

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held on Thursday, February 10, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at Murphy High School.

Thank you to those Principals and Administrators attending: Cindy Bean, Kim Gibson, Tom Graham, Virginia Haynes, Arnold Mathews, Delaine MacDonald, Barry McClure, Mike Penninger, Phil Pressley, Andy Pyle, Boyd Shields, Paul Wilson, Jodi Alverson, Jamie Barnett, Mike Campbell, Kenny Garland, Terelle Harr, Jeana Hardin, Brent Hendin, DavAnn Hubbard, Karen Kephart, Carol Sims, and Gary Wright

- Mr. Randy Barnett called the meeting to order.
- Mr. Boyd Shields, Principal of Murphy High School, welcomed all in attendance and said the invocation.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Erik Brinke read the Mission Statement.
- The Agenda and Minutes were approved as presented.
- There was no public input.
- The Teacher Cadets of MHS played a DVD presentation for the Board outlining the Teacher Cadet program and the impact it has on education.
- The MHS Student Government Association (SGA) gave a power point presentation to the Board outlining their plans and goals. The Board granted the SGA \$500 to achieve their goals for this school year.
- Dr. Stephen Lane recognized Coach David R. Gentry for his many accomplishments during his 4 decades as Head Coach as well as his many contributions as Athletic Director to the athletic program of MHS. In addition, Dr. Lane recognized Tyler Mulligan - Defensive Line; Jonathan Lovingood – Linebacker; Chris Edwards - All around Athlete; Seth Curtis - Quarterback and Offensive Player of the Year, for being named to All State for their sport as well as recognized the MHS football team for making it to the State championships. Additionally, he recognized these athletes for being named as All SMC, All Western NC, and All State. Dr. Lane also recognized Devin Traub and Michael Herring for their accomplishments on the MHS Track Team and for qualifying for the State Cross Country meet.
- Dr. Lane recognized Ms. Vivian Johnson, Battle of the Books coordinator and Ms. Margi Brownback, 5th grade teacher & reading coach, and her Battle of the Books team representing Ranger School: Jessica Beckner, Abby Carder, Lucas Garland, Abigail Jacobs, Cole Lovingood, Daisy Mashburn, Kirsten Pckelsimer, Reanna Revis, Ryvers Stewart, Cade Tipton, Willy Wells, and Tyler Standridge for winning this year's Battle of the Books competition. Dr. Lane also congratulated Martins Creek School and Peachtree School for coming in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.
- Dr. Lane and Ms. Cindi Herr recognized the team from Murphy Middle School SADD but TRU club as the Quiz Bowl champions for 2011. Those recognized were: Rachel Lay, Danielle Crabtree, Robin Walker, Stephen O'Bryon, J.D. Owens, and Hayley Duncan. In addition, Ms. Herr presented an update to the board on the SADD but TRU program.
- Dr. Lane and Mr. Erik Brinke updated the Board on the Martins Creek Solar Array. Dr. Lane stated that the commissioning date is scheduled for February 18, 2011. He also announced that Duke Energy has expressed interest in establishing Solar Arrays at other Cherokee County school locations.
- Mr. Mike Cox recommended the Board approve awarding of the base bid and alternates 2, 4, and 7 for the Andrews Building B construction project to Western Builders of Sylva, Inc. The contract and alternates were approved.
- Ms. Ginger Hatchett provided an Audited Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010.
- Ms. Terelle Harr proposed an amendment for the Local Current Expense, and Capital Projects fund which included the Andrews High School Renovation fund. The amendments were approved. Additionally, Ms. Harr presented the board with a resolution to finance computer lab needs at Hiwassee Dam Elementary,

Martins Creek, Murphy Elementary, Peachtree and Ranger. The resolution was approved as presented. Ms. Harr also presented the board with an application to use lottery revenues for payment of debt services on the Ranger School addition. The application was approved.

