/21/2026
- Lauren Bustle, Kindergarten Teacher, SES, 05/26/2026

On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn from closed session.

On a motion by Debbie Marsh, seconded by Kerry Pennell, the board voted 4-0 to approve the personnel list as recommended by the Superintendent.

There being no further business, on a motion by Rakeem Brawley, seconded by Debbie Marsh, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jason D. Gardner, Secretary
Board of Education