



# Board Bullets

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## *Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held Thursday, March 8, 2018 (Central Office)*

Thank you to those Principals, Administrators, and Central Office Staff attending.

- Beginning at 6 pm, Mr. Paul Brown called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
- Mr. Winfield Clonts led the pledge of allegiance.
- Mr. Arnold Mathews read the mission statement.
- The agenda was accepted as presented.
- The Minutes from the February 8, 2018 regular board meeting were approved as presented.
- Mr. Brown called for public comment. There was none.
- Mr. Winfield Clonts presented the Financial Planning Subcommittee report. During the report, Mr. Clonts presented several mowing and field maintenance contracts that were awarded by the Superintendent. Those being:
  - Field maintenance contract for the MHS football field, track field, MMS softball field, Lowe's field, MHS practice and band field.
    - Awarded to Parker Fencing at \$2,312 for monthly services not to exceed \$18,500 for the duration of the contract (March through October).
  - Mowing services for the bank facing the MHS football field, AHS visitors football field bank, and AHS practice field bank.
    - Awarded to Reids Lawn Services at \$1,050 for monthly services for the duration of the contact (March through October).
  - Mowing services for the former Oaks Academy campus in Martins Creek.
    - Awarded to Parker Fencing at \$225 per cut not to exceed \$5,400 for the duration of the contract (March through October).
- Following this, Mr. Clonts informed the Board of a Letter of Authority for Mountain Environmental Services to act as agents for environmental services on behalf of Cherokee County Schools.
  - **The Letter of Authority is approved.**
- Next, Mr. Clonts announced bids presented for the AHS Cafeteria and Gym Roof Project. Those companies that submitted bids are:

▪ AAR of North Carolina, Inc.	\$395,337
▪ Ben Hill Roofing & Siding Co., Inc.	\$343,900
▪ Eskola, LLC	\$461,800
▪ WNC Roofing, LLC.	\$426,320
- Mr. Mike Cox explained in detail the bids that had been received and after much discussion recommended the Board award the bid to Ben Hill Roofing & Siding Co for their bid of \$343,900.
  - **The contract for the AHS Gym & Cafeteria Roof Replacement is awarded to Ben Hill Roofing & Siding Co., Inc., for their bid of \$343,900.**
- Following this, Mr. Clonts presented a proposal received from the Murphy Recreational Park Director for the purchase of a new scoreboard. It was proposed that the recreational department would split the cost of the scoreboard with Cherokee County Schools; cost to the school system being \$1,537.

- **The proposal to purchase a new scoreboard for the softball field is approved as presented for a cost of \$1,537.**
- Next, Mr. Clonts presented a request made by the School Nutrition Department for the purchase of replacement stools for the MMS cafeteria. It was requested that 68 stools be purchased for a total cost of \$2,485.
  - **The request to purchase 68 stools for the MMS cafeteria is approved**
- Mr. Clonts then recommended purchasing a 12 x 24' storage unit for HDS for a cost of \$6,500.
  - **The recommended purchase of a 12 x 24' storage unit is approved.**
- Next, Mr. Clonts invited Mr. Shawn Johnson to address the need of replacing and upgrading the sprinkler system on the MHS football field. After some discussion as to the benefits of this upgrade it was agreed that the system upgrades should be made.
  - **The recommendation to replace and upgrade the MHS football sprinkler systems for a cost of \$9,973 is approved.**
- Lastly, Mr. Clonts recommended the Board approve resurfacing of the infield at the HDS baseball field. After much discussion it was agreed that the field needed the maintenance.
  - **The resurfacing of the infield of the HDS baseball field was approved with the contract for services being awarded to Hillside Nursery for a cost of \$3,312.**
- Mr. Jeff Tatham delivered the Policy Subcommittee recommendations by announcing the following policy for second reading:
  - 7410 Teacher Contracts
  - 7530 Military Leave
  - 7810 Evaluation of Licensed Employees
  - 7900 Resignation
  - 7920 Reduction in Force-Teachers and School Administrators
  - 7930 Professional Employees Demotion and Dismissal
  - 7940 Classified Personnel Suspension and Dismissal
  - **The policies presented for second reading are approved.**
- Next, Mr. Tatham presented the following policies for first reading:
  - 9115 Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects
  - 9120 Bidding for Construction Work
- Dr. Conley delivered her superintendent's report. During the report, Dr. Conley reported approval of several Overnight Field trips. She announced that the High School HOSA clubs of Murphy and Andrews will travel to Greensboro on March 20, 2018 and while there, students will develop leadership skills as well as demonstrate sports medicine skills; additionally, students will be exposed to health career vendors. She next reported that the FFA club of Murphy Middle traveled to Greensboro on March 8, 2018 for career development, learning leadership skills, public speaking, and working independently and collaboratively on agriculture topics, following this, Dr. Conley reported approving two trips for Ranger Middle School. First, the 8th grade students and teachers will travel to the Lost Sea on March 29, 2018. While there, students will participate in an interactive explorer trip through the caves by a guided tour; they will also be able to sleep in the cave, also the Junior Beta club will travel to the Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies in Gatlinburg, TN on March 28, 2018. During this trip students will participate in an interactive, educational experience while building an understanding of the aquatic world. Dr. Conley announced that Melissa Godfrey, Principal of Andrews Elementary School, has departed for Raleigh, NC to undergo her interview process for the State Principal of the Year. She expressed pride in that one of our own Principals was selected as the Regional Principal of the Year.
- Dr. Conley followed this announcement with good news items as provided by Principals and staff:
  - **AES**
    - Madison Queen, a fourth grader, recently won 1st place in the regional Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. Her poster will go on to compete at the state level.

- AES hosted a “Suessville” Literacy Night. Over 350 were in attendance. This was a free event for families and provided opportunities for students and parents to engage in lots of different literacy activities, which included making things to take home to encourage continued family reading.
- In celebration of Read Across America Week, AES invited community guest readers to visit each classroom. This included many retired teachers and other community leaders. In addition, each classroom was paired with an AHS student who also visited.
- **AHS**
  - Juliana Aiken served as page for Governor Roy Cooper January 22-25th.
  - Juliana Aiken and Aleah Waldroup had artwork to place 2nd & 3rd respectively at the state level of the GFWC Art competition, held at Campbell University on March 3rd.
  - Adelia Pyle was a local honoree for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.
  - On Wednesday, March 7th, the SECU presented The Reality of Money program to the seniors, juniors and sophomores. Through the Reality of Money Simulation students made financial decisions about paying for housing, transportation and other monthly expenses as they were "transformed" into young adults with jobs and other responsibilities to manage. Volunteers assisted students as they moved through each of the 12 stations. Students were exposed to various financial learning points such as the value of furthering their education after high school, the limiting effect bad credit has on their lifestyle choices and "living within their means" allows them to save for their financial future.
  - Kabe Ellis and Dillan Phillips received Honorable Mention All-Conference for men’s basketball. Kenzie Gunter was also named Honorable Mention All-Conference for women’s basketball.
  - AHS was selected to host the All Star West vs Midwest game. Kenzie Gunter, Matt Barton and Dillan Phillips were selected to play.
  - Cathy LaTulipe, High School Liaison from TCCC, met with rising juniors and their parents to discuss dual enrollment options for the coming years in both College Transfer and CTE pathways.
  - We received 100% on our Teacher Working Conditions Survey in two days.
  - All juniors, 100%, were present and took the ACT on February 27th.
  - This week we have a group of ten undergraduates and graduates from NC State, including a former student of Dr. Fletcher’s, Kelly Noel Waldorf, in an Alternative Spring Break program, teaching the “Voices of North Carolina” curriculum (<https://linguistics.chass.ncsu.edu/thinkanddo/vonc.php>) and introducing our students to dialect diversity in North Carolina and expose some of the students to the richness of language variation in the state. Our program is now endorsed by the DPI for statewide and is used by a number of teachers around the state. These college students are working with our Social Studies and English Language Arts classes.
  - Foods I & II helped create the menu, prepare food, set up and serve for the Dessert Theatre at the Arts Center, a fundraiser for Community Youth Players/ACT2.



- **HDEMS**

- We celebrated Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day with a school-wide character day on Friday, March 2. Pre-K celebrated throughout the week with a visit from Cat in the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2!



- The HDEMS Robotics/STEM Club purchased a 3D printer. They will be hosting a Family STEM Night on 3/15/18.

