Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held on Thursday, May 15, 2014, beginning at 6:00 pm, at Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church


- The Board of Education met at Peachtree Elementary School to conduct interviews with applicants seeking appointment to the TCCC Board of Trustees. At the conclusion of these interviews, Mr. Erik Brinke called the Cherokee County Board of Education meeting to order and then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene immediately at Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church. The motion was approved.
- Upon reaching Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church, Mr. Brinke entertained a motion to reconvene the meeting. The motion was approved.
- Mr. Brinke called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
- Ms. Cynthia Waldroup, Principal of Peachtree Elementary School welcomed everyone present and asked for a moment of silence.
- Ms. Wanda Arrowood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Debbie Hogan read the mission statement.
- The agenda was approved. The minutes from the April 10, 2014 Board of Education meeting were approved as presented.
- Mr. Erik Brinke called for public comment. There was none.
- Dr. Lane recognized Jamie Barnett upon her retirement from public education. He presented her with a plaque marking her more than 27 years of service and outstanding contributions to Cherokee County Schools during her career.
- Next, Dr. Lane recognized numerous students and coaches as follows:
  - For the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in the district Modern Woodmen Civic Oration contest:
    1st Place winner: Hannah McCaw of AMS  
    2nd Place winner: Faith Ann Revis of AES  
    3rd Place winner: Cheyann Leak of MES
  - From Murphy Elementary School’s Odyssey of the Mind Team:
    Competing in the “Not-So-Haunted House” Division and finishing 7th of 14 at the State competition:
    Noah Spence  
    Jesse Kephart  
    Reed Dockery
    Competing in the “Seeing Is Believing” Division and finishing 8th of 12 at the State competition:
    Hope Ledford  
    Lauren Turner  
    Isaac Brown  
    Asher Brinke
    Odyssey of the Mind Coach: Travis Garrett
  - From Murphy Middle and High School’s Shooting Team
  - Murphy Middle placed 2nd in the overall team competition at District 9 and finished 12th overall at the State Tournament:
    - 1st in Trap
    - 3rd in Rifle, Bow, and Hunter Skills
- Johnathan Blevins (7th Grade) placed 1st in the overall individual competition at the District 9 tournament and shot a perfect 200 in the Shotgun category at the State tournament.

- The MMS Shooting Team is made up of:
  - Denver Hartness
  - Johnathan Blevins
  - Becca Carter
  - Cory Stroupe
  - Colton Bryant
  - Johnathan Blevins (7th Grade) placed 1st in the overall individual competition at the District 9 tournament and shot a perfect 200 in the Shotgun category at the State tournament.

- The MMS Shooting Team is made up of:
  - Belle Schultze
  - Johnathan Blevins
  - Caleb Shepard
  - Hayden Phillips
  - DJ Carroll
  - Johnathan Blevins (7th Grade) placed 1st in the overall individual competition at the District 9 tournament and shot a perfect 200 in the Shotgun category at the State tournament.

- Murphy High placed 1st in the overall team competition at the District 9 tournament and 4th overall at the State Tournament:
  - 1st in Rifle at District 9 and 2nd in Rifle at State
  - 3rd in Trap, Bow, and Hunter Skills
  - Evan Deweese placed 1st in the overall individual competition in Trap.

- The MHS Shooting Team is made up of:
  - Kaylee Radford
  - Hansen Adamovich
  - Michael Ward
  - Colby Pace
  - Colby Brown
  - Evan Deweese
  - Daniel Hartness
  - Alex Jump
  - Keyla Sharp
  - The Coaches for the shooting teams are:
    - David Dockery
    - Tim Pratt
    - Dwayne Trantham
    - Assistant coach in Hunter Ed/Orienteering- Rick Carter.

- The Andrews Elementary School’s Battle of the Books Team: The AES Battle of the Books team achieved first place in the County Battle of the Books Competition.

- The Andrews Elementary Battle of the Books Team is made up of:
  - Jonathan Burch
  - Paul White
  - Nick Graham
  - Tilya McGaha
  - Kena Grindstaff
  - Elijah Hunsucker
  - Samuel Wood
  - Kaitlin Odell
  - Rebecca Garrett
  - Shane Hammond
  - Isaiah Barton
  - Michael Styles
  - Coaches: Melissa Brown, Ann Williams

- The Board recognized Mr. Jason Forrister and students from Murphy High School who delivered an excellent presentation outlining their Global Studies trip to France. Three students appeared and informed the Board of their experiences while on the trip and expressed gratitude for the Board allowing them to participate. After the presentations were concluded, a brief video was shown compiled of photos of the sites visited.

- Mr. Gary Wright and representatives of Energy Star were recognized and presented principals with Energy Star awards for achieving high energy savings. Mr. Wright presented an in depth slide show which outlined numerous elements of cost avoidance in energy culminating in saving over $1,487,000 to the tax payers of Cherokee County as well as his long term goals. Mr. Len Hoye, Supervisor of DENR Utilities Savings Initiative, congratulated Cherokee County Schools on achieving Energy Star certification throughout the district and for being ranked #2 in the state in energy efficiency.

- Mr. Kenny Garland delivered an ACT report to the Board. During this report of preliminary data, Mr. Garland displayed a comparison of Cherokee County ACT scores with those of State averages and informed the Board Cherokee County Schools exceeds those State averages in every category.

- Next, Mr. Garland presented the proposed 2014/2015 school year calendars for Cherokee County Schools and Tri-County Early College. Dr. Lane added to this presentation by informing the Board of the additional time
built into the proposed calendar to minimize the effect of inclement weather days for the 2014/15 school year. The calendars were approved.

- Ms. Chanda Bias was recognized and delivered a presentation outlining a Title I application for approval. Ms. Bias provided an overview of the Title I positions and usages of Title I funds. At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Bias asked the Board to approve the Title I application. The Title I application was approved.

- Ms. Anne Boring appeared and delivered a Continuous Improvement Performance Plan (CIPP) Data update to the Board. Ms. Boring's presentation covered the indicators associated with Exceptional Children as well as presented data which displayed Cherokee County Schools EC population.

- Ms. Jennifer Cable was recognized and presented a Community Eligibility Program (CEP) recommendation to the Board which proposed Cherokee County Schools enter into the CEP program. Ms. Cable proposed three options for consideration: a) continue child nutrition practices as normal; b) enter into the CEP as a district; and c) enter into the CEP Pre-K through 8 (to include MYS). She outlined the advantages associated with each proposal. The Board considered each and option c) was adopted and approved. As a result, PK-8 student meals will be provided at no cost to the students for the 2014-2015 school year. Next, Ms. Cable requested the Board approve a .10 cent lunch cost increase for 2014/15 school year that will only pertain to the high school students. If participation of cafeteria meals increases in 2014-2015, high schools may be added to the no cost meal program. Ms. Cable provided justification for the need of this increase and concluded that for the 2015/16 school year a one-cent increase would be needed. The Board approved the lunch cost increase.

- Ms. Stephanie Anderson appeared before the Board and presented amendments to the State Public Schools Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, and Capital Projects Fund. The amendments were approved. Next, Ms. Anderson presented an Application for use of Education Lottery funds (QSAB Bldg. B, AHS) and use of ½ cent sales Tax request for consideration. Both requests were approved.

- The Board next recognized Mr. Chris Campbell, School Board attorney, who provided information about the contractual obligations associated with the E-Rate Supplemental Internet line being provided by BRMEMC. During this presentation, Mr. Campbell articulated the historical usage of internet services provided by BRMEMC, availability of alternative sources of internet providers, and lastly an explanation as to why during a 2012 internet outage from the primary provider, the line supplied by BRMEMC did not function as expected.

- Ms. Debbie Hogan presented several policies for first and second reading. The following policies were heard for second reading and were approved: 9120 Bidding for Construction Work, 3450 Academic Policy for Honor Students/Class Rankings, 4202/5029/7272 Service Animals in Schools.

- After presenting the policies for second reading, Ms. Hogan next outlined policies for first reading. Those policies presented were: 1510/4200/7270-R Responding to Bomb Threats, 2121 Board Member Conflict of Interest, 2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses, 3223-7322 NC Wise and Work Station Security, 4153 Foreign Exchange Students, 4230 Communicable Diseases, and 7130-R Licensure.

