



Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting of Thursday, January 12, 2017

- Beginning at 6 pm, Ms. Wanda Arrowood called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
 - Mr. Tim West led the pledge of allegiance.
 - Mr. Paul Brown read the mission statement.
 - The agenda was accepted as presented.
 - The Minutes from the December 8, 2016 board meeting were approved as presented.
 - Ms. Arrowood called for public comment and there was none.
 - Ms. Debra Morgan of Turner & Co. appeared to present the 2015/2016 Financial Statements. During her presentation, Ms. Morgan informed the Board that Turner & Co. has expressed a clean opinion of the School System—which is the highest possible opinion for such an audit—and was a result of no violations. She went on to provide information about the various components of the audit.
 - Mr. Winfield Clonts delivered a report from the Financial Planning Subcommittee meeting held January 5, 2017. During his report, Mr. Clonts addressed a planned vehicle replacement schedule, a planned assessment of the AHS gym/cafeteria roof, proposal for performing loading dock repairs at PES, proposal for the installation of a scoreboard for the MHS baseball team at Konehete Park, and repair of a concrete wall around the kindergarten building at Marble Elementary.
 - Ms. Stephanie Hass appeared and provided follow-up information about the 2015/2016 Financial Statements. She went into more detail about fund balances and an accounting procedural error noted during the audit and steps put in place to prevent such procedural error from occurring in the future. Following this, Ms. Hass presented several budget amendments for consideration. Those amendments were:
 - 1) Amendment to the State Public School Fund
 - 2) Amendment to the Capital Projects Fund and use of ½ Cent Sales tax in the amount of \$9,050 for use as follows:
 - i. PES loading dock repairs by Wells & West.....\$2,050
 - ii. MHS baseball scoreboard project by Major Display, Inc.....\$7,000
 - 3) Amendment to the Grants, Donations, and Reimbursements Fund
 - The amendments and usage of ½ cent sales tax were approved as presented.
 - Mr. Jeff Tatham delivered the Policy Subcommittee recommendations by announcing policies for second reading. Those policies presented are:
 - 3565/8307 Title I Program Comparability of Service (new)
 - 6442 Vendor Lists
 - 7650 Employee Travel & Other Expense Reimbursement (new)
 - 8000 Fiscal Goals
 - 8100 Budget Planning & Adoption
 - 8210 Grants & Funding for Special Projects
 - 8305 Federal Grant Administration (new)
 - 8510 School Finance Officer
 - 9000 Planning to Address Facility Needs
 - 9110 Use & Selection of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, & Construction Managers at Risk
- The policies were adopted as presented. Next, Mr. Tatham presented policies for first reading as prepared by the Policy Subcommittee:
- 3460 Graduation Requirements
 - 3620 Extracurricular Activity & Student Organizations
 - 3620-R-(MS) Middle School Athletic Regulatory Policy
 - 4003 Translating Policies for Students and Parents (new)
 - 9115 Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects

