

Montgomery ISD trustees presented with clean fiscal year financial audit

Board Trustees also adopt Course Selection Guide for 2022-23 school year during regular monthly meeting

December 14, 2021 - The Montgomery ISD Board of Trustees met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 14.

During the meeting, trustees were presented with and accepted the results of the district's annual fiscal year financial audit. The district's third-party audit firm issued a clean audit that resulted in a significant deposit of revenues into the district's general Maintenance and Operations fund. The increase to the fund balance was a result of additional revenues and efficient management of the district's budget. Additionally, when financial ratings are released next year, the district expects to receive high marks as a result of the audit.

"Sound fiscal management is an area we highly prioritize as a district and Board of Trustees," Board President Matt Fuller said. "We are extremely pleased by the results of this year's audit, and the deposit into the general fund balance is a clear indication that our financial house is in order and the district's budgets are being managed responsibly and effectively."

Montgomery ISD Trustees also adopted the 2022-23 academic year secondary Course Selection Guide, which includes additions to course offerings at both the high school and junior high school levels. Each spring, current and incoming students at the secondary level select courses offered in the district's Course Selection Guide. Key changes include adding additional Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit courses, including the AP Capstone Program, which encourages students to enroll in and take exams for AP courses.

Increasing the number of students participating in at least one advanced academic course is a stated goal in the district's [Pathway to Premier strategic plan](#).

In addition to increasing AP and Dual Credit course offerings, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) section of the district's course guide has been enhanced to more adequately reflect how CTE courses offered by MISD are connected to career pathways and industry-based certifications. The changes to the course selection guide include additional offerings in

Animal Science, Ag Mechanics, Plant Science, Architectural Design, Entrepreneurship, Manufacturing, STEM and Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security.

The Junior High Course Selection Guide also has a change in Career and Technical Education. Students will now take one of five courses that align with high school CTE pathways, including Principles of Applied Engineering, Agriculture, Health Science, Human Services, and Business, Marketing & Finance.

"Continuing to grow and enhance Career and Technical Education opportunities for students in Montgomery ISD has been a major focus of district leadership and our community, and our Course Selection Guide reflects this priority," Superintendent Dr. Heath Morrison said. "We believe that every Montgomery ISD student, when they receive their diploma, should be well prepared for the college or career opportunity of their choice, and CTE is critical to this value we hold as a district."

Trustees also voted to extend the contract of Superintendent Dr. Heath Morrison by one year, through August 2026.

"Dr. Morrison continues to show his commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, sound budget management and engaging with the community in a collaborative and transparent manner," Fuller said. "As a Board, we're looking forward to working together with his leadership to continue to achieve great things for our students, staff and families."

Trustees also voted on a district health insurance plan. Currently, Montgomery ISD offers both TRS-ActiveCare and the Texas School Health Benefits Plan (TSHBP) to employees. Under Senate Bill 1444, which was enacted by the Texas legislature earlier this year, school districts may only offer one healthcare plan option to employees and must make a decision by December 31, 2021.

After several meetings with staff members across the district to share information and gather input and feedback, district administration recommended TSHBP as the Montgomery ISD healthcare plan moving forward. Trustees approved the district's recommendation, which is set to take effect in the 2022-23 school year.

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