



Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting Thursday, April 6, 2017

- Beginning at 6 pm, Ms. Wanda Arrowood called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
- Mr. Paul Brown led the pledge of allegiance.
- Mr. Tim West read the mission statement.
- The agenda was accepted as presented.
- The Minutes from the March 9, 2017 board meeting were approved as presented.
- Ms. Arrowood called for public comment. There was none.
- Mr. Winfield Clonts delivered a report from the Financial Planning Subcommittee meeting held March 30, 2017. During his report, Mr. Clonts advised the Board of a presentation from Ms. Kelley McDonald, members of her staff, and the REMS PTA outlining their plans to seek construction of a regulation sized track at REMS. Following this, Mr. John Higdon reported on the AHS Cafeteria/Gym Roof project; he stated Mr. Mike Cox had looked at the roofs and recommend a complete new roof be installed. Mr. Higdon stated that he would provide an estimated cost for this project at the next Financial Planning subcommittee meeting. Following this, Mr. Clonts advised the Board of a consensus reached for awarding gym floor maintenance contract to Appalachian Flooring Inc. He identified the schools as being AES, AMS, AHS, MMS, MHS, MCEMS, HDEMS, and HDHS. Lastly, Mr. Clonts and Mr. Higdon advised the Board that an item not covered during the subcommittee meeting had been added, that being the purchase of scoreboards for AHS and HDS. He stated that Major Display would provide the scoreboards for a cost of \$8,050 for HDS and \$6,442 for AHS. There was much discussion about this project at the end of which the Board approved contracting with Major Display to provide two new scoreboards for the aforementioned schools.
- Ms. Stephanie Hass presented several budget amendments for consideration. Those amendments were:
 - State Public Schools Fund
 - Federal Programs Fund
 - Capital Projects Fund
 - 1) *Use of ½ Cent Sales tax in the amount of \$14,492 for use as follows:*
 - i. *HDS Scoreboard*
 - *Major Display: \$8,050*
 - ii. *AHS Scoreboard*
 - *Major Display: \$6,442*
- Next, Ms. Hass presented an application for usage of NC Education Lottery funds to be applied to the 2016-17 Debt Service Payment—QSCB Andrews High Building B, in the amount of \$1,589.36. The budget amendments, usages of sales tax and NC Education Lottery funds application were approved.
- Mr. Jeff Tatham delivered the Policy Subcommittee recommendations by announcing policies for second reading. Those policies presented are:
 - 1400 Governing Principle—School Initiatives
 - 1800 Governing Principle—Stewardship of Resources
 - 2010 Board and Superintendent Relations
 - 2220 Official School Spokesperson
 - 3320 School Trips
 - 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements
 - 6524 Network Security The policies were adopted as presented

Following this, Mr. Tatham presented policies to be rescinded:

- **Policies to be Rescinded**

- 3224/7323 Network Security
- 3226/7324 Virus Protection
- 3227/7325 Remote Access

Next, Mr. Tatham presented policies for first reading as prepared by the Policy Subcommittee:

- 2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses
- 4400 Attendance Policy
- 7130 Licensure
- 7241 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators
- 7425 School Administrator Contracts
- 7811 Plans for Growth and Improvement of Licensed Employees

- Dr. Jeana Conley delivered her Superintendent's Report. Dr. Conley began by reporting of two forms of legislation presently being considered by the General Assembly that affect development of school calendars. In one Bill, CCS could begin school as early as August 14, 2017, under the rules associated with the second Bill schools could begin August 21, 2017, and if neither Bill is passed, the first day of school for students will be August 28, 2017. After some discussion about the advantages of being able to align the CCS calendar to that of TCCC, Dr. Conley advised the Board of approval of an overnight fieldtrip for students from AHS who will travel to Hickory, NC July 28, 2017 to participate in a cheerleading camp. During this camp, students will be learning new cheer stunts and choreography. Following this, Dr. Conley reported "Good News" items as reported from school Principals:

Andrews Elementary

- AES Battle of the Books team won 3rd place in the county battle.
- Our foster grandparents were recognized and praised in a wonderful article and video. It can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/education/2017/03/19/foster-grandparents-step-up-wnc-schools/99247244/>
- AES hosted our Camp Read A Lot literacy night on March 30th. We had over 200 participants and it was a joint effort between the AES staff and Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters. Pictures available at: <https://www.facebook.com/andrewselem/posts/1848853792048736>
- Dana Heidbreder was chosen as the 95.1 Proflame Teacher of the Week!

