Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 15, 2026

Montgomery Community College (Capel Hall)

1011 Page St.

Troy, NC 27371

1. Call to Order - Gordon Knowles, Chair

A special meeting of the Montgomery Community College Board of Trustees took place on Monday, June 15, 2026, in the Claudia Blair Bulthuis Boardroom.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Mr. Gordon Knowles, Chair.

Board Members Present:

Gordon Knowles, Board Chair; Claudia Bulthuis, Brooke Cranford, Dr. Katie Dunlap, Kerry Hensley, Dr. Philip Jones, Mike Mills, and Dr. Robert Nelson via Teams (12:05 PM)

Board Members Absent:

Robert Harris, Vice-Chair; Tim McAuley, Secretary; Craig Jones, Dr. Tawanda Matthews, and Michael Butcher, SGA President

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; Korrie Ervin, Special Projects Coordinator/Grants Writer; Tammy Dunn, Editor - Montgomery Herald; 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.

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

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to approve the June 16, 2026 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Dr. Katie Dunlap; seconded by: Kerry Hensley

The 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. County Budget Allotment Discussion - Gordon Knowles

Board members discussed the Montgomery County Commissioners' decision not to approve the College's request for an increase in county funding for the upcoming year. The request included an $86,000 increase to the College's operating budget and $60,000 to provide employee retention bonuses for faculty and staff. The requested bonus funding represented a $10,000 increase over the $50,000 provided by the County during the previous year.

Board members discussed the reason given by the Montgomery County Commissioners for denying the College's funding request, which was dissatisfaction regarding recent Trustee appointment requests. Specifically, Mr. Gordon Knowles, who otherwise would have sought appointment through the Montgomery County Commissioners, instead requested appointment through the North Carolina House of Representatives. Conversely, Dr. Philip Jones, whose term as a Trustee appointed by the Montgomery County Board of Education is expiring, submitted his application for reappointment through the Montgomery County Commissioners, as the local Board of Education is no longer an appointing authority under current state law.

Mr. Knowles stated that Dr. Jones had expressed concerns about his reappointment and chose to seek appointment through the Montgomery County Commissioners. Accordingly, Dr. Jones submitted his application to the Montgomery County Commissioners, while Mr. Knowles submitted his application to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The Board was informed that the College attorney was consulted and advised that it is neither unethical nor illegal for a Trustee to seek appointment through a different appointing authority than the one that previously appointed the Trustee. Following the 2023 changes to state law governing community college Trustee appointments, many current Trustees were originally appointed by authorities that no longer have appointment authority. The attorney also confirmed that there is no statute or regulation prohibiting an individual from seeking appointment through more than one appointing authority.

Board members discussed concerns regarding the impact that the lack of additional county funding and employee retention bonuses will have on the College, its faculty, and staff. Future discussion to explore cost-saving measures and budget reductions is anticipated.

6. Adjourn - (Action) - Gordon Knowles

Mr. Knowles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:49 PM.

Moved by: Kerry Hensley; seconded by: Brooke Cranford

The motion carried.



Chairman