- **HDHS**

- English II and Art did a cross-curriculum project creating 5x8 squares with saying, adjectives or memories along with drawings and are creating a quilt to be given to Kayla's parents.
- High School and Middle school band students participated in Far West Honors Band at Swain County High School
- JV Boys and Girls and Varsity Boys and Girls basketball teams both finished 1st in conference. JV girls, JV boys, and Varsity Boys all won LSMC Tournament.
- Mrs. Leblanc's Foods class prepared a formal meal for themselves and invited administration to participate. The students did a fabulous job preparing and setting up the meal.

- **MCS**

- On March 20th, MCS will hold its Family Reading Night. Food will be served and up to 60 students will leave the event with free books and literacy prizes. Students and parents from Peachtree Elementary are invited to attend, and Dr. Conley will speak to both communities at the beginning of the event about school safety and ways that volunteers can help improve school security and safety.
- 100% of staff completed the NC Working Conditions Survey on March 7th.
- An essay about MCS' anti-litter efforts will be featured in a national magazine for the American Foreign Legion called Dispatch, along with artwork from Murphy Middle School.
- With the generosity of students and teachers, over \$400 was collected to help the family of two of our students whose home was damaged by an early morning fire. We feel very blessed

that the family escaped the home safely. Area churches are helping the family repair the home.

- Spring Sustainability Club is back in session. 5th graders are planting spring gardens, making healthy food recipes, and learning ways to leave a gentle impact on the planet.
- This Saturday, MCS' Science Olympiad Team will travel to the regional competition held at Western Carolina University. Students are competing in all 23 NC Science Olympiad events for middle school.
- Students in Kindergarten-5th grade did an OUTSTANDING job raising money for Jump Rope for Heart! Currently, we have raised \$2,592.31, far surpassing our school goal of \$2,300.00. 4th grader Eli Martinez is our top fundraiser raising over \$1,000.00 alone! Also, 4th grader Fern Crayton has raised over \$400.00.
- **MES**
  - PBIS model is working with reduction in behavior referrals and conduct signings.
  - Two teachers attended NCTIES in Raleigh to boost integration of technology.
  - Chromebooks one to one in grades 3-5. Fifth grade teachers will hold a staff development Monday for teachers to show google classroom and other great usage for Chromebooks to enhance learning.
  - Students in 5th grade Jr. Beta Club are Sleeping with the Sharks this month.
  - MES Cafeteria earned 100% Sanitation Grade.
  - The Cat in the Hat and Things 1 and 2 from the Craddock Center visited MES Pre-k on Dr. Suess' Birthday.
  - MES Talent Show will be March 29.
  - Our fifth grade art club students painted a "winter wonderland" background and decorated our stage for our recent Snowflake Dance. Art club students designed and painted the backdrop themselves.
- **MHS**
  - Aubrey Clapsaddle and Elie Martin have been accepted to Governor's School.
  - MHS Student Government Association is hosting a food drive during the month of March to benefit Manna Food Bank.
  - MHS tested 78 seniors on the WorkKeys Assessment. One hundred percent of CTE completers tested.
  - One hundred twenty-two of 125 juniors completed the ACT on February 27. The three remaining students are slated to take the test on the make-up day, March 20.
  - Nine MHS band members participated in the Far West Honors Band on February 15.
  - Cory Farmer won the wrestling 1A State Championship in the 195 lb. weight class.
  - The varsity girls' basketball team competed in the 1A Regional Championship on Saturday, March 3.
  - MHS Senior and varsity basketball team member, Jessica Beckner, was named District 12 Player of the Year by the North Carolina Basketball Coaches Association. Aubrey Clapsaddle was named to the 2nd team.
  - MHS achieved 100% participation on the Teachers' Working Conditions Survey.
  - Digital Media students completed their Photoshop projects, which will be broadcast on announcement tv's at MHS. The journalism staff will complete the yearbook by the March 12 deadline. Digital Media II and III students are completing the registration videos for rising 9th graders and for MHS rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.
- **MMS**
  - The 8th grade at MMS is almost half-way through the 10-week Stock Market Game, a program of the SIFMA Foundation (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association) where they are competing against over 800 teams in the state. There are twenty-five teams



here at MMS. Updates are posted weekly on the MMS Facebook page and Instagram to see which team is in the lead here at our school.

