

# Board Bullets

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Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held on Thursday, August 4, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at Central Office.

Thank you to those Principals and Administrators attending: Cindy Bean, Bill Gaither, Kim Gibson, Virginia Haynes, John Higdon, Arnold Mathews, Delaine MacDonald, Barry McClure, Phil Pressley, Andy Pyle, Paul Wilson, Randy Mann, Jodi Alverson, Kenny Garland, Brent Hardin, Jeana Hardin, Shelley Hollingsworth, DavAnn Hubbard, Karen Kephart, Carol Sims, and Gary Wright.

- Mr. Randy Barnett called the meeting to order.
- Dr. Stephen Lane, Superintendent, welcomed all in attendance and Mr. Kenny Garland delivered the invocation.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Erik Brinke read the mission statement.
- The Agenda and Minutes were approved as presented.
- There was no public comment.
- Ms. Carol Sims recognized Ms. Cheree Wells as the Student Services Person of the Year. Mr. Barnett complimented Ms. Wells exceptional performance as a school nurse.
- Ms. Karen Kephart delivered a very comprehensive Child Nutrition update that outlined Cherokee County Schools Child Nutrition plan for the 2011/2012 school year as well as spoke at length about newly developed menu items.
- Mr. Kenny Garland informed the Board of the general trends reflected in Cherokee County Schools Advance Placement statistics from 2003 to 2011. Additionally, Mr. Garland informed the Board of the Race to the Top Grant Detailed Scope of Work which outlined the grant funding and how it would be allocated within the school system and the associated staff development requirements.
- Mr. Gary Wright provided numerous photos displaying improvements being made to several schools of Cherokee County. He spoke at length of the progress being made on the Andrews High School Building B project while pointing out various interesting construction details.
- Dr. Stephen Lane provided information about progress on the Hiwassee Dam and Ranger Solar Array.
- Ms. Shelley Hollingsworth presented the Board an application that would allow the use of lottery revenues. The application was approved. Next, Ms. Hollingsworth recommended the Board approve a budget amendment to the Capital Projects Fund. The amendment was approved.
- Dr. Stephen Lane recommended that the Board approve a Resolution of Authorization to allow the conversion of Metropolitan Life Insurance Stock into capital for use as benefits for personnel within Cherokee County Schools. The Resolution was approved.
- The Board approved one policy at second reading: 6200 Goals of the Student Food Services. None were heard for first reading. The draft policy 2015 Community College Board of Trustees was tabled.
- Dr. Stephen Lane delivered his Superintendent's Report: Today at 10 o'clock the State Board of Education officially released the embargo on our test scores. In comparison to the previously stated goals for AYP in the State 73% of schools did not meet AYP. It is projected that 82% of schools Nation wide will not make AYP. Therefore, North Carolina is performing better than the Nation as a whole but in Cherokee County, 57% or 8 of 14 schools, met all of our sub-groups. The remaining sub-groups are within 1% of making AYP. We had significant growth last year, but in school year 2010/11 the target moved from 43 points proficient in all sub-groups to 71% in reading and for mathematics it moved up 11%. This constituted a significant movement in AYP and will remain at this level for the next two years. We were very close this year to meeting all the AYP sub-group criteria. I believe we can achieve AYP by focusing specifically on students who will affect multiple categories; for instance, a student who is economically disadvantaged, is an EC

student, and is a minority will affect all three categories. I refer to these students as “Super AYP” students, because they are Affecting more than one category. So working with these students, we can see focused improvement. But we are way ahead of the State and the Nation in our attainment of AYP and very close to where we want to be. Our growth as a District had increased to over 81% proficient in the performance composite; we also met growth criteria that makes us as a District of Distinction. We had 12 schools that made growth; we had 6 schools that met high growth; we had 7 schools of distinction---that’s two more than we had last year. I think when you compare us to the rest of the state we look very good and have done extremely well and I commend all of our principals, teachers, support staff and our students as well as their parents for continuing to keep education a priority and continuing to work to keep Cherokee County Schools where we are. When we look at our school employee population since the reductions have taken place in our budget over the last four years we have lost approximately 77 employees. