

The regular meeting of the Montgomery County R-II Board of Education was held on the 15th in the Montgomery City Elementary Cafeteria. During the Executive Session the board accepted the resignation of Shirley Fendrick, from her Parent Educator position with the Parents as Teachers. The board approved the moving of Darla Hoffman, from the evening custodial position, to the lead position at the high school. This is due to the retirement of Maggie Smith. The board also accepted the resignations of John Klekamp (assistant football coach) and April McCown (middle school track). The board also nominated Alyssa Thomas, as the Montgomery County R-II representative for the MSBA Belcher Scholarship. She was selected from five other applications and those were: Shelby Wergers, Elizabeth Queathem, Devon Twellman, Stephen Kroeger, and Amanda Gilbert. Her application will go up against others in this region with each regional winner receiving a \$750 scholarship and then one is chosen from the 17 regions for a \$1,500 scholarship. The students were required to submit an essay on the topic of achievement gaps in poverty compared to achievement levels of students in general.

At 7:30 the Montgomery County R-II Board of Education went into regular session. During recognition Madonna Pund recognized Mitch Jenkins for his sponsorship of the Pack Club. This organization focuses on school spirit and community service. Their most recent project was a toy collection before the holiday break. The club collected over 600 toys that were delivered to children at St. John's Mercy Children's Hospital in St. Louis. Mrs. Pund also recognized the winners of the "Academy Awards of Learning". This project was put into place to address the question "what do we do when our students already know the content?" Students were encouraged to work individually or in groups to complete a learning project of their choice. The winners were: 1st Brandon Bethel-"Art in its Works"-2nd Kayla Ogden, Courtney Kinder, and Savannah Hurt-"3-D School" and 3rd Jenni Puckett, "Horse Breeds." The students displayed their projects and were accompanied at the meeting by their parents. Anita Davis (Montgomery City Elementary) and Janice Edgar (Bellflower), was recognized for their work in writing two grants that will sponsor field trips for students. The board recognized the importance of these grants as opportunities that students would not normally have to achieve learning experiences outside the district. Dr. Ward presented all the board members with certificates of appreciation for their dedication to all students in the Montgomery County R-II School District. The week of January 25 thru 31 is School Board Appreciation Week across the State of Missouri.

Under Previous Business the board heard a report from Bart Korman on the sidewalk that will connect the city with the walking trail around the middle and high schools. This project is said to start in early summer with the hope of eliminating those walking on Hwy 19 and patrons to have a direct access to the walking trail.

In New Business the board approved the Department of Conservation Grant submitted by Anita Davis and the Target Grants submitted by Janice Edgar and Anita Davis. The board also amended the 2008-09 calendar to include January 19 and February 16 as days of student attendance.

Reports were submitted by Mendi Baclesse (Special Education Director) and Janet Stumbaugh (Assistant Superintendent). In her report on Resources Standards, Mrs. Stumbaugh was very appreciative of the board support in maintaining the "desirable" level of standards for the district, "because without your (the boards) support we could not get this accomplished." In the superintendents report Dr. Ward

updated the board on the completion of the hot water in the Montgomery City Elementary, repair of the high school boiler, and replacing of drains and pit cleaning in the high school science lab. He invited members to meetings on January 28th at 9:00 and 1:00. At this time Dr. Ward will hear the findings from two energy audits completed in December. With prior conversation concerns needing to be addressed will be the roofs at the high and middle schools and the boiler at the high school. Dr. Ward presented the board with a schedule of activities, from Holly Neske, district nurse. These are exercise opportunities that are offered through the I Can Grant for both students and adults. Dr. Ward presented the board with data that will be used in the formation of the 2009-2010 school budget. Data presented represented the current membership count in a comparison to previous years. Over the past five years the district enrollment has been declining at a rate of 10 students per year. In the previous five year period the rate was 22 students per year. If the trend continues the rate should drop to 5 students per year for the next five years. In one area of increase is at the elementary, with an average increase of 8 students per year. The two elementary schools that have shown growth has been Montgomery City Elementary and Jonesburg. Dr. Ward asked the board to appoint a committee of three members to work with the administrators in reviewing possible areas of cutbacks for the next budget. The district has been deficit spending and will continue until the 2014 budget year based on the financial plan adopted in 2006. This year's budget has a projected deficit of \$500,000. All three sources of revenue (local taxes, state formula and federal) are on a decline. "With the economic outlook of the state, the district needs to be proactive in keeping on track with the adopted 2006 financial plan," stated Dr. Ward. One of the areas the district has been cutting back has been capital projects and with aging buildings this needs to be a priority. The board selected Heath Sellenriek, Laurie Sippel, and John Woods to work with the administrators in this process. In other news the board will be involved with a "Retreat Callback" on February 4th, from 3:30 until 7:00, in the High School Library. At this time the board, along with administrators, will meet with Kevin Daniels to review district progress on the "4 questions."

The next meeting of the Montgomery County R-II Board of Education will be February 12th, in the Middle School Math Pod.