

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at Murphy Middle School.

Thank you to those Principals and Administrators attending: Cindy Bean, Alissa Cheek, Bill Gaither, Kim Gibson, Tom Graham, Virginia Haynes, John Higdon, Arnold Mathews, Delaine MacDonald, Barry McClure, Phil Pressley, Andy Pyle, Boyd Shields, Paul Wilson, Randy Mann, Jodi Alverson, Jamie Barnett, Chanda Bias, Kenny Garland, Terelle Harr, Jeana Hardin, Brent Hardin, DavAnn Hubbard, Karen Kephart, and Gary Wright.

- Mr. Randy Barnett called the meeting to order.
- Mr. Barry McClure, Principal of Murphy Middle School, welcomed all in attendance. Jake West, student of Murphy Middle, gave the invocation.
- Ms. Wanda Arrowood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Winfield Clonts read the mission statement.
- The Agenda and Minutes were approved as presented.
- There was no public input.
- Dr. Stephen Lane recognized students who participated in State 1A athletic events. Those recognized were:
 - **Murphy High School 2011 1A State Championship Boy's Track Results**
 - Michael Hering 1600 Meter Run [4:40.99—8th]
 - Kyle Bernier 300 Hurdles [40.58—5th]
 - Adam Burgess Discus [128-10—7th]
 - **Murphy Girls Track**
 - McKenzie Terry Shot Put [34'3"—5th]
 - Chantel Garrett Discus [106'—4th]
 - Courtney Brown 100 Meter Hurdles [17.27" —8th]
 - Courtney Brown
 - Lauren Dockery
 - Bianca Canizio
 - Victoria Johnson 4 X 200 Relay [1:52.59—8th]
 - **Andrews High School State Track Participants**
 - Stephanie Johnson High Jump [5'4"—1st]
 - Erin West Triple Jump [35' 5 3/4"—3rd]
 - Rachel Moore 300 M Hurdles [48.49—5th]
 - Erica Hicks Discus [100' 2"—7th]
 - Jordan Collins Triple Jump [43' 6 1/2"—6th]
 - Stephanie Ferguson
 - Breanna Rodriguez
 - Jessica Crisp
 - Rachel Moore 4 x 400 Relay [6th]
- Ms. Dana Balyard, Social Media Director for The Learning Center, invited members of the Board to visit their web site and review programs that they feel are working for them. She went on to state how proud they were of their nutritional program. Mr. Randy Barnett asked what was charged for a meal and asked for examples of their menus. Ms. Balyard and Ms. Mary Jo Dyer answered Mr. Barnett's question and invited him and the other members of the Board to visit their web site for more in depth menu information.
- Mr. Kenny Garland presented the proposed 185-day and 180-day 2011-2012 school calendars for consideration and explained state legislation behind the 185-day calendar.
- Dr. Stephen Lane expounded on the background of the legislation surrounding the calendar flexibility, and informed the Board that it had essentially been buried in the Senate committee. He went on to say that the

“Save our Summers” group had been lobbying against the calendar flexibility legislation within the Senate and that they have found it easier to allow the bill to die in committee. Dr. Lane went on to inform the Board that we have three of the four years required by General Statute during which we have missed 8 or more days of school due to inclement weather that will qualify our school system for calendar flexibility on our own at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Dr. Lane explained that some school districts are trying to begin school on August 15th and that with the 5 additional days in the calendar will equate to an 87-day first semester and a 98-day second semester. The goal of this division, however imbalanced, is to try to end the High School semester at Christmas. This did not take into account the additional cost for bus drivers, which equals about a 3-percent increase in driver salaries; however, it did not take into account the additional loss of staff development and protected days. He stated that our programmed fuel costs are still \$2.71 yet we last spent \$3.36 per gallon. He lastly recommended to the Board that both versions of the calendar be approved pending legislation approval. Both calendars were approved and the Board designated the Superintendent to determine which calendar would be most sufficient for the Cherokee County School system.

