



## **Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Montgomery Community College (Capel Hall)

1011 Page St.

Troy, NC 27371

### **1. Call to Order - Gordon Knowles, Chair**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Montgomery Community College was called to order on February 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM by Mr. Gordon Knowles, Chair.

#### **Board Members Present:**

Gordon Knowles, Chair; Robert Harris, Vice-Chair; Bill Price, Secretary; Claudia Bulthuis, Gelynda Capel, Dr. Katie Dunlap, Susan Eggleston, Kerry Hensley, Dr. Philip Jones; Dr. Tawanda Matthews, Timothy McAuley, and Drew Harmon, SGA President

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Mike Mills

#### **Guests Present:**

Dr. Chad Bledsoe, President; Jeanette McBride, Sr. Vice-President of Administration; Dr. Natalie Winfree, Vice-President of Instruction and Student Services; Hunter Smith, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement; Korrie Ervin, Special Projects/Grants Writer; Josh Thaxton, Systems Technician; Nancy Rupert, Beekeeping Instructor; Taylor Wolfe, Automotive Department Chair; and Rene Perryman, Executive Assistant to

the President/Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**2. Welcome and Announcements - Gordon Knowles**

Mr. Knowles welcomed the Trustees and guests.

Mr. Knowles introduced Nancy Rupert, Bee Keeping Instructor and Taylor Wolfe, Automotive Department Chair.

Nancy Rupert spoke to the board members about the importance of bees to the environment, specifically the importance of healthy queen bees.

She informed the Board that there were grants offered to North Carolina bee keepers and Montgomery County bee keepers were one of 12 applicants who were awarded one of the grants.

Ms. Rupert asked permission to use the apiary at MCC for the raising of the queen bees.

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to allow the North Carolina Beekeepers Association to use the apiary at the college for the raising of queen bees.

*Moved by:* Claudia Bulthuis

*Seconded by:* Dr. Katie Dunlap

**Motion carried.**

**3. Approval of Agenda- (Action) - Gordon Knowles**

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Moved by:* Dr. Katie Dunlap

*Seconded by:* Kerry Hensley

**Motion carried.**

**4. 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.

**5. Board Presentation - Taylor Wolfe - Automotive**

Taylor Wolfe, Automotive Department Chair shared a presentation about

the Automotive program with board members. Mr. Wolfe provided photo and video examples of different projects that his students have completed under his instruction.


**6. Approval of Board and Committee Minutes - (Action) - Gordon Knowles**


Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the January 8, 2025 Committee and Board meeting minutes.

*Moved by:* Kerry Hensley

*Seconded by:* Bill Price

**Motion carried.**

6.1 Board of Trustees Meeting - Jan 08 2025- Minutes  
[Board of Trustees Meeting - Jan 08 2025 - Minutes](#) 

6.2 Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting - Jan 08 2025 - Minutes  
[Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting - Jan 08 2025 - Minutes](#) 

**7. Finance and Facilities Committee - Robert Harris**

7.1 [2025-2026 County Budget \(Action\) - Jeanette McBride](#) 

Robert Harris, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee shared information with board members regarding the 2025-2026 County Budget request.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 County Budget request.

*Moved by:* Motion from committee. No second required.

**Motion carried.**

**8. Personnel Committee - Katie Dunlap**

No report.

**9. Curriculum and Student Services Committee - Bill Price**

9.1 [2025-2026 Academic Calendar \(Action\) - Dr. Natalie](#)

[Winfree](#) 

Bill Price, Chair of the Curriculum and Student Services Committee shared information regarding the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

Mr. Price called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

*Moved by:* Motion from committee. No second required.

**Motion carried.**

**10. Legislative and Institutional Status Committee - Kerry Hensley**

Kerry Hensley, Chair of the Legislative and Institutional Status Committee shared information with board members about the 3.3.7 and 5.3.4 Discrimination and Harassment Policies that have reverted back to the 2020 version. This was a first reading and no action was taken.

10.1 [3.3.7 Discrimination and Harassment \(First Reading\) - Dr. Bledsoe](#) 

10.2 [5.3.4 Discrimination and Harassment \(First Reading\) - Dr. Bledsoe](#) 

**11. Executive Leadership Reports - Dr. Chad Bledsoe**

11.1 [Monthly Financial Reports December 2024 - Jeanette McBride](#) 

Jeanette McBride presented the college financial reports for the month ending December 31, 2024.

State expenditures totaled \$4,946,361 as of December 31, 2024, or 41.9% of budget. Spending was in line with last year's spending.

County operating expenditures totaled \$469,299 or 46.6% of budget.

The balance in the STIF (State Treasurers Investment Fund) totaled \$217,682.

11.2 [Foundation Director's Report - Hunter Smith](#) 

Hunter Smith shared the Foundation Director's Report with

board members. For the month ending December 31, 2024, the balance of all three accounts was \$5,239,491.75. This reflects a market change decrease of \$92,001.56, due to awarding scholarships.

The 27th Annual Earle Connelly Gold Tournament will be held at Denson's Creek on April 11, 2025. Items for auctions are being collected at this time.

Mr. Smith informed board members of the Foundation meeting that took place earlier in the day and announced the recipients of the Humanitarian of the Year and Fundraiser/Friendraiser of the Year awards.

A community donor has requested that a Chad A. Bledsoe endowment be created in honor of Dr. Bledsoe's 10 years of service to the college.