- Dr. Lane delivered his Superintendent’s report to the Board: During his report, the Superintendent addressed the Hiwassee Dam softball team winning the Smokey Mountain Championship and stated that the baseball team was able to finish their season on a new field; the Murphy Middle School track boys won their 5th consecutive Smokey Mountain Conference title and the girls won their 4th title. He stated that Jonathan Wheaton from MMS broke the Smoky Mt. Conference record in the 400 and Deandre Hampton broke the conference record in Hurdles. Next, Dr. Lane spoke of Martins Creek’s Carly Hopkins, an 8th grader, came in first in the shot put for the Smokey Mountain Conference throwing 30 feet and 7.5 inches, which was very close to the conference record. He then stated that Carol Moss took middle school chorus students from Ranger and Martins Creek to All-State Chorus in Greensboro, NC and that Martins Creek was represented by 6th graders Isley Johnson and Coreene Steele. Eve Steele, 7th grader, advanced to the state level of Civic Oration Speech Contest which was held on May 6, and lastly for Martins Creek, students in Mrs. Janine Gilfillian's P.E. class have raised $2,600 for Jump Rope for Heart. Next, Dr. Lane stated he would be recognizing students of Murphy High School next month for their track accomplishments then he addressed the accomplishments of Andrews High School and congratulated the members of the track team who qualified for Regionals. He pointed out the following statistics to the Board: Boys 4x100 Meter Relay Team- Dillon Ward, Bristol Brockwell, Colin Gillespie, and Jacob Moore. This relay team set a new school record on March 12th. Boys 4x200 Meter Relay team- Dillon Ward, Colin Gillespie, Taylor Park, Jacob Moore. This relay team set a new
school record on March 12th. Boys 4x400 Meter Relay team- Dakota Bateman, Chase Hardin, Dillon Ward, Bristol Brockwell. This relay team set a new school record on March 19. Boys 4x800 Meter Relay team-Tommy Kays, Tristan Howard, Adrian Garcia, Dakota Bateman. Boys 100 Meter Dash- Colin Gillespie, Jacob Moore. Boys 200 Meter Dash- Colin Gillespie, Jacob Moore, Dillon Ward. Boys 300 Meter Hurdles- Chase Hardin, Jack Virtanten. Boys 400 Meter Dash- Bristol Brockwell, Dakota Bateman. Boys 800 Meter Run- Dakota Batman. Boys Discus- Jacob Whitaker. Boys High Jump- Chase Hardin. Boys Long Jump- Bristol Brockwell. Boys Shot Put- Jacob Whitaker, Aaron Devore, Cameron Deby. Jacob set a new school record on April 23. Boys Triple Jump- Taylor Parker. Girls 4x 100 Meter Relay- Mareah Carringer, Ashlyn Rowland, Maria Chapman, Erica Griggs. This relay team set the school record on March 12. Girls 4x 200 Meter Relay- Maria Chapman, Ashlyn Rowland, Morgan Mashburn, Erin West. Girls 4x400 Meter Relay- Maria Chapman, Lexia Crapse, Cabrina Scionti, Morgan Mashburn. Girls 4x 800 Meter Relay- Carrie Gray, Kristina El-Khouri, Alexa Beard, Cabrina Scionti. Girls 100 Meter Dash- Mareah Carringer. Girls 100 Meter Hurdles-Erica Griggs, Alexa Beard. Girls 200 Meter Dash- Mareah Carringer. Girls 300 Meter Hurdles- Erin West, Kaley Wike. Girls 400 Meter Dash- Morgan Mashburn- Morgan set a new school record on March 12. Girls 1600 Meter Run- Erica Griggs. Girls Discus- Hannah Matheson, Analasah Hooper. Girls High Jump- Kaitlyn Clark. Girls Long Jump- Erin West, Erica Griggs. Girls Shot Put- Hannah Matheson, Analasah Hooper, Staci Self. Girls Triple Jump, Erin West, Ashlyn Rowland, Morgan Mashburn. Next, Dr. Lane reminded the Board of the Volunteer of the Year recognition scheduled for May 22, 2014 at the Enloe Building at 6 pm. Dr. Lane then reported that the technology plan approved by the Board, prepared by Jeana Hardin, was approved and thanked her for the hard work demonstrated in developing the plan. After this, Dr. Lane addressed the 25% Teacher Contract legislation was being addressed by the legislature and that the Administration has been asked to hold off for as long as possible in making a final decision to give the legislature time to consider the legislation. He then spoke of the Voucher Plan stating it had been put on hold and has now been reviewed by the Supreme Court of North Carolina who found it permissible to continue subject to further legal review. He then stated that there may be a lottery that would qualify students for the tax voucher program. He then covered what the program was, stating it initially allocated $90,000,000 but for this year it had been changed to a $10,000,000 allocation for 2014-2015 and beginning in 2015-2016 it will increase to $50,000,000 per year and become recurring. Dr. Lane then addressed the status of Small Schools funding for Cherokee County stating it is not being allocated to the district officially, but the tax valuations show the district is approximately $100,000 per student above the average tax rate. Having stated this, he indicated that State Representative Roger West and other legislators will be looking at the formula for qualification for Small Schools funding. Dr. Lane recommended that the legislature consider other qualifying data such as the district has over 70% free and reduced lunch, that we are top 10 consistently in unemployment, and we were a Tier I county that he believes will be again designated as Tier I after this legislative session. He then addressed how the district is managing the loss of the $1.52 million funding loss. Next, Dr. Lane expressed the challenges associated with continued school operations with this loss of much needed funding and what needs to happen to qualify for Small Schools funding going forward. Dr. Lane then stated he and the Board would be meeting with the County Commissioners on May 21, 2014 to present the budget request. Dr. Lane reiterated that this loss of funding had nothing to do with anything Cherokee County Schools had done but was entirely the result of tax valuation completed by the County.