Andrews Highs

- The AHS DC trip was amazing! We had compliments from the guide, the hotel staff and the driver about the quality of our kids, and all were impressed with the questions they asked and their goals for their futures.
- AHS art students brought home six ribbons in three categories at the Valley River Art Guild's Annual Spring Student Art Contest for Cherokee County High Schools, including Best in Show and a prize for the most students placing in the exhibit. The Show is on exhibit thru April 15 at the Murphy Art Center. (The MAC) 33 Valley River Ave.
- Best in Show - Gabrielle Hancock -
- 3-Dimensional work
- 1st place - Ashlin Shires
- 2nd place - Trevor Larey
- 2-D Drawing/painting
- 1st Place - Meraiah Hunsucker
- 2nd Place - Kera Malin
- Digital Art /Graphic Design
- 2nd Place - Juliana Aiken
- NC Wildlife has chosen to rejuvenate the raised beds at AHS as a school beautification project. They took a 6 hour gardening class through Cooperative Extension taught by Keith Wood. They have completed soil samples that were sent to Raleigh, added appropriate nutrients to the soil, have started plants in the classroom that will be transplanted outside, and have direct seeded outside in the beds. They will maintain the gardens throughout the remainder of the school year.
- Students in eCommerce at AHS this semester will be the first in the county to attempt the Microsoft HTML5 Application Development Fundamentals certification exam. The students are not required to take this exam, but the class decided unanimously to attempt it. Passing this exam will result in valuable real-world certifications that students can use to demonstrate their skills in an important and lucrative STEM field.

- Kristina El-Khouri broke the school record in the 3200 meter run
- The team of Paige Lindley, Abby Hedden, Morgan Mashburn, and Tiffany Holloway broke the school record in the 4x100 meter relay.

Andrews Middle

- Our Robotics Team placed first in the Robotics STEM-E competition in Cherokee. Team members: Angelo Scionti, Sam Christianson, Landon Hedden, Sam Wood.
- Ms. Jenna West obtained 10 virtual reality glasses and prepaid cell phones for her classroom through the Donor's Choose grant, "A World Not So Far Away". Students are currently participating in a math lesson that requires planning a dream vacation with a provided budget of \$2500.00. Students are traveling to various places around the world such as: Australian Outback, Paris, and Miami with the virtual headsets.
- Two students, Joy Wood and Dyanna Holloway have advanced to the state competition for National History Day in Raleigh with their project: Sojourner Truth: Standing Up for Gender and Race Equality - below is the website they created! <http://95454696.nhd.weebly.com/>
- We participated in the NC Science Festival and are on the Science Festival website in the participating schools section!!!
- <http://www.ncsciencefestival.org/educators/middle-school-educators>
- AMS is a taking a stand against cyber-bullying with the new Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook page #amsthinkb4 and @amsthinkb4.
- After a presentation from the NC Science House, Patrick Brannon students became passionate about the shrew resulting in the emergence of a student generated Earth Day Project: "Save the Shrew". Sadly, the shrew, a mole like mammal burrows into plastic bottles, leading to an ultimate and untimely death. Students have launched an anti-litter campaign to protect the shrew from the impending doom of plastic bottles. The link below is what students are using with Makey Makey's: <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/141412644/>
- A presenter from BioNetworks extracted DNA from strawberries, participated in a crime scene, and discovered chemical reactions in Mrs. Alaina Ledford's science class.

