



THE CHAIR'S REPORT

APRIL 2025

SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Message from Chair Dorse Coleman

Dear MSCS Supporter,

Welcome to the latest edition of "The Chair's Report." This monthly e-newsletter provides activity highlights, offers updates on key issues facing the school District and shares the Board's position with you.

GREATNESS GROWS HERE

As we embrace this season of renewal and growth, we're excited to share that our district is blooming with promise under our new theme: "Greatness Grows Here." This theme reflects our deep belief in the potential of every student, every educator and every school within Memphis-Shelby County Schools. It speaks to the daily efforts happening in our classrooms and communities to cultivate excellence, equity and opportunity for all.

In the spirit of growth and collaboration, we want to share an important legislative update. The proposed takeover legislation targeting Memphis-Shelby County Schools and the Shelby County Board of Education has been deferred until next year's legislative session. This gives our Board a critical opportunity to continue working collaboratively with state and local legislators on solutions that drive student achievement, while respecting the will of Shelby County voters.



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This Board is committed to maintaining open, respectful dialogue with both the State of Tennessee and the Shelby County Commission. We are eager to continue discussions about our district's needs and the ways in which legislators can support our vision moving forward. We look forward to that dialogue and partnership.

Thank you for being part of a community where greatness is not only possible—it's already growing. Together, let's keep nurturing it.

CHAIR CHAT

Board Chair Joyce Dorse Coleman has been busy at work recording new episodes of Chair Chat. Stay tuned for new episodes coming soon.

BOARD CHAIR COLEMAN AND VICE CHAIR LOVE SIT DOWN WITH ALEX COLEMAN

Board Chair Joyce Dorse Coleman and Board Vice Chair Stephanie Love recently sat down with Alex Coleman on WREG News Channel 3 to talk about efforts for MSCS students and the state takeover legislation. [Click here to watch the full interview.](#)

2025–2026 PRE-K ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is now open for our Head Start/Pre-K program. Every year, students who attend an MSCS Early Childhood Program score higher in Kindergarten readiness and outperform peers on District goals for foundational skills, literacy and more. To be eligible, your child must be 3 or 4 years old before August 15, 2025 and live in Shelby County. Visit scsk12.org/prek to enroll today.



(L-R) Board Chair Joyce Dorse Coleman with 88.5 FM and C19TV General Manager John Best.

2025–2026 REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2025–26 school year is open. All students who attend any MSCS school need to register annually. This applies to new and returning students. Visit scsk12.org/registration to register today.



(L-R) WREG News Channel 3 Anchor Alex Coleman with Board Chair Joyce Dorse Coleman and Board Vice Chair Stephanie Love.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIANS

MSCS recently hosted a celebratory dinner in honor of our 2025 valedictorians and salutatorians. Board members and Interim Superintendent Dr. Roderick Richmond were in attendance to recognize these outstanding students. Each valedictorian was awarded \$1,500, and each salutatorian received \$1,000. We are incredibly proud of our graduates and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS

- Board Member Sable Otey will host a town hall meeting for District 5 on Wednesday, May 7, at 6 p.m. at Chimneyrock Elementary School.
- Board Member Tamarques Porter will host a town hall meeting for District 4 on Thursday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m. at Southwind High School.

ON A FINAL NOTE

As April draws to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone across Memphis-Shelby County Schools for your continued dedication and resilience. Spring is a season of renewal and reflection, and this month has given us an opportunity to look ahead with purpose while celebrating the progress we've made together.

From state assessments to spring events, our students and staff have shown tremendous focus and energy. I've been inspired by the commitment I've seen in classrooms, at community gatherings and in the efforts of our school leaders who continue to push for excellence in every corner of our District.




Looking ahead, we are preparing for the end of the school year, summer learning opportunities and a strong transition into the next academic year. With every decision we make, the Board remains focused on one goal: student success.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. Your support is the foundation of our District's strength, and I look forward to continuing this work—together.

**Joyce Dorse Coleman, Chair,
Shelby County Board of Education**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education wants to stay connected to you. We have created social media platforms for you to follow the work of your school board directly. Follow us on:

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|  | Facebook | mcsk12board |
|  | Instagram | mcsk12board |
|  | Twitter/X | mcsk12board |

Your school board members look forward to connecting with you.

IMPORTANT DATES

District 5 Town Hall Meeting at Chimneyrock Elementary

- May 7

District 4 Town Hall Meeting at Southwind High School

- May 8

Commencement Ceremonies (Various Schools)

- May 10–22

May Board Work Session

- May 13

2nd Semester Exams

- April 29

Last Day of School

- May 23

May Board Business Meeting

- May 27

Summer Learning Academy & Promotional Summer School

- June 2–30

All Board Business Meetings and Work Sessions can be joined in person, viewed live online and on C19TV, or heard on 88.5FM.