



Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Montgomery Community College (Capel Hall)

1011 Page St.

Troy, NC 27371

1. Call to Order - Gordon Knowles, Chair

The regular meeting of the Montgomery Community College Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM by Mr. Gordon Knowles, Chair.

Board Members Present:

Gordon Knowles, Chair; Robert Harris, Vice-Chair; Tim McAuley, Secretary; Claudia Bulthuis; Brooke Cranford, Dr. Katie Dunlap, Kerry Hensley, Craig Jones, Dr. Philip Jones, Dr. Tawanda Matthews, Mike Mills, Dr. Robert Nelson, and Ricky Merida Nieves, SGA President

Others Present:

Dr. Chad Bledsoe, President; Jeanette McBride, Senior Vice-President of Administrative Services/CFO; Dr. Natalia Winfree, Vice-President of Instruction and Student Services; Hunter Smith, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement; Korrie Ervin, Special Projects Coordinator/Grants Writer; Susanna Kornegay, Director of Resource Development; Josh Thaxton, Systems Technician; Hollie Ritter, Counselor/Title IX Coordinator; Erick Lamb, Forestry Instructor; Bill Price, Susan Eggleston, and Rene Perryman, Executive Assistant to the President/Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees

2. Welcome and Announcements - Gordon Knowles

Mr. Knowles welcomed all in attendance, including new Trustees and called upon Dr. Bledsoe to introduce guests.

Dr. Bledsoe introduced new employees Hollie Ritter, Counselor/Title IX Coordinator; and Erick Lamb, Forestry Instructor.

3. Trustee Recognition - Gordon Knowles

Mr. Knowles welcomed former Board of Trustee members, Susan Eggleston and Bill Price and thanked them for attending this evenings meeting.

Mr. Price and Mrs. Eggleston each gave a few words of thanks and were given a pottery mug made by MCC students.

4. Oath of Office - New Trustees - Gordon Knowles

[J. Brooke Cranford](#) 

[M. Craig Jones](#) 

[Dr. Robert Nelson](#) 

Mr. Knowles asked new Board of Trustee members to introduce themselves.

Brooke Cranford spoke about her current job as Branch Manager of Fidelity Bank.

Dr. Nelson discussed his background in higher education. He is an Associate Professor at Liberty University.

Craig Jones discussed the importance of this college to his family. His mother was employed at the college several years ago. It was also noted that Mr. Jones became the mayor of Troy in 2000.

Brooke Cranford, Craig Jones and Dr. Robert Nelson took their oath of office as appointed members of the Board of Trustees.

5. [Board of Ethics Reminder](#) - Gordon Knowles

Mr. Knowles read the ethics statement, reminding board members of Chapter 138A of the State Government Ethics Act and the Montgomery Community College Board Policy 1.4 Conflict of Interest, and asked if there were any potential or actual conflicts of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

6. Election of Officers - (Action) - Gordon Knowles

A motion was made to elect the following as officers for 2025-26:

Chair-Gordon Knowles
Vice Chair-Robert Harris
Secretary-Tim McAuley

Moved by: Kerry Hensley
Seconded by: Dr. Philip Jones

Motion carried.

7. Approval of Agenda- (Action) - Board Chair

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the August 13, 2025 agenda.

Moved by: Kerry Hensley
Seconded by: Claudia Bulthuis

Motion carried.

8. Board Presentation - Hollie Ritter, Counselor - Student Services Updates

Hollie Ritter, Counselor spoke to board members about the ways in which Student Services and the Counseling department hope to increase student knowledge of the services available to them. Some of these include: tutoring services, disability services, and student success workshops.

Ms. Ritter shared a list of upcoming events for Fall of 2025 and explained her roles in those events.

9. Approval of Board and Committee Minutes - Board Chair

- 9.1 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2025
[Board of Trustees Meeting - Jun 11 2025 - Minutes - Html](#) 

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the June 11, 2025 Board minutes.

Moved by: Kerry Hensley
Seconded by: Dr. Tawanda Matthews

Motion carried.

10. Finance and Facilities Committee - Robert Harris

No meeting.

11. Personnel Committee - Kerry Hensley

No meeting.

12. Curriculum and Student Services Committee - Dr. Katie Dunlap

Dr. Dunlap made a motion to approve the Accountability and Integrity Plan.

Moved by: Motion from committee. No second required.

Motion carried.

12.1 [Accountability & Integrity Plan \(Action\) - Dr. Natalie Winfree](#)

13. Legislative and Institutional Status Committee - Dr. Tawanda Matthews

Dr. Matthews made a motion to approve the policies listed below, which were presented for a second reading.

Moved by: Motion from committee. No second required.

Motion carried.

13.1 Policy 3.2.19 Parental Leave Policy (NEW) - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 03.02.19 Parental Leave Policy](#) 

13.2 Policy 3.4.10 Pregnant & Parenting Employees - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 03.04.10-Pregnant & Parenting Employees](#) 

13.3 Policy 4.1.3 Curriculum Development - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 04.01.03-Curriculum Development, Procedure 4.1.3.1-Curriculum Development](#) 

13.4 Policy 4.2.4 Instructional Personnel Qualifications - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 04.02.04-Instructional Personnel Qualifications](#)

- 13.5 Policy 4.2.7 Accreditation - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 04.02.07-Accreditation, Procedure 4.2.7.1, Procedure 4.2.7.2-Non-Substantive Changes](#) 

- 13.6 Policy 6.1.2 Tuition Residency Requirements - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 06.01.02-Tuition Residency Requirements](#) 

- 13.7 Policy 6.2.9 Debt Collection - 2nd Reading (Action) - Dr. Bledsoe

[Policy 06.02.09-Debt Collection](#) 

14. Executive Leadership Reports - Dr. Chad Bledsoe

- 14.1 [**Monthly Financial Report June 2025 - Jeanette McBride**](#) 

Jeanette McBride presented the college financial reports for the month ending June 30, 2025.