11.3 **Marketing and Public Relations Report February 2025 - Hunter Smith** 

Hunter Smith presented the Marketing and Public Relations Report. The 2025 NRA Class Brochure was printed and mailed to the Gunsmithing mailing list. Mr. Smith shared the most current press releases and social media statistics.

An error was noted on the Instagram total followers amount for January 2025. The amount will be corrected before the next report.

11.4 **Grants Update - Korrie Ervin** 

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

11.5 **Facilities and Construction Update - Dr. Bledsoe** 

Dr. Bledsoe shared the Facilities and Construction update including the Workforce Development Center renovations.

**EHSI Report** 

Dr. Bledsoe informed board members that the EHSI (Environment Health and Safety Institute) conducted their annual safety inspection of the college's labs and shops only finding minor issues in building 300, which have since been

resolved.

Jeanette McBride discussed Project 2865 - Blair Hall Dental Hygiene Center bid and presented the adjusted estimate cost of this project to members of the board.

11.6 [Personnel Updates - Dr. Bledsoe](#) 

Dr. Bledsoe informed Board members of recent personnel updates.

11.7 [Instruction and Student Services Report - Dr. Natalie Winfree](#) 

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

Dr. Winfree announced that Drew Harmon was nominated for the Academic Excellence Award, as well as the names of the nominees for the Dallas Herring Achievement Award and the Bob Scott Student Leadership Award.

MCC will be hosting the Mid-Atlantic Woodsmen Meet on April 12, 2025.

**12. SGA Report - Drew Harmon, SGA President**

12.1 [Student Government Association Report - Drew Harmon](#) 

Drew Harmon, SGA President, shared the SGA Report with Board members. Mr. Harmon discussed the "Welcome Back" event held during the first two days of classes (January 13-14, 2025).

SGA Vice-President, Yanelly Merida-Oliver is scheduled to participate in the North Carolina Legislative Assembly Conference, which will take place February 21-22, 2025 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Spring Fling this year will have a "March Madness" theme, with a 3 point contest on the basketball court.

**13. President's Report - Dr. Bledsoe**

13.1 [Propel NC Update](#) 

Dr. Bledsoe shared information about Propel NC with Board members.

13.2 [2025 Legislative Contact List](#) 

Dr. Bledsoe discussed the 2025 Legislative Contact List with board members.

13.3 [MCC Mascot](#) 

Dr. Bledsoe informed Board members that some of the faculty and staff members have requested that the mascot of the college be changed to U.W. Harrie, the bigfoot. Photo examples of the new logo will be shared with Board members at the retreat in March.

13.4 [President's Report 2025-02-12.pdf](#) 

Dr. Bledsoe shared with board members the events he has participated in since the last board meeting and some events he plans to attend soon.

Dr. Bledsoe shared information with board members about the reductions in some federal grants. The reductions have had no impact on the college.

Dr. Bledsoe shared with board members that he is continually communicating with other Colleges and the about concerns regarding immigration and its impact on students. Dr. Bledsoe does not believe this is an issue directly affecting MCC.

Dr. Bledsoe informed Board members that a discussion took place with the Foundation Finance Committee about the possibility of using dedicated funds to provide employees the opportunity to take one class a year at MCC.

Dr. Bledsoe stated that the college will be updating the Facility Usage Fees charged to community members who use college facilities. This increase will more accurately reflect the costs to maintain facilities.

Dr. Bledsoe informed Board members that there will be a new sign displayed on campus. The sign will contain names of the retired MCC employees who have passed away, as well as

those employees who passed away while still employed at the college. Dr. Bledsoe asked board members for assistance in making certain the list is complete.

#### 14. Chairman's Report - Mr. Knowles

##### 14.1 Board Self Evaluation - Hunter Smith

Hunter Smith provided Board members with a handout regarding the Board of Trustees self-evaluation.

Mr. Smith asked Board members to complete the online evaluation no later than Friday, March 7, 2025.

##### 14.2 Calendar of Events - Mr. Knowles

- March Board Meeting

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to cancel the March 12, 2025 board meeting.

*Moved by:* Kerry Hensley

*Seconded by:* Dr. Katie Dunlap

**Motion carried.**

- Board Retreat

Mr. Knowles discussed the scheduled March 15, 2025 Board Retreat. The topic of the Retreat will be "Change Affecting Community Colleges".

Dr. Bledsoe informed board members that he is looking for speakers to attend who have information about how NC boards will change in the next five to ten years and how that might effect our college.

##### 14.3 President's Evaluation

President's Evaluation Schedule

- Results are reviewed by BOT at February 12, 2025 meeting
- Results discussed with Dr. Bledsoe at February 12, 2025 meeting.
- A final report sent to the State BOT by June 30, 2025.

##### 14.4 Closed Session - Presidential Evaluation (Action) - Gordon Knowles



Presidential Evaluation - Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-314.11 (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential or privileged pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 115D-27.

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to enter a closed session.

*Moved by:* Claudia Bulthuis

*Seconded by:* Gelynda Capel

**Motion carried.**

14.5 Open Session (Action) - Gordon Knowles

No action was taken during closed session.

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to go to open session.

*Moved by:* Bill Price

*Seconded by:* Dr. Tawanda Matthews

**Motion carried.**

14.6 Report on Closed Session - Gordon Knowles

Mr. Knowles stated that Board members reviewed Dr. Bledsoe's evaluation and contract during the closed session. They called Dr. Bledsoe back into the meeting to share the results with him.

**15. Adjourn - (Action) - Mr. Knowles**

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM.

*Moved by:* Kerry Hensley

*Seconded by:* Claudia Bulthuis

**Motion carried.**



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Chairman