- The MMS FFA Parliamentary Procedure team is headed out to their first ever competition in Greensboro at the N.C. Middle Grades Rally. There will also be 4 additional chapter members attending the Leadership Workshop at the rally.
- Jordan Oliver is the first wheel-competitor in the Smoky Mountain Middle Conference history. In the meet she qualified to place in the shot put and the discus.

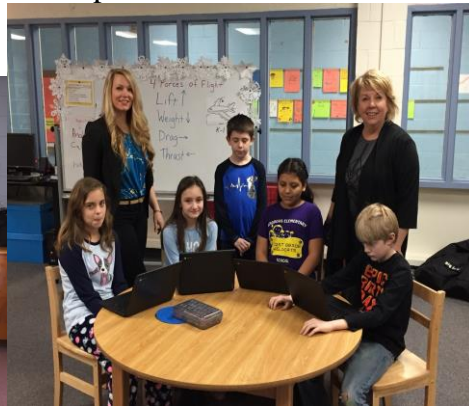


- MMS 21st Century After-School Program will be hosting a Duke Energy Night on March 28th to promote STEAM education.
- MMS donated 1,155 canned food items to the Cherokee County Sharing Center during their Tacky Teacher Food Drive.
- Brian Gatti, 8th Grade Math student teacher, attended the NC Middle Grades Convention this past weekend. He was excited to meet other middle school educators and learn tools of the trade.
- MMS BOB Team placed 3rd in CCS competition. MMS BOB Team placed 3rd in CCS competition. BOB competitors: 8th - Amber Martin, Rachel Reid, Seth Laney, Torin Rogers  
6th - Andrew Thompson, Ciera Ward, Eli Decker, Lexie Graves, Lyden Raxter, Trinity Mickens
- Eight 8th grade students participated in the Far West Honors Band on Feb. 15th. The students were Addisyn Hardin, Richard Ly, Hunter Trantham, O'Ryan Flores, Jason Butler, Chase O'Dell, Dixie Pelt, Sophia Benavente.
- MMS faculty began the Teachers' Working Conditions Survey Tuesday, 3/6, and achieved 100% participation before 1:00 pm that afternoon.
- MMS FFA spent time cleaning up Konaheeta Park on 2/22.
- Advanced Cake Decorating will now be offered to those interested students who recently completed the Introduction to Cake Decorating offered by Shannon Coleman.
- Students in all grade levels have been able to attend Hunter Safety taught by Mr. Jerry Brackett during exploratory time. Plans are also underway to have all 8th grade students complete NC Boater Safety this year with Mr. Don LaTulipe, NC Wildlife Officer.
- **PES**
  - Tristen Lovingood (3rd grade - McKeon) is the 2nd place Western NC Regional Poster Contest Winner! PES students who placed locally included Hayden Cunningham, Olivia Raxter, Wyndson Caldwell, and Olivia Rhodes.
  - PES received an art grant through the Cherokee County Mountain Crafters.