The state funds ending budget balance totaled \$1,323,423 as of June 30, 2025. Of this amount, \$1,271,898 will carry forward to the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Only \$51,524 will be reverted back to the state. All but .4% of the total state budget for 2024-2025 fiscal budget was carried forward.

A discussion was held regarding questions about the unspent funds. While the amount of funds reverted was minimal, administration and Trustees discussed options for fully expending those funds and the challenges related to fully expending restricted funds.

County operating expenditures totaled \$1,006,500 or 100% of budget.

The balance in the STIF (State Treasurers Investment Fund) totaled \$222,707.

- 14.2 [**Foundation Director's Report - Susanna Kornegay**](#) 

Susanna Kornegay shared the Foundation Director's Report. For the month ending June 30, 2025, the balance of all three accounts was \$5,502,808.79. This reflects a market change

increase of \$173,418.61.

The Scholarship Awards Ceremony is scheduled for August 26, 2025 in the multipurpose room in Capel Hall.

The Annual Fall Fundraiser "Groovin for Good" is scheduled for September 26, 2025 at the Garner Center beginning at 6:00 PM. The Foundation Board of Directors is seeking items for silent auction.

14.3 **Grants Update - Korrie Ervin**

Korrie Ervin informed Board member of the Grants that were recently rewarded, as well as the applications that are still in process.

14.4 **Marketing and Public Relations Report August 2025 - Hunter Smith**

Hunter Smith presented the Marketing and Public Relations Report. The Annual Report is written and in the final stages. The Fall TrailGuide arrived in Montgomery County homes this summer.

Mr. Smith shared the most current press releases and social media statistics.

Mr. Smith discussed a new campaign called the STEPS Campaign, which is a campaign geared toward providing guidance to our students.

A request was made by a board member for a 13 month comparison on social media statistics going forward.

14.5 **Instruction and Student Services Report - Dr. Natalie Winfree**

Dr. Natalie Winfree shared the Instruction and Student Services Report, which included recent events on campus as well as upcoming events.

Dr. Winfree informed Board members that Amy Friary, Dean of Health and Human Services has earned her Doctorate in Education from Perdue Global. She and Monette Ayers, Early Childhood Education Instructor, have partnered with the Partnership for Children to launch a 3-week course offering childcare teaching credentials through Continuing Education.

MCC is strengthening foundational skills in health sciences with two new Continuing Education courses-Introduction to Pharmacology and a Medical Math Readiness Bootcamp.

Most students registered for the Fall semester prior to yesterday's late registration date, resulting in a 27% enrollment increase from this time last year.

Welding and Electrical Systems faculty are collaborating with Continuing Education and recently visited local employers, Grede and Mohawk, to strengthen workforce connections and explore new apprenticeship and training opportunities.

The Small Business Center has been working with six new clients who are interested in starting their own local small business. These business ideas are focused on food services, such as retail ice cream, international desserts, and charcuterie services.

14.6 [**CE Spring 2025 Class Visitation Log - Dr. Natalie Winfree**](#)

Dr. Winfree shared the Continuing Education Spring 2025 Class Visitation Log.

14.7 [**Facilities and Construction Update - Dr. Bledsoe**](#)

Dr. Bledsoe shared the Facilities and Construction Update including the Dental Hygiene project and it's progression. Photos were shared of the most recent updates to the dental lab.

The tier classroom chairs have been updated and the parking lots were repaired this summer.

14.8 [**Personnel Updates - Dr. Bledsoe**](#)

Dr. Bledsoe informed Board members of recent personnel updates.

15. SGA Report - Ricky Merida Nieves, SGA President

15.1 [**Student Government Association Report - Ricky Merida Nieves.pdf**](#)

Ricky Merida Nieves shared the SGA (Student Government Association) report. SGA members have been actively engaged in leadership training and preparing for the

upcoming school year.

16. President's Report - Dr. Bledsoe

16.1 [President's Activities](#)

Dr. Bledsoe shared the events that he has participated in since the last board meeting and some events he plans to attend in the near future.

Dr. Bledsoe shared his committee assignments within the NCACCP President's Association.

Dr. Bledsoe shared updates from the General Assembly and System Office.

Western Carolina sent a letter to Dr. Bledsoe regarding a recent student of MCC who has completed his BA in Engineering at Western Carolina.

Tomorrow is Quality Trails for faculty and staff and college students come back next Monday, August 18, 2025.

The NCACCT Leadership Seminar in Greensboro will be September 10-12, 2025. There are currently 10 Trustees and Dr. Bledsoe planning to attend. Any questions about the seminar and accommodations should be directed to Rene Perryman.

16.2 Allied Health Regional Partnerships

17. Chairman's Report - Board Chair

17.1 [Trustee Contact List](#)

Mr. Knowles shared the updated Trustee Contact List and hard copies were offered to each Trustee.

17.2 [Trustee Committee Assignments](#)

Mr. Knowles shared the updated Trustee Committee Assignments and hard copies were offered to each Trustee.

17.3 [Calendar of Events](#)

Mr. Knowles reminded Trustees to refer to the 2025-26 Board of Trustee Calendar for upcoming events. Hard copies were

offered to each Trustee.

17.4 Board of Trustees Appointment Letters

[Brooke Cranford Appointment Letter](#) 

[Craig Jones Appointment Letter](#) 

[Dr. Robert Nelson Appointment Letter](#) 

Mr. Knowles shared the appointment letters of our newly appointed Trustees.

18. Adjourn -(Action)- Board Chair

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Moved by: Kerry Hensley

Seconded by: Tim McAuley Sr.

Motion carried.



Chairman