Hiwassee Dam E/M

- Our Dr. Seuss Literacy Night will be held tonight. Teachers have created educational "workshops" and take-home information for parents to better understand how to work with their children and engage them in the learning process. We are expecting a big crowd for this wonderful night of fun and learning for parents and students!
- Mr. Decker's 7th and 8th grade Computer classes have completed their CTE testing with a 100% passing rate. We are so proud of them!
- Our 7th and 8th grade classes will be attending an overnight camping trip on April 18-19. This outdoor experience, filled with multiple opportunities for our students to challenge themselves and grow as individuals, has been made possible through the Project Discovery/Talent Search grant.
- Jesse Russell, a 7th grade student at HDEMS, has been chosen to represent Cherokee County during the opening ceremony at the Special Olympics on April 28th in Graham County, NC.

Hiwassee Dam High

- AP environmental science students visited Murphy Water treatment March 20 and listened to a speaker from the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition March 15. Also scheduled to perform water testing with the HRWC tomorrow.
- NHS helped with the community egg hunt, which turned out to be a great success!
- Our greenhouse is up and running with our OCS program. Should have tomato plants ready after spring break.
- Also have community involvement helping out with the greenhouse project.

Marble

- Our BOB team competed at the county competition and did well.
- 21st Century had their parent Science Night. They had good participation and everyone had a great time.
- Thanks to additional counseling help, we have been able to begin class guidance sessions again and also continue to serve students individually and in small groups.
- The school raised over \$600 for Pennies for Patients.
- Our school family has grown by 1 precious little boy as our third grade teacher, Kayla Lopp, gave birth to Maverick Archer last week.

Martins Creek E/M

- Family Math Night was a success and a lot of fun, with over 100 parents and students present and engaged discussing and exploring math together.
- 100% of 7th graders in Mrs. Graves' CTE class passed their computer test.
- The middle school trip to Colonial Williamsburg is going very well. On the first day there, the students and chaperons walked over 7 miles taking in the many historical sites and venues.
- Our PTO is planning our first ever social studies night for April 20th. There will be guest speakers from the CC Museum and surrounding communities.
- Math night included a mnemonics performance from 5th grade that wowed the audience, and the Math Night fun room events included a Break Out Box where students in grades 3-5th found and solved hidden math puzzles that revealed a code or combination to a lock on our locked box treasure. It was a blast as students used teamwork and math problem solving to beat the mission impossible countdown clock.
- The MCS Sustainability Club is now in their Spring Session.
- This week, students will be learning how to make natural dyes from onion skins, coffee, purple cabbage, beets, and turmeric. Students will use these dyes to color eggs in time for Spring Break. The club hatched out 100's or perhaps 1,000's of Praying mantis and released them into their sustainability garden to control undesired insects.
- Last Friday, Mr. Sellers held his first free community cookout of 2017. This is the 8th year of the free cookouts. Last Friday, the cookout fed 45 adults and 2 dozen children. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the grilled chicken. The next cookout will be May 5th at 6 p.m.
- 4th Graders recently finished their animal projects in Mrs. Aiken's class in which they each selected an animal to research, wrote an essay, built a model of the animal's habitat, and delivered a presentation to the class. 4th grade also recently began their Andy Griffith unit in which they study NC history, culture, and character (the big whistling contest is tomorrow!)
- I want to take a moment to pass on some positive info about two of my teachers and other staff members. As you know, there always seems to be a shortage of bus drivers. Since the incident with Mr. Herbst, we have pieced together coverage for bus 103 with multiple drivers: Vicky Rogers (who drives from the other end of the county), Ernest Cable, Amber Coffey, Mr. Sellers, Mr. Pyle, and myself. It may happen any day, but so far, we have never had to park a bus at MCS. I am very grateful to have the support of all these fine folks to carry out daily operations.
- As you know, every piece of the puzzle affects and is interwoven with others when it comes to school operations, and this is especially true in a school as small as ours... As you know, we struggled to find a baseball coach this year. The one we found (Mike Lewis) is amazing; however, his job takes him out of the country for a week here and there. This week, he's gone to Tijuana. With him gone and no assistant coach, I've had no choice but to coach the team myself, with a game on Tuesday and practice yesterday, leaving me unavailable to drive 103. Amber Coffey was scheduled to drive yesterday so that I could work with the team. She came down very sick. Mr. Pyle and Mr. Sellers both agreed to drive, even though they both already had appointments that evening, and knowing that driving the route could easily make them late to the appointment or cause them to miss it entirely. Since Mr. Sellers' appointment was later than Mr. Pyle's, I asked him to drive while Mr. Pyle saw buses off and monitored the radio. Mr. Sellers' route went fine and ended on time; however, bus 105 from MHS had a malfunction. We heard radio traffic between 105 and the garage. Mr. Sellers took his empty bus to 105 so it could finish its route while he waited in 105 for the bus garage to come. Then he drove 105 back to MCS so that the two buses could later be exchanged. He did this without hesitation as a strong team player for CCS, knowing that it could foul up his appointment. I listened to the exchange between him, 105, Mr. Graham, and the bus garage on the radio.
- Sadly, we often see and hear about employees who are unwilling to be inconvenienced in any way for the greater good of their school or district, so I wanted to pass along this info and express my thankfulness that such is not the case with these staff members.
- Incidentally, earlier in the year, on the day Mr. Gaither and other retiring administrators were recognized by the board, the driver of 105 (Travis Chastain) did a similar thing to help out a stranded Murphy Elementary bus.