- Mr. Jan Lukens was nominated to be the Tri-County Community College Board Trustee. The nomination was approved.
- Dr. David Ackerman added that the Trustees should be invited to appear before the Board to ensure dialogue is continued between the Trustees and the Board of Education and in so doing convey the Boards’ concerns as well as receive theirs. Mr. Erik Brinke added that such presentation will be given in August and February if the proposed policy is adopted. Mr. Brinke recommended that the Board wait until the original Tri-County Community College agreement is located before proceeding.
- Ms. Pam Dickey, Chair of the CTE Advisory Board, presented the CTE Advisory Board 2010-2012 Year In Review.
- Mr. Cameron Nix, student of Murphy High School, delivered a slide show presentation outlining the successes and lessons learned as a result of his CTE internship.
- Ms. Jamie Barnett presented the CTE Plan for 2011-2012 school year for approval. The plan was approved.
- Mr. Erik Brinke recognized Ms. Barnett and Ms. Dickey’s diligences during the past year within the CTE program.
- Ms. Cheree Wells gave a Wellness Presentation that outlined how well schools are working to integrate nutrition and physical activity into the curriculum.
- Mr. Gary Wright delivered a construction update outlining the progress being made on the Andrews High School construction project, as well as other construction projects throughout the school district.
- Ms. Karen Kephart delivered follow up information as requested during the May Board meeting and the child nutrition committee working session held during June, regarding price increase for paid lunches per new Federal guidelines for the 2011/2012 school year.
- Mr. Winfield Clonts stated that the recommendation from the nutrition committee working session was to increase the meal cost by 10-cents. The motion to increase the meal prices by 10-cents for paid lunches for the 2011/2012 school year was approved.
- Dr. David Ackerman added that it would be important for the nutrition committee to continue to meet and try to further the development of child nutrition strategies for quality of food improvement. He went on to compliment Ms. Kephart and the child nutrition employees of Cherokee County Schools.
- Mr. Erik Brinke and Mr. Winfield Clonts concurred with Dr. Ackerman’s view of continued nutrition committee meetings.
- Ms. Terelle Harr requested approval of a budget amendment for the Capital Projects Fund. The budget amendment was approved. Additionally, Ms. Harr gave the yearly Insurance Coverage’s review and recommended that the Board stay with the North Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust for A&E and Board Liability coverage, and also for the vehicle policy.
- Ms. Chanda Bias presented the Title I & II Plan for consideration. The Title I funding plan was approved.
- The Board approved one policy at second reading: 4311 Dress Code. Several were heard for first reading: 3470/4305 Alternative Learning Program for Schools, 8510 School Finance Officer.
- **Dr. Stephen Lane delivered his Superintendent’s Report:** There were five great graduations this past week, every school’s efforts were fantastic and it was a blessing to see all the proud families. I would like to recognize some the achievements of some of our students who participated in the Cherokee County Art

Show: 1st place in Photography-Makayla Minor; 1st place in Mixed Media- Kyle Wiggins (he also sold his work); 1st place in Digital Arts- Haley Rollins; 2nd place in Photography- Lauren Hamby; 2nd place in Painting- Carly Parsons; 3rd place in Paining- Matthew Herr; 3rd place in Drawing- Isaac Smith. Murphy High school has provided a nice summery of their graduates: they graduated 116 seniors this year. Of these seniors, 19 are NC Scholars, 15 are Honors Graduates, 16 are Superior Honors Graduates, 12 are NC Merit Graduates, and 32 are Career and Technical Honors Graduates. Their Teacher Cadet program hosted a reception for the Cherokee County teachers and administrators who have helped and supported the program in the past year. Six teacher cadets were awarded certificates for their service to the Cherokee County chapter of the Autism Society of North Carolina. Amy Butterworth is participating in the Youth Leadership Tour of Washington, D. C., with the Rural Electrification Association. Their graduation project has shifted its focus to a true community service orientation, with every senior this year making an impact on school and community. Amaranth Brunner completed an internship with the N. C. General Assembly. Murphy High School's advocacy global citizenship has produced the following alumni's successes: Caroline Schutte is completing a one-year study abroad in France; Carolina Carter, student at UNC-Chapel Hill is participating in a new archaeological dig of a Roman site in Israel; Caleb Mathews, student at UNC-Chapel Hill, is working this summer in Turkey; Jordan Fletcher, student at UNC-Chapel Hill, spent a semester studying in China; Kelly Noel Waldorf, student at Duke University, is studying this summer in Puebla, Mexico. Courtney Toole, student of Andrews High School, has been moved off the waiting list and awarded a Teaching Fellows Scholarship. Based on the State budget, this may be the last year for our Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program, so we are delighted to see Courtney Toole awarded this scholarship. The CTE committee did a great job and I appreciate all the time and effort in reporting. Murphy High School had 8-students who earned their CAN, 4-students who earned licensure as pharmacy technicians—the pharmacy tech program is in its first year in Cherokee County and several schools have students involved in that program. This is just one of the many creative ideas that are taking place in our schools and we look forward to seeing more great things from CTE. The community involvement is what makes these opportunities so special so thank you so much for your involvement. As for the budget, the Governor did veto the budget. As soon as the House Speaker and President Pro Tempore schedule a vote, we will be able to get a decision on the veto, either up or down, and once we have that we will proceed forward. It is a little difficult, in fact very difficult, trying to plan a budget year without an actual budget. We have 34 individuals who retired, resigned or are otherwise no longer employed by Cherokee County Schools as of June 30. So we will be beginning next year 34 employees shorter than we began with in the fall. As a result of the losses, we are now looking at certifications of all personnel presently employed by Cherokee County Schools and making moves to fill gaps created by these losses. We do have a million dollars that will be cut back based on the budget; fortunately, we do have Edujobs money that will serve as a onetime offset. This pending budget is a 2-year budget that our legislature has crafted and it will hit us much harder during the second year than the first. There is much higher discretionary reduction which simply means that they have passed the buck on making a decision in Raleigh to the local Boards of Education. That is the one piece of local control that I saw emerge from Raleigh at this time. It's a tough situation but our people are really working hard and we hope to make notifications as we get these gaps taken care of. Ideally, if we had a budget, we could have done it before the employees last day. Mr. Garland is working very hard to put together a lot of different scenarios and we are going to be in communication with our Principals as we make these upcoming moves. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Never stop trying to communicate with your representatives and let them know the things that are happening and how their decisions are affecting us.