- Mr. Barnett opened the floor to hear nominations for the School Foundation Board. Dr. David Ackerman nominated Ms. Wanda Arrowood for this position. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Winfield Clonts. The nomination was approved.
- There were no policies for second reading. Several were heard for first reading: 1310/4002 Parental Involvement; 3405 Student At-Risk of Academic Failure; and 7500 Workday.
- Dr. Lane gave the Superintendent's Report as follows: The weather continues to plague us but it looks like next week we are in for some sunshine. We are now into the third year of a severe weather pattern. According to the meteorologists we are in a North Atlantic Oscillation weather pattern. This pattern will essentially mimic a pattern that existed during the 1950s, 60s, and 70s and can last for decades. With this continued inclement weather pattern, we are adding a three hour delay option to consider when determining whether we can hold school. When compared to having school on Saturday, this delay is much preferred because the academic time is better and less disruptive. We will begin informing parents that this is something that we will be using when necessary. Today, in fact, would have been a perfect day to use the three hour delay. Additionally, all of our bus drivers know where the problematic routes are and we're going to look at establishing some limited routing in the event of icy or bad conditions. Secondary, less traveled roads usually prove to be the most troublesome for our drivers, so in an effort to give us more options, we're going to add the three hour delay. We will be discussing the possibility of sectional closures but because our routes are currently configured for maximum efficiency this will be difficult to do. The numerous logistical issues will ultimately require us to add additional busses---and at \$80,000 cost per bus, that's not an option we would want to implement.
- I'd like to really compliment all of our bus drivers. Their cooperation, along with the efforts of our principals created a super team effect. Bryan Kilpatrick, Libby Thigpen, Bill Waldroup, and Randy Phillips are out there every morning on the roads and Gary Wright is watching the radar, providing updates. I think, adding the three hour delay option along with the great bus drivers that we have, will allow us to continue to deal with the weather conditions in order to conduct school for our kids.
- This month is Love the Bus month. It's a National campaign that's held during the month of February and is coordinated by the American School Bus Council as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for school bus drivers. Bus Drivers are the first people our kids see in the morning and the last they see at the end of the day and sometimes our drivers really set the pace for the students in the morning. All of our schools are doing some recognition event for our drivers at different times and we will be getting that information out to everyone. So, if you see a bus driver, give them a "thank you" because it is a tough job and they all take it very seriously and do a wonderful job.
- I'm pleased to report that through the hard work of Ms. Jennifer Cable, Murphy High School received a \$1500 grant from Snap-On Tools. Thanks to Mr. Alan Williams of Snap-On Tools for their great support.
- The Hiwassee Valley River Coalition will be working on the eroding bank by the MHS track to prevent further erosion damage. They plan to have this problem corrected within 7 to 10 days.
- Jenni Irwin, who also works with Cindi Herr, has a program grant that allowed her to purchase a camera system for the Vocational building at MHS to complete the visibility loop and provide additional security for our students.
- AHS has 12 internships with local community and businesses and three Pharmacy techs, HDHS has 4 internships and 3 Pharmacy techs, and MHS has 7 internships and 5 Pharmacy techs, which gives us a total of 34 internships and Pharmacy techs that are working with local businesses. Thank you to Jamie Barnett, principals, and students especially the local area businesses for making this possible. We look to see more of this in our CTE program. Counselors and teachers will be getting an opportunity this summer through the Race to the Top grant to work with area businesses to learn exactly what's going on in these local companies in order to try to match students with internship opportunities.
- Murphy Middle School had two students, Kendra Henry and Isabella Harper who were awarded first place at the Regional Science Fair held at Western Carolina University. They qualify now to compete at the NC state fair. Speaking of teacher cadets, two students, who applied for teaching fellows scholarships have made it to

the state finals. They are: Beth Coffey, and Courtney Toole both of AHS. Congratulations to them and hopefully they will achieve the scholarship.

- Also, there are four overnight field trips to report: Hiwassee Dam Middle School will be traveling to Pigeon Forge, TN on June 6 through 8, 2011. Murphy Middle School (8th Grade) will be traveling to the Outer Banks on May 2 through 6, 2011. Murphy High School's Teacher Cadets will be traveling to Raleigh for the NC Teacher Cadet State Conference Friday, March 11 thru Saturday, March 12. Martins Creek and Ranger Middle School Choruses will be traveling to Greensboro, NC May 27 thru 29, 2011 for the All State Festival. These are all great educational opportunities.
- At this time, the Board adjourned to closed session.
- After returning to open session, the board took the following actions:
- The Board approved the retirement and resignation requests for the following:

○ Ralph Carter	TA, MHS	Resignation	06/15/11
○ Sharon Rhoton	NC Wise Data Manager, Librarian Asst., MMS	Retirement	07/01/11
○ Hoyt Roberson	CTE Construction Teacher, MHS	Retirement	06/30/11
○ Barbara Fowler	8 th Grade Language Arts Teacher, MMS	Retirement	06/30/11
○ Cherie Withers	Math Teacher, HDHS	Retirement	06/30/11
○ Beverly Parham	1 st Grade Teacher, MES	Retirement	06/30/11
○ Mike Wheeler	Custodian, MES	Retirement	06/30/11
○ Jackie Clayton	Teacher's Assistant, MYS	Retirement	06/14/11
○ Gwen Holmes	EC IIC Teacher Assistant, Ranger	Retirement	06/30/11
○ Patricia Clayton	Teacher Assistant, MES	Retirement	05/31/11
○ Mike Penninger	Principal, AMS	Retirement	07/31/11
- The Board approved the Maternity Leaves of Absence for:

○ Heather Watson, Nurse	02/10/11 to 08/15/11
○ Sara Hickey, Teacher MES	03/28/11 to 08/15/11
○ Brandy Raper, Pre-K Teacher Ranger	04/18/11 to 08/15/11
- The Board approved hiring of:

○ Lisa Wood	Perm PT Cafeteria Worker	Ranger	effective 02/15/11
○ Charlene Nelson	Perm FT Cafeteria Worker	Martins Creek	effective 02/15/11
- The Board approved the following as-needed duty assignments:

○ Carrie Nicholson	21 st CCLC	effective 02/10/11
○ Janine Gilfilian	21 st CCLC	effective 02/10/11
- The Board approved the following Volunteers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>School</u>
Randall Nehr	Softball	MMS & MES	Tim Chastain	Softball	HDHS
Mark O'Connor	Softball	MHS	James West	Softball	AMS
David Thompson	Baseball	Murphy	Donald Griggs	Softball	AMS
Shannon Helton	Softball	HDHS	David Hughes	Baseball	MMS & Softball HDHS

- Dr. Lane announced the following transfers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Aaron Kephart	PT Career Coach, AHS	PT Career Coach/Temp PT DLA, AHS	02/01/11
Jamie Godfrey	CTE Construction HDHS	WF Development Counselor, TCEC	02/01/11
Nathan Davenport	CTE Masonry MHS	CTE Construction HDHS	02/01/11
Peggy Mashburn	EC Bus Driver, District	EC Bus Driver, District/ Perm PT Cafeteria Worker, MES	01/15/11
Misty Messer	Perm PT Cafeteria Worker Temp AES	FT Cafeteria Worker, AES	02/15/11

- The next meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Hiwassee Dam School, on March 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.