Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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 took place on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Claudia Blair Bulthuis Boardroom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mr. Gordon Knowles, Chair.

Board Members Present:

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

Guests Present:

Dr. Chad Bledsoe, President; Jeanette McBride, Sr. Vice-President of Administrative Services/CFO; Dr. Natalie Winfree, Vice-President of Instruction and Student Services; Hunter Smith, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement; Josh Thaxton, Systems Technician; Jordon St. Onge, Taxidermy Instructor; Krista Bowers, Director of Business & Industry; Jason Davies, NCWorks Career Development Director ; Sarah Henry, Student Navigator for Continuing Education; 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, and called upon Dr. Bledsoe to

introduce the guests.

Dr Bledsoe introduced new employees, Krista Bowers, Director of Business & Industry; Jason Davies, NCWorks Career Development Director; and Sarah Henry, Student Navigator in Continuing Education.

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

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the January 14, 2026 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Claudia Bulthuis
Seconded by: Michael Mills

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.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. Board Presentation - Taxidermy - Jordan St. Onge

Jordan St. Onge, Taxidermy Instructor, was the guest speaker. Mrs. St. Onge shared information about the types of taxidermy classes that are offered at the college. During her discussion she n oted that taxidermy law is a very important part of the class and that students are encouraged to join the state taxidermy association. Mrs. St. Onge brought a squirrel mold and a completed red fox to show board members. Mrs. St. Onge answered questions from board members regarding what types of animals can be used in her class, as well as the safety measures taken to protect students.

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

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the November 12, 2025 Board and Committee meeting minutes.

Moved by: Kerry Hensley
Seconded by: Dr. Katie Dunlap

Motion carried.

6.1 Board of Trustees Meeting - Nov 12, 2025 - Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting - Nov 12 2025 - Minutes - Html

6.2 Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting - Nov 12, 2-025 - Minutes

Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting - Nov 12 2025 - Minutes - Html

6.3 Legislative and Institutional Status Committee Meeting - Nov 12, 2025 - Minutes

Legislative and Institutional Status Committee Meeting - Nov 12 2025 - Minutes - Html

7. Finance and Facilities Committee - (Action) - Robert Harris

7.1 **3-1 Health Services Lab Renovation - Jeanette McBride**

Robert Harris made a motion to approve the 3-1 Health Services Lab Renovation.

Moved by: Robert Harris

Seconded by: Motion from committee. No second required.

Motion carried.

8. Personnel Committee - Kerry Hensley

No report

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

No report

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

Dr. Tawanda Matthews informed board members of the committee meeting earlier in the evening to discuss the proposed changes to Policy 5.4.3 Student Records - FERPA. This was a first reading and required no action.

10.1 Policy 5.4.3 Student Records - FERPA - First Reading - Dr.

Bledsoe

Policy 05.04.03-Student Records-FERPA

11. Executive Leadership Reports - Dr. Chad Bledsoe

11.1 Monthly Financial Report November 2025 - Jeanette McBride

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

State expenditures totaled $4,154,880, or 35.1% of budget. County funds spending as of November 30, 2025 was $398,263 or 36.8% of budget. The amount available in the Local Funds for Capital Expenditures from the County Capital/Maintenance fund was $440,796.

Institutional funds negative balances were due to timing of reimbursements. The negative balance in Plant Operations and Maintenance is due to pending reimbursements from the county for capital/maintenance expenses. The negative balance balance in Academic Support is a pending reimbursement for NC Works expenses. The negative balance in Student Aid is primarily due from students.

The balance in the STIF (State Treasurers Investment Fund) was $226,820.

11.2 Foundation Director's Report - Hunter Smith

Hunter Smith presented the Foundation Directors Report for the month ending November 30, 2025. The fund balance for all three accounts was $5,930,857.77. This reflects a market change increase of $13,318.84.

The 2025 donations as of November 30, 2025 were $448,316.89.

Mr. Smith reminded board members of the upcoming Earle Connelly Memorial Golf Tournament on April 10, 2026 at Denson's Creek.

11.3 Grants Report - Korrie Ervin

No report.

11.4 **Marketing and Public Relations Report - Hunter Smith**

Mr. Smith presented the Marketing and Public Relations Report and shared the most current press releases, as well as information about the recent Trail Guide and social media statistics.

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

Dr. Bledsoe updated board members on the Dental Hygiene Project, the Materials Lab, the 103A Renovation, and the 151B Immersive Room Project.

11.6 **Personnel Updates - Dr. Chad Bledsoe**

Dr. Bledsoe shared the most recent personnel updates.

11.7 **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 reminded board members about the MLK Day Challenge on Monday, January 19, 2026.

Dr. Winfree will be attending the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 20-23, 2026, with a few Gunsmithing faculty members.

Wendy Grissom, Nursing Instructor passed Certified Nurse Educator Exam with a 96%.

Questions regarding the SCI Forestry Program details and criteria were answered.

Dr. Bledsoe shared that MCC enrollment is up about 9% and FTE is up about 5% for the Spring semester.

Dr. Bledsoe discussed the new college website implementation coming soon.

12. SGA Report - Ricky Merida Nieves, SGA President

12.1 **Student Government Association Report - Ricky Merida Nieves**

Ricky Merida Nieves shared the SGA (Student Government

Association) report. Some events discussed were the November 13, 2025 Thankful Thursday event, in which the SGA provided a meal for faculty, staff and students, the December 11, 2025 Winterfest event. During this event Christmas cards that were given to local nursing homes. The SGA also participated in the local Christmas parades, and sponsored two children from the Christmas Tree of Hope. Activities for the Spring of 2026 are underway.

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

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

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

14.1 **Board of Trustee Calendar 2025-26**

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

Mr. Knowles referenced the March 14, 2026 date for the Board of Trustees retreat. The Woodrun Conference Center is not available on March 14, 2026. Other dates for the retreat were discussed. The new date of the retreat will be March 28, 2026.

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to move the Board of Trustees retreat date to March 28, 2026.

Moved by: Kerry Hensley
Seconded by: Michael Mills

Motion carried.

14.2 **Ethics Training & Statement of Economic Interest** - Dr. Bledsoe

Dr. Bledsoe reminded board members to review their ethics training due date and to fill out the SEI (Statement of Economic Interest) forms online before April 15, 2026.

14.3 Board Retreat Discussion

The Board of Trustees retreat will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Conference Center at Woodrun. Breakfast will

be served at 8:30 AM.

15. Adjourn - (Action) - Mr. Knowles

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

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

Motion carried.

Chairman