

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held on Thursday, July 14, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at Central Office.

Thank you to those Principals and Administrators attending: Cindy Bean, Alissa Cheek, Kim Gibson, Tom Graham, Virginia Haynes, Arnold Mathews, Barry McClure, Phil Pressley, Andy Pyle, Boyd Shields, Paul Wilson, Randy Mann, Jodi Alverson, Jamie Barnett, Kenny Garland, Terelle Harr, Jeana Hardin, Shelley Hollingsworth, DavAnn Hubbard, Karen Kephart, Libby Thigpen, and Gary Wright.

- Mr. Randy Barnett called the meeting to order.
- Dr. Stephen Lane, Superintendent, welcomed all in attendance and gave the invocation.
- Dr. David Ackerman led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Paul Brown read the mission statement.
- The Agenda and Minutes were approved as presented.
- Ms. Judith Crawford appealed to the Board to make public comment. Her comments were heard by the Board during executive session.
- Ms. Cindi Herr and members of the SADD but TRU club delivered a DVD presentation to the Board after which several representatives spoke about their experiences with the club. Ms. Herr requested permission from the Board to distribute their video to schools and air it on local television. Her request was approved.
- Dr. Stephen Lane recognized students of Murphy High School who were named 1 A All State athletes in their respective sports. Those students recognized were:
 - Larissa Beard—Softball
 - Katrina Evans—Softball
 - Brittany Henry—Softball
 - Kelci White—Softball
 - Justin Coker—Baseball
- The Board approved the 2011-12 School Year Calendar as presented by Mr. Kenny Garland.
- The Board approved the Tri-County Early College Calendar for the 2011-12 school year as presented by Ms. Alissa Cheek.
- The Board approved the charter bus companies presented by Mr. Gary Wright. The companies approved are:
 - All Aboard USA LLC
 - Blue Ridge Charter Service
 - Cherokee Boys Club
 - Young Transportation
- Mr. Gary Wright delivered a construction update outlining the progress being made on the Andrews High School construction project.
- The Board approved the Food & Services bids as presented by Ms. Karen Kephart.
 - Food Bids: The following bid awards were approved for Lots not included in the General Food roll over:
 - Ice Cream: US Foods
 - Water: Indian Hills
 - Services:
 - Pest Control: The continued use of Nantahala Exterminating for the 2011-2012 school year was approved.
 - Linen: Aramark.
 - Chemical/Dish Machine Equipment: DR Sales and Services of Chattanooga.

- The Board approved a Budget resolution for the Local Current Expense Fund, an interim Budget Resolution to the State Public School Fund, and Budget amendments to the Federal Projects, Capital Projects, Nutrition, and Grants, Donations and Reimbursement Funds as presented by Ms. Terelle Harr. Additionally, Ms. Harr introduced Ms. Shelley Hollingsworth as her replacement.
- The Board approved several policies at second reading: 3470/4305 Alternative Learning Program for Schools, 8510 School Finance Officer, and 7920 Professional RIF. Two were heard for first reading: 6200 Goals of the Student Food Services and 2015 Community College Board of Trustees.
- Dr. Stephen Lane delivered his Superintendent's Report: To highlight on our budget issue, we have completed a very exhaustive review as we were going through what the legislature had completed in their final session and we found about \$900,000 the needed to be reduced. Fortunately, through retirements and self-designated departures, such as resignations, we were able to maintain employment status of the majority of our personnel. We are beginning the next school year with 34 fewer employees than we had when we ended this school year. We do know that in year two (2012-2013), as this is a two year legislative budget, we will be having to deal with the same reductions plus we will have to reduce an additional \$160,000. In addition to this, our small schools funding has terminated a year earlier than we had anticipated. We are looking at the appropriate general statutes and we are asking for an opinion just to confirm that this funding termination is in compliance. I'll be having a Principals meeting on Tuesday and we will go over all the details of the information at that time. We hope to know more as we continue this process. I'm thankful, however, even with the loss of small schools this year as far as personnel goes our losses still remain at 34. All systems across the State of North Carolina are going through similar iterations and we are very hopeful that after the legislature sees what is happening as the year unfolds, that they will take another look in their short session next year and possibly provide some relief to school districts. In addition to these projected revenue loses, we will not have \$600,000 in Federal Edujobs money to offset the losses as we were able to do this year. I know that our staff will do the best they can with the resources that they have to educate children. We're not in this alone in facing this dilemma. In fact, I read in the Asheville Citizen where Speaker of the North Carolina House, Thom Tillis made a statement, "When you are doing the sorts of changes we've done, clearly, not every decision we've made was the right one, and if cuts do badly hurt systems—particularly rural or small ones, I will work to help them." He has a great opportunity starting with Cherokee County to do just that. We will be highlighting our fiscal shortfalls to him as well as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Mr. Phil Berger. Moving on from budget, we have an overnight field trip to report; Andrews High School Year Book club will be traveling to Concord, North Carolina on August 1st and return August 3rd. Also, Martins Creek School has done something I think is wonderful. They have been able to buy supplies for all their students for the upcoming school year and the only thing they are asking of their parents is to provide a back pack to load the supplies into. This is tremendous and I appreciate Mr. Mathews for working this out because I know this economy is affecting everyone. So, hats off to Mr. Mathews for doing this, as well as United Way. I know our other schools looking at similar type efforts to try and help families. Also, the United Way is doing an awful lot to make a difference for our students, and we always greatly appreciate their efforts.
- Mr. Erik Brinke spoke of the United Way's Stuff-A-Bus campaign being initiated again this year. He announced that the United Way would be doing the Stuff-A-Bus on August 6, 2011. On behalf of the United Way, he encouraged the public to come out and help. He announced also that they would be located at all the Dollar Stores in the area.
- Dr. Lane continued: A decision was made to use a part of our Race to the Top program funding to provide lap top computers with docking stations to our teachers. Jeana Hardin has provided this lap top to show you what all of our teachers will be receiving. Our IT folks are setting these computers up and delivering them to the schools. This will allow our schools to recycle the desktop computers presently being used by our teachers. They will be re-serviced and put to use in labs and in other functions in our classrooms and schools. Although RttT can't be used for personnel, except on a contract basis such as for staff development, we can use it in this way and we're happy to do so. As for our wireless plan we put into effect this year, Jeana and her crew has been working very hard on its implementation, and as a result we're going to have wireless throughout our schools by the 23rd of July. This will make our system 100 percent wireless.
- Ms. Wanda Arrowood 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 retirement requests of:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Request/Effective Date</u>
Charles Bateman	Teacher, AHS	Retirement; 07/01/11

- The Board approved the following hiring recommendations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Shelley Hollingsworth	Finance Officer	District	07/11/11
David Hughes	Bus Driver	District	07/14/11
Greg Elliott	Teacher	Ranger/HDMS	08/18/11
Brent Lance	Teacher	HDMS/HDHS	08/18/11
Jason Johnson	EC Teacher	AES	08/18/11
Tonya Martin	Interim Teacher	AMS	08/18/11

- The Board approved the following transfers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Dave Gentles	Maintenance	.5 Maintenance .5 Energy Manager	07/14/11
Will Meiners	AHS Teacher	MHS Teacher	08/18/11
Tracie Luther	AES TA	MES TA	08/18/11
Susie Swanson	MES TA	AES TA	08/18/11
Teresa McCloskey	Peachtree TA	AES TA	08/18/11
Travis Chastain	Bus Driver	Bus Driver .25 Custodian MYS	08/01/11

- The next meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Central Office, on August 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.