- 9120 Bidding for Construction Work
- 9400 Sale, Disposal, & Lease of Board-Owned Real Property
- Dr. Jeana Conley delivered her Superintendent’s report. She began by commending the CCS team who went above and beyond their duties to conduct bus route drivability inspections in the wake of the snow storm. Next, she addressed a necessary school calendar modification made in light of the missed days due to the snow. Dr. Conley explained that an optional teacher work day was swapped in order to afford high school principals the window of opportunity to conduct mandated testing. Following this, Dr. Conley congratulated the Andrews Wild Cats for their performance at the Outback Bowl stating that the band was awarded 1st place in the Jazz Class 1 and 1st place in the Field Show Class 1. She went on to inform the board that the judge of the jazz competition asked parents in attendance to inform “our superintendent” that Mrs. Parker is the best band director he has ever seen in 40 years! Next, Dr. Conley congratulated the Murphy High School football team on winning the State Championship! Dr. Conley next expressed heartfelt gratitude for the many years of service of Ms. Jennifer White during her employment with CCS and sincerely wished her well as she resigns to pursue a new career. Following this, Dr. Conley announced the approval of an overnight fieldtrip for MES’ Junior Beta Club to visit the Ripley’s Aquarium of the Smokies on March 30, 2017. Next, Dr. Conley announced good news items reported from school principals:
 - From Andrews Elementary:
 - 1) AES PTA received a \$7,500 grant for playground improvements. The grant was written by Sarah Tatham, AHS teacher and parent of two AES students. We are thrilled to have rolled our chromebooks at a 2:1 ratio in 5th grade.
 - From Andrews Middle:
 - 1) Under the supervision of Brittany Pleasants and Charlene Rickett, AMS students produce and broadcast daily news via this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqcOjw0IaQ7aSivJyJBkJWQ>
 - 2) Google Classroom News Room page for broadcast:
<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjQzODQxMzc3Mlpa>
 - 3) Mrs. Kendra Gibson was awarded a 3D printer by writing a grant through Donor’s Choose.
 - 4) Ms. Gentry is implementing a peer helping program similar to Big Brothers Big Sisters with middle school students who have graduated from Behavior Intervention Plans. These students engage in leadership opportunities by mentoring other students through the encouragement of positive behavior, promoting academic progress, and sharing anti bullying rhetoric.
 - 5) Andrews Valleytown Baptist Church (Pastor Eric Byrd) has sponsored AMS by volunteering and leading FCA.
 - From Hiwassee Dam E/M:
 - 1) We had a successful Chorus and Band performance right before the holidays. It was such a pleasure to watch the High School and Middle School Bands perform musical pieces together!
 - 2) Elementary students gave a Christmas performance for parents, community members, middle and high school students on December 20. It was such a heartwarming and beautiful experience that many of the audience members, including Mrs. Tipton, were brought to tears.
 - 3) Today the HD Seniors presented their Senior projects to our elementary students (PK-5) in the format of a job fair. The Seniors did an excellent job detailing the careers that they had researched and shadowed in a kid-friendly manner, and the students enjoyed learning about a variety of professions from the High Schoolers whom they look up to. What a wonderful opportunity for our students and a great benefit of sharing a combined campus!
 - From Hiwassee Dam HS:
 - 1) Local Businesses have been very receptive and generous to donate items and gift cards for our attendance reward incentive program. These programs have paid off by increasing our number of eligible students from 78 in the first grading period to 141 in the second grading period. Two of our SIP goals were to increase attendance and increase our community relations.
 - 2) Our Band and Chorus performance before Christmas was very successful.
 - 3) One of our teachers and her husband are stepping up to take legal custody of one of our students who lost their mother before Christmas. This is preventing the student from being placed into a group home. This emphasizes our family atmosphere among our staff and students.
 - 4) Our seniors are in the process of presenting senior projects. They are presenting them in the form of a job fair to our elementary classes. Both groups seem to be enjoying the interaction.