- Family Literacy Night Spring Fling was held on March 2nd! It was a huge success and a great way to end Read Across America Week and to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. All school aged students received free leveled readers and parents were provided literacy support by the Title 1 teacher, Leah Dockery. All teachers participated in the festivities! The PTA sponsored event raised over \$5000. Seuss 2-D and 3-D art was displayed throughout the school that students made under the direction of Mrs. Cicely.
- Swedish exchange student, Clara Gothberg, visited PES with counselor Kelly Gentry and taught students Swedish songs, read to them in her native language and talked about her home country.
- Jenny McMahan, STEM/Media specialist, led an informative professional development session on "Media Literacy: How to Spot Fake News".
- Chromebooks were delivered and will be distributed to the third grade!
- iPads purchased with grant money have arrived and will be distributed to lower grades soon!
- PES Jr. Beta Club inducted 8 new members: Aiden Hernandez, Jerry Young, Olivia Raxter, Delaney Moses, Taylor Ivester, Izzy Matamoros, Jayden Rivera, and William Boyd.
- The Jr. Beta Club will host a "Kids Helping Kids Supply Drive" for Ronald McDonald House in honor of Willow Raxter.
- Shannon Palmer's 2nd grade class put together 8 food boxes for the Wounded Warriors program for veterans.
- PES 100% participation NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey
- **REMS**
  - Second grade attended a puppet show adaptation of James and the Giant Peach last Friday. This lesson was incorporated with the students learning about the economy and counting money through a classroom economy lesson.
  - Mrs. Golden's 2nd Grade class received a kit to publish a book that will be written by them.
  - Mrs. Suzanne McLelland's counseling classes celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Month during the month of February, with all lessons directed towards being more kind towards each other.
  - Mrs. Tonia Forrister's 8th Grade students read The Outsiders. The 8th grade students participated in a mock trial. Some of the students took on roles as characters from the book while others were lawyers. Parents and volunteers served as jury members
  - Wit and Wisdom has been rolled out to our classroom teachers.
  - Exciting Art Projects are being placed on display by Mrs. Brooke Muzik.
  - PTA gave money to all classrooms for end of year field trips.
  - Strawberry sales were successful and PTA gave over a \$1500 dollar profit back to classroom teachers.
  - Successful Rib Country night with profits being used to reward our Perfect Attendance students.
  - Mrs. Henn's 1st Grade class will be making robots with eighth-grade buddies to go along with the targeted story of the week. The 1st Grade students have been planning with their 8th Grade partners on how it will look and its purpose in the real world.
  - Mr. Elliott's 5th Grade class will be participating in the lab entitled the human machine. The lab activity will be the construction of a robotic hand to demonstrate how tendons ligaments bones and muscles work together to make motion.
  - Middle School Students will be participating in Science Olympiad at Western Carolina University. Mrs. Sherry Brookins and Mrs. Gabrielle Gagnon are the directors of the team.
  - Ranger Middle School Battle of the Books Team won 1st Place in the County Competition. The team is under the direction of Mrs. Vivian Johnson and Mrs. Brandy Raper. The team members are: Lauren Brooks, David Charles, Savannah Deren, Rylee Greer, Rylee Guess, Isabella Jensen, Sarah Ledford, Tyler Miller, Payton Palmer, Emily Parker, Kristen

Romesberg, and Zara Walker. The students will participate in the Regional Battle of the Books on March 20th.

- Ranger's Faculty was the 1st in the county to complete the North Carolina Working Condition Survey.
- **TCEC**
  - Tri-County Early College will be hosting its third Exhibition Night on March 22nd from 5-7 at John C. Campbell Folk School for this term's project entitled Hometown Heritage. Students have been busy learning about canning, basket making, cabin building, the history of fishing, music, and dance in Appalachia, as well as tanning and blacksmithing and many other areas of our local culture. All are invited to attend!
- **TOA**
  - Dr. Mills' Physical Science Class and Mr. Crayton's Carpentry class teamed up to learn about simple machines. Science students explored the different tools and categorized them. We changed fulcrum length of a crowbar and hammer to pull nails and saw the correlation between position of the fulcrum and work. We will continue to use pulleys to show how the amount of work you do can be decreased when lifting with pulleys. Biology class grew bacteria on agar using yogurt and after sampling different locations around the school and did multiple labs on diffusion and osmosis.
- **District Technology**
  - Cherokee County Schools is celebrating another milestone in our district's mission to prepare all students for life in the 21st century. With support from the ¼ cent sales tax and funds allocated by the Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) Grant (an initiative sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Public Education), Cherokee County Schools is excited to announce that we are now a 1:1 district for grade 3-12. Being a 1:1 district means that with the help and support of our County Commissioners, Local School Board, and Dr. Jeana Conley, CCS can now provide a Chromebook device to each and every student in grades 3-12. Greater access to technology opens the doors of opportunity and enables teachers to provide a more individualized and personalized educational experience for our students.