Murphy Elementary

- MES 5th grade students Taryn Morrow, Addyson Dickey, Faith Searcy and Kinslie Campbell with the help

of the Guidance Counselor, Diane Kimbrell held a month long Food Drive. A total of 3770 pounds of food and \$220.00 was collected for the Sharing Center at the 1st United Methodist Church in Murphy. Our theme was "DONUT you want to stop hunger?" and a donut party was given to the top three classes. Manna Foodbank sponsors this competition every year. We are waiting to hear if we won a prize from their competition.

- Murphy Elementary Battle of the Books team won 1st place and head to Asheville for the regionals April 25.
- Tonight is our 3rd annual Talent Show.

Murphy High

- Ms. Steiner's Earth/Environmental and AP Environmental classes have been participating in The NC Arboretum's Project EXPLORE program. This program is a science-driven school outreach program, in which teachers and their students conduct weekly observations on tree phenology, squirrel population density, and/or bird population occurrences. Ms. Steiner's classes have been gathering bird population data around campus and the AP Environmental Science students are presenting a poster summarizing their research question and findings at the Mountain Science Expo at the NC Arboretum on Saturday, April 8th.
- Murphy High School shooting team won first place in the NC Wildlife District Competition. They were 1st in rifle and 1st in Orienteering/Hunter Skills. 2nd place in archery. Cory Stroupe was 1st place in rifle. Hayden Phillips was 3rd in rifle. Colby Pace was 2nd overall in Shotgun. Colby Brown was 1st in Hunter skills. Hayden Phillips 2nd in Hunter Skills and Elias Tefft was 3rd in Hunter Skills. Overall individual winners- 1st Colby Brown 2nd Colby Pace and 3rd Hayden Phillips. The team will be traveling to NC Wildlife State Competition April 28-29.
- Mr. Meiners has been invited to participate in the AP US History Reading again as a Distribute Online Reader for the Short Answer Questions.
- Shanda Cheeks, Communicable Disease/STD/TB Nurse Coordinator with the Cherokee County Health Department visited Mrs. McCoy's Parenting and Child Development class to do a disease transmission lab with the students. The lab kit has 30 different "body fluids" in it, and everyone gets their own tray to put their "body fluid" in. They then get to choose to, or not to share "body fluids" with others in the class. She then put drops in student trays that react and indicate they are "HIV" or "Hep B" positive. The lab teaches about transmission and how you never know what someone might have. The lab was engaging, and the students took meaningful lessons from the lab.
- The MHS softball team will be visiting Young Harris University on Tuesday, April 11th and Western Carolina University on Thursday, April 13th. The players will tour campus, interact with students, meet with the coaches, and watch a game.
- The Murphy High Global Studies Tour Group (13 student and 5 teachers) returned home Wednesday, April 5, after an exciting week visiting Florence, Rome, Pompeii, and Vatican City. The students learned a great deal about Classical and Renaissance art, experienced time in a different country and culture, and visited some of the most famous historical landmarks of the Roman Empire and the Italian Renaissance.
- In last Friday's Valley River Arts Guild Student Art Show, MHS students earned some awards. Davis Roberts took 2nd place in the 3D category. Ian Davis took first in digital art. Ivan Ponce took 3rd in digital art. Elissa Dettweiler took 3rd in the 2D category.
- Murphy High School's SGA held a food drive to help support the MANNA food bank. During the month of March, Murphy High School collected approximately 300 food items to help local Cherokee County families.