- From Martins Creek E/M School:
 - 1) In lieu of exchanging gifts at Christmas, the MCS 4th grade students brought toys, school supplies, and toiletries to donate to the El Palomar Ranch Orphanage in Campeche, Mexico. Miss Lynette Aiken issued a challenge of 100 items donated for students to earn an ice cream party. The 4th grade more than doubled this challenge and contributed 208 items. Miss Lynette Aiken rewarded them with ice cream sundaes, pizza and sprite. Lynette, a freshman at Tri-County Community College and recent graduate of AHS, is a frequent volunteer at MCS. She hand-delivered the donated items to the orphanage in Campeche, where she is currently doing mission work.
 - 2) The 5th grade class made Christmas cards, which were delivered to patients at the Vantage Oncology Center in Blairsville, GA. Patients were touched and encouraged by the hand-made cards, which Mr. Sellers delivered in person.
 - 3) Art students in all grades sent many beautiful creations to recovering service men and women in the Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda, Md. (with the help of volunteer John Worden). The artwork was previously on display at the school for local Veterans.
 - 4) Students in Kathy Casey's 4th grade class recently donated dozens of pet-related items to the Valley River Humane Society.
 - 5) This was the third installment in their series of giving, coming after donations to hurricane victims and firefighters. The class received an incredibly moving, anonymous thank-you letter from the wife of one firefighter who explained that the students' cards completely changed her perspective on being alone during Thanksgiving while her husband battled forest fires.
 - 6) 115 students in grades 3-8 earned A's in conduct the first grading period at MCS, which is just under 80% of the students in these grade levels.
 - 7) In addition to filling one and a half toy-collection boxes, MCS also donated \$150 to Toys for Tots.
 - 8) As part of her unit focusing on character development, counselor Katelyn Truett challenged MC middle school students to support a local food drive for the Sharing Center. Students collected and donated 407 food items in response.
- From Murphy Elementary School:
 - 1) Mrs. Johnson in third grade was awarded the Target Field Trip Grant to go to Zoo in Atlanta. It is worth \$700.00. This is the second year that she has received this grant.
 - 2) Fifth grade will be 1:1 with Chromebooks in the matter of a few weeks. Teachers have begun working with the technology team to be proficient in google classroom.
- From Ranger E/M School:
 - 1) Tracy Allen will be retiring February 1st. She devoted 30 years to Ranger School. She will be greatly missed.
 - 2) April Twiggs - PreK Assistant and Barb Lovett - REMS PTA President completed their Fall Semester with Academic Honors from TCCC. They had 12 or more credit hours with a 3.5 GPA or greater for that semester.
 - 3) REMS Robotics Team will compete for State this weekend in Greensboro, NC. The team is under the direction of Mrs. Brookins and Mrs. Gagnon.
 - 4) Middle School Students attended a college basketball game at Young Harris College. The event was a big success.
 - 5) Ranger Students performed their "White Christmas" program on December 20th. The "Ranger Keys" gave honor and recognition to our Military.
 - 6) REMS very own teacher, Mrs. Holliday submitted a request for a grant entitled "Patterson Partnership" and she received \$1,600 to rejuvenate the school library.
 - 7) Middle School Team is implementing STEM activities across the middle school curriculum. Their goal is to become a STEM school.
 - 8) While students were out for the holidays, they continued to work on their Math and Reading skills through the program entitled Moby Max. Growth was made even while school was out.
 - 9) Elementary grades are being assessed by mClass. Even with the snow hindering assessment, the students and teachers are very positive that they will do well with the assessment.

- Mr. Paul Brown read the motion to adjourn to break and closed session. The motion is approved.
- A motion was made to return to open session. The motion is approved.

- When the Board returned to open session, the following actions were taken:

- **The Board approved the following Retirement and Resignations**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position & Assignment,</i>	<i>Type of Request</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Tracy Allen	Teacher, REMS	Retirement	02/01/2017
Jennifer White	Dir. Technology, Dist.	Resignation	01/20/2017
Sandra Smith	21 st CCLC Site Dir, MES	Resignation	Upon being replaced

- **The Board approved the following Leaves of Absence:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position & Assignment</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates of Leave</i>
Amanda Barton-Patterson	Teacher, AES	02/17/2017—06/12/2017
Marsha Mashburn	TA, AES	12/13/2016—01/10/2017
Mandy Postell	Cafeteria, AES	01/11/2017—02/22/2017

- **The Board approved the following hiring recommendations**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Additional Duty Assignment</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Jason Forrister	English Learner Support Coach, District	01/13/2017
Julie Aiken	English Learner Support Coach, District	01/13/2017
Kattia Higdon	English Learner Support Coach, District	01/13/2017

- **The Board approved the following substitute teachers**

- Alicia Adamovich
- Abby Hayes
- Sandra Wheeler

- **School Nutrition Substitute**

- Mary Cook
- Iva Gracey

- **The Board approved the following Helping Hands Volunteers**

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Application Renewal Date</i>
Daniel Allen	MMS	Baseball	01/12/2018
Jeremiah Brinke	MMS	Wrestling	01/12/2018
Stacy Cornwell	MMS	Baseball	01/12/2018
Andrew Mashburn	REMS	Basketball	01/12/2018

- Ms. Arrowood announced the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, February 9, 2017 beginning at 6 pm at Central Office.
- It was announced the Financial Planning Subcommittee & Policy Subcommittee would meet on February 2, 2017 at Central Office with the Financial Planning meeting to begin at 4 pm and the Policy meeting following immediately after.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.