- Dr. Conley ended her report by addressing School Safety. She stated it's a terrible tragedy that occurred in Parkland, Florida, one that has heightened our awareness of what needs to be done in Cherokee County Schools. She went on to inform the Board of several meetings held with School Resource Officers, Law Enforcement and Principals. She then addressed a bulleted list that will be sent home with students about school safety and our priorities (*See Attached Letter*). Dr. Conley then reported on what is being accomplished now; she covered the comprehensive emergency response plan for each school and how they are being reviewed in-depth. She reported that staff at each school is being trained to respond to emergency situations and that by policy each school conducts monthly emergency drills, and twice annually lock down drills are conducted. Dr. Conley advised the Board of a Grant that has been applied for that would facilitate funding of a fifth School Resource Officer—she added that currently there are only four who serve 12 campuses and that simply isn't enough. She stated that each year a request for additional funding for an additional resource officer is made to the Commissioners and that such a request will be made again this year and how the request will be for funding for resource officers for each school as well as a counselor and a nurse. Dr. Conley then reported that all students will receive updated training and instructions on March 13, 2018 a day that is referred to as Student Safety Awareness Day. Each teacher and student will be reviewing the lock down procedures and terminology—she added that CCS has incorporated new terminology provided by the State which is: Hide, Run, Fight. She expressed how this is a very different approach than how we've addressed these situations in the past. The philosophy used to be one of remaining passive, quiet, and stay safe; now we will train students to think on their feet in hopes that such knowledge will aid them in other situations not just in school. Dr. Conley stated that one thing that is being addressed rather quickly is the utilization of a District Safety Emergency Preparedness Specialist to come into our schools and find gaps in security, scrutinize our existing plans and training, and provide advice on ways to improve. She reported implementation of a new and improved Safe Schools Alert which allows students to report concerns anonymously by email, phone, and text message. She again addressed incorporating veterans and retired law enforcement, and other willing volunteers to be a part of an overall safety plan for each school as it is believed there are a lot of willing, wonderful people in our communities who care and want to take action and assist in keeping our children safe. This approach will provide them with the opportunity to do that. She reported that the first meeting will be held at Martins Creek School during which she will hand out volunteer forms. Dr. Conley also informed the Board that 100 % of the MCEMS, AHS, AMS, MES, MHS, MMS, PES, REMS, & TOA staff have a 100 % completion rate on the NC Working Conditions Survey. Lastly, Dr. Conley reported several school cafeterias who received a 100% on their quarterly cafeteria sanitation inspection; those being: AHS, AMS, HDS, MCEMS, MES, PES, REMS, TCEC, and The Oaks.
- Mr. Arnold Mathews read the motion to adjourn to break and closed session.
  - **The motion is approved.**
- When the Board returned to open session, the following actions were taken:
- **The Board approved the following Retirements:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Type of Request</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Pam Pressley	Retirement	06-30-2018
Donald Stiles	Retirement	05-31-2018
Sharlene Stiles	Retirement	05-31-2018

• **The Board approved the following leaves of absence:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position/School</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates</i>
Monica Sudderth	TA, MES	02-12-2018—03-01-2018
Susan Yankanich	Cafeteria, MES	02-19-2018—05-31-2018

• **The Board approved the following Substitute Teachers:**

- Georgia Bull
- Tracy Helton
- William Scrantom
- Evelin Vaught

• **The Board approved the following Bus Drivers:**

- Rebekah Simonds
- Amanda Johnson

• **The Board approved the following 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Tutor:**

- Katrina Woss

• **The Superintendent announced the following transfers:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position, From</i>	<i>Position, To</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Chanda Bias	District, PreK Director	District, K-8 AIG/PreK	02-09-2018
Justin Clapsaddle	Principal, TOA	District, HS AIG/TIMS & Transportation	02-09-2018
Jason Forrister	AP, MHS	Principal (Interim), MHS	02-09-2018
Libby Gibson	AP, TOA	Principal (Interim), TOA	02-09-2018

• **The Board approved the following Helping Hands School Volunteers**

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Reason for Volunteering</i>	<i>Application Renewal Date</i>
Steve Coleman	AHS	Softball	03-08-2019
Jeffrey Mashburn	AHS	Baseball	03-08-2019
Bobby Neal	AMS	Baseball	02-08-2019
Michael Taylor	AMS	Softball	02-08-2019
Ronald Davis	HDHS	Baseball	03-08-2019
Macon Bateman	MCS	Baseball	03-08-2019
Stacy Cornwell	MMS	Baseball	03-08-2019
Billy Dockery	MMS	Softball	03-08-2019
Chris Rumfelt	MMS	Baseball	03-08-2019
Michael Wilson	MMS	Basketball & Softball	03-08-2019
Craig Rummler, Sr.	REMS	Baseball	03-08-2019

- Mr. Brown announced the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, April 19, 2018 beginning at 6 pm at Central Office and that the Financial Planning and Policy Subcommittees would meet on the same day beginning at 3:30 for Financial Planning and 4:30 for Policy.
- Mr. Brown also announced a Budget Work Session to be held by the Board of Education beginning at 1 pm on March 20, 2018 at Central Office.
- Having dispensed with the foregoing business and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.