Murphy Middle

- All students and faculty will be participating in various activities during April for Child Abuse Prevention month: wearing blue shirts and forming a blue ribbon, collecting pennies to donate to Family Resources, every student will be "planting" a blue pinwheel around school in honor of each student
- Students were able to participate in a Google Hangout with Mrs. Clapsaddle while she was touring Italy with the MHS Global Studies class. Various hangouts were conducted from Santa Croce and Bargello in Florence and from the Vatican City, the Colosseum and Borgo Pio in Rome.
- MMS will be participating in Career Day at the end of the month will many volunteers coming in to share their occupations.
- The 7th and 8th grade women's ensemble both received a state rating of Excellent at their choral competition at Western Carolina University.
- The MMS shooting team placed 4th overall in District NC Wildlife competition. MMS rifle team was first.

Isaac Sneed was 1st place overall in Rifle. The team is traveling to the state competition April 28-29 in Ellerbe, NC.

- Mrs. Julie Hughes' 8th grade CTE classes recently completed testing with a 96% pass rate.
- Three 7th grade students won the Modern Woodmen Civic Oratorical contest and will compete at the county level. 1st place was Molly Kay West, 2nd place was Seth Laney, and 3rd place was Lanie Vuick.
- Mrs. Rachel Payne's class won a Technology in the Classroom Grant from DirecTV. Her class was one of 3 winners nationwide chosen for a \$1000 VISA Rewards card. The class plans to use the money for Google Expeditions kits.
- Our robotics team placed 4th in the STEM-E Robotics competition in Cherokee. Here is a list of names of the students attended STEM-E workshops and the workshops attended. Alex Ayers, Jake Boring, Dominic Calascione, Olivia Clem, Kateln Dettweiler, Daniel Garcia, Sean Kephart, Cole Laney, Ty Laney, Harper Martin, Braylee Miles, Noah Phrol, Tyler Plemmons, Dylan Ritz, Lochlan Rogers, Hannah Scarce, Lori Beth Stalcup, and Emonie Watson
- Here is list of workshops the students attended: Explore Virtual Reality, Adventures with Infographics, Team Up With Science, Cherokee Art, Math Selfies, Rube Goldberg, Explore DNA, 3D Printing, Drone Flight, and I Dream of A Business.

Peachtree Elementary

- PES BOB Team won 2nd place.
- PES will participate in a school wide Earth Day activity on Friday, April 21st in conjunction with TCEC students. We will devote an hour to campus wide clean up as well as have other activities throughout the day.
- PES Musical Theater Group is practicing for an upcoming presentation for the community on June 8th. They will be presenting "Rats".
- PES will be hosting a Recycled Book Fair during the week of June 5th through 8th. We are accepting donations of gently used books in all genres, puzzles, board games, and family appropriate movies.
- Community night will be on June.