- Ms. Debbie Hogan read the motion to adjourn to closed session. When the Board returned to open session, the following action(s) were taken:

- The Board approved the resignation & retirement requests as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Request/Effective Date</u>
Sharon Dockery	Child Nutrition, MHS	Resignation 05/18/11
Brandi Watkins	Attendance Counselor, District	Resignation 07/30/11
Leslie Harris	School Nurse, Andrews High, Andrews Middle	Resignation 06/15/11
Donna Bryant	SADD but TRU, Club Sponsor	Resignation 06/10/11
Kyle Maples	Dir of Bands, Murphy Middle & High School	Resignation 06/15/11
June Hensley	School Nurse, Ranger/HD Schools	Resignation 06/30/11

Carolyn Hyde	Hiwassee Dam High School	Retirement	07/01/11
Patty Barton	Teacher, Andrews Elementary School	Retirement	08/01/11
Janet Hough	Teacher, Martins Creek School	Retirement	06/15/11
Pam Warlick	Teacher, Andrews Elementary School	Retirement	07/01/11
Kathy Gentry	Teacher Assistant, Murphy Elementary School	Retirement	08/01/11
Terri Gribble	Title I, Marble School	Retirement	09/20/11

- The Board approved the following leave requests:

Hannah Johnson-Berry	Teacher, Andrews Elementary School	Maternity Leave, 08/23/11-01/02/12
Melissa Godfrey	Teacher, Marble Elementary School	Maternity Leave, 08/18/11-01/02/12
Charles Earle	Maintenance	Long-Term Medical Leave, 06/01/11

- The Board approved the following personnel recommendations:

21st Century Summer Institute Staffing: Approved for extended employment to facilitate staffing of the 21st Century Summer Institute from June 20, 2011 to June 24, 2011.

Amanda Barton-Patterson	Julie Curtis	Kristin Gaither	Sherry Golden
Melinda Gramm	Scott Jones	Glenda Picklesimer	Lori Roberts
Debbie Sanders	Tammy Walker	Debbie White	

Summer Day Camp Counselors: Approval for employment as Summer Day Camp Counselors based on a clear criminal records check, proper credentials, enrollment numbers, and adequate position funding.

Alice Bettis	Kevin Carter	Adam Clonts	Brian Hoyt
Teresa McCloskey	Shannon Palmer	Margaret Soik	Bill Waldroup
Julie Wiley	Brenda Worley		
Tasia Dockery, Music Activities			
Cicely Mason, Art Activities			

Substitutes for Summer Day Camp: Approved to serve as Substitutes for the Summer Day Camp pending clear criminal records check.

Amanda Barber	Darin Bond	Melinda Gramm	Tristan Hamby
Laura Hibberts	Alex Hughes	Lisa Loudermilk	Hailey Rogers
Vicki Sullivan	Crystal Ware	Hannah Watson	Rebekah MacDonald
Brittany Hoyt			

- Dr. David Ackerman moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent to begin the discussions with his nominee for the School Finance Officer with said nominee to be hired pending Board Approval. The motion was approved.
- Mr. Winfield Clonts moved that the Board authorize its legal counsel to file the notice of appeal in The Learning Center v. the Cherokee County Board of Education. The motion was approved.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan moved that the Board approve the Interconnection Agreements with TVA/Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation for Ranger and Hiwassee Dam Schools and authorize the Chair and Superintendent to execute such agreements subject to final revisions regarding insurance and indemnity requirements by legal counsel.
- The next meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Central Office, on July 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.