# Cherokee County Schools

*Dr. Jeana Y. Conley, Superintendent*  
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March 2, 2018

Dear Cherokee County Families,

The safety of our students, staff and the Cherokee County Schools System is not only our highest priority, but our duty. Let me assure that every one of our employees ache for the families of the communities who have been impacted by violence and tragedy. We are dedicated to providing the safest environment for our students as possible. There are no words to adequately express the emotions that accompany a senseless act like the most recent tragedy in Florida. In fact, 28 years ago when I began my career as a teacher I would never have believed we would come to a place as a society where discussing such a horrific possibility with our students would be necessary. As a result of these events many of us wonder what is the status of our own District policies, procedures and practices, and how do we ensure we are doing everything we can?

In Cherokee County, we have and continue to refine several proactive measures to help support the safety and security of all students and staff. These include:

- Comprehensive safety/emergency response plans for each site
- Staff at each of our buildings who are trained to respond in an emergency situation
- Emergency drills that are conducted monthly at each of our schools to help staff and students understand how to respond in the event of an actual emergency
- Our School Board will review a recently-conducted evaluation and audit of our current safety preparedness and will recommend further actions to be taken during its April meeting.
- We have applied for a grant to secure a 5<sup>th</sup> School resource officer. Currently we have 4 serving 12 campuses.
- We have made progress on securing school entry access points by installing keyless entry hardware. We are working to complete this installation at all of our schools in the future.
- We are making progress on the installation of school security cameras at our school sites.
- All of our school administrators and counselors will be receiving professional development in Threat Assessment protocol to better identify students who are in need of support and further attention
- All staff is receiving updated training regarding safety protocols for every event, including lock down.
- All students will receive updated training and instructions on March 13<sup>th</sup>, which has been designated Student School Safety Awareness Day by Cherokee County Schools.
- Families will be receiving discussion points to utilize with their children to re-emphasize safety protocols in the event of such an event.

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#### **Board of Education**

Mr. Paul Brown, Chair, Mr. Winfield Clonts, Vice Chair, Mr. Arnold Mathews, Scribe  
Ms. Wanda Arrowood, Mr. Tim Coffey, Mr. Jeff Tatham, and Mr. Tim West

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- While great progress is being made, we have a strong sense of urgency to ensure that everything that can be done, is being done. We look forward to providing you with continued updates on the progress we are making to ensure that our students, staff and school communities are safe. In the meantime we ask for your support with the upcoming goals

We know all of this is not enough. These are goals we are working to make happen in the immediate future:

- A District Safety/Emergency Preparedness Specialist working directly with schools to make sure that measures are in place and reviewed regularly
- Implement a new and improved Safe Schools Alert, which allows individuals to report concerns anonymously via email, phone or text message
- Request funding for at least one full time school resource officer and counselor for every school.
- Incorporating veterans, retired law enforcement, and other willing volunteers to be a part of an overall safety plan for each school. Caring community members can make an impact, just with a physical presence. We are hosting meetings in each area to explain how to become a volunteer and receive the volunteer application packet. Please check with the principal of your community school for the date.

We know that there will never be a perfect plan. We know that our schools have vulnerabilities and it is our duty to address them. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing with students about being aware of their environment and how not only to remain safe, but to Run, Hide, Fight, if necessary. This method may sound shocking, but it has been adopted by our state and we want you to be aware of the language of safety we will be using with your children. There is one thing of which I am certain and I hope this can give each of you comfort: the teachers, staff and administrators of this district are the most dedicated group of people we could ever hope for. I have no doubt of their sincerity to put the students first and do everything in their power to protect the precious lives of the children entrusted to them.

Thank you,

//s//

Jeana Conley, Ed.D  
Superintendent