Ranger E/M

- Ranger School celebrated CAREER DAY for Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade - We had a total of 15 presenters for the day. Our students had a chance to learn about Sheriff's Office, EMS, Highway Patrol, Navy, Health Educator, Radiology, Chef, Coaching, Real Estate, Nursing, Veterinarian, Fire Department, and Race Car Driver. All the presenters did an excellent job and were engaging throughout the whole day. They complimented the students for their attentiveness and excellent question and answering session.
- Middle School students in Grades 6-8 took a middle school trip to Fall Creek Falls in Tennessee. The outdoor activities they were involved in were boating, zip-lining, kayaking, hiking, and so much more. Our students were able to get back to nature and enjoy it.
- CTE Teacher Mr. David Decker hosted a night of "Safety with Technology". Keynote speaker was Investigator Roger Williams from the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department. He introduced the latest apps that can invade a child's technology device and he also shared with valuable information with the parents.
- PTA hosted Math and Literacy Night. They finished up the night with Book BINGO; which was free to everyone that wanted to play. It was a great big hit. The event brought out 100 parents and students. Every student left with multiple new books in their hands.
- 8th Grade students will be taking a tour of Tri-County Community College and Western Carolina University.
- Students in 5th - 8th grade will be participating in the Local Speech contest that is sponsored by Modern Woodmen's.
- Elementary Battle of the Books placed 4th in the county contest that was hosted by Ranger School under the direction of Mrs. Vivian Johnson. We appreciated everyone that help support this event.
- "Energy Night" for 21st Century was a big hit. The students and parents enjoyed the night full of SCIENCE activities.
- Kindergarten Registration brought smiling faces to Ranger School. Each student was able to leave with hands-on activities, books, crayons, glue and scissors to help them prepare for Kindergarten class for 2017-2018.
- The packets were prepared by our Reading Coach and Reading Assistant.
- REMS Science Olympiad will be going to the state event on April 21st. They will be traveling to NC State.

- Mr. David Decker’s CTE class took their computer test. They did an excellent job with one student in 7th grade making a perfect score of 100%. We were so proud of Amber Rascol for her accomplishment.

The Oaks

- First annual TOA Student Art Auction. We auctioned off barn quilt squares and Viking camp chairs for a total amount of \$. Also, we took orders for barn quilts and Viking chairs.
- Students and faculty have worked together to produce all art being auctioned in our enrichment time in the afternoons. Some students worked in the shop to make frames and cut squares. Other students designed and painted squares.
- Students continue to thrive in the welding classes at TCCC; it’s been a great partnership.
- We are projecting 50 graduates this year based on current enrolled students and students who will transfer to us in May. This is the largest graduating class in the history of our school.
- 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 Resignation and Retirements**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position & Assignment,</i>	<i>Type of Request</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Judith Wilson	Teacher Assistant, MCEMS	Retirement	06/16/2017
Sherie Barnett	Bus Monitor	Resignation	03/10/2017
Daniel DuChaine	Cost Clerk, District	Resignation	03/17/2017

- **The Board approved the following Leave of Absence**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Duty Assignment</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Angela West	Cafeteria, AHS	04-06-2017—04-30-2017

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Additional Duty Assignment</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Sandra Faggard	Teacher, AES (Long-term substitute)	04/06/2017

- **The Board approved the following substitute teachers:** Sandra Faggard & Taylor Ruf

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Application Renewal Date</i>
James Ellis	AHS	PE Class Volunteer	04/06/2018
James Vaught	AMS	JV Coach	04/06/2018
Keri Vaught	AMS	Track & Field	04/06/2018
Michael Lewis	MCEMS	Baseball	04/06/2018
Billy Dockery	MMS	Softball	04/06/2018
Hayden Hughes	MMS	Softball	04/06/2018

- **The Board approved contract recommendations made by the Superintendent.**
- Ms. Arrowood announced the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, May 11, 2017 beginning at 6 pm at Central Office.
- It was announced the Financial Planning Subcommittee & Policy Subcommittee would meet on May 4, 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 8:28 pm.