- Ms. Debbie Hogan read the motion to adjourn to break and closed session. The motion was approved.
- When the Board returned to open session, the following actions were taken:
- The Board approved the following resignations and retirements:
  
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Request/Effective Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Solis</td>
<td>Teacher/AES</td>
<td>Resignation/June 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Spikes</td>
<td>TA(K)/MCEMS</td>
<td>Resignation/June 18, 2014</td>
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<td>Lynn Deweese</td>
<td>Teacher/MHS</td>
<td>Retirement/July 1, 2014</td>
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- The Board approved the following hiring recommendations:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Effective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Gaither</td>
<td>K-5 STEM Summer Academy</td>
<td>June 23, 2014-Aug 1, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Sanders</td>
<td>K-5 STEM Summer Academy</td>
<td>June 23, 2014-Aug 1, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Caldwell</td>
<td>K-5 STEM Summer Academy</td>
<td>June 23, 2014-Aug 1, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shehnazz Adam</td>
<td>K-5 STEM Summer Academy</td>
<td>June 23, 2014-Aug 1, 2014</td>
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Debbie Reid K-5 STEM Summer Academy June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Brenda Worley Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Melissa Johnson Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Tia Hughes Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Dana Heidbreder Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Jason Johnson Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Linda Hurd Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
Heather Lovingood Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014
April Harper Read to Achieve Camp June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014

- Dr. Lane announced the following transfers to meet the needs of the district:
  
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<th>Name/From</th>
<th>To/Effective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Herr; MYS Graduation Coach</td>
<td>K-5 STEM Summer Academy/June 23, 2014-August 1, 2014</td>
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<td>Pam Pressley; CTE Teacher HDHS</td>
<td>District, CTE Coordinator/June 1, 2014</td>
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<td>The Board approved the following Substitute Teachers: Priscilla Cope, Molly Howard, Sandra Marr, Judith Regner</td>
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<td>The Board approved the following 21st CCLC Substitutes K-5 STEM Academy: Amanda Barton-Patterson; Allison Brown; Joslyn Parker; April Harper</td>
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<td>The Board approved allowing the Superintendent to offer the 25% contracts, contingent on final Board approval, of all accepted contracts. It was stated that the Cherokee County Board of Education is only approving this to remain in compliance with general statutes and that the Board should wait until the last possible moment to approve the contracts recommended by the Superintendent.</td>
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<td>The next regular meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Central Office on Monday, June 23 2014 at 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 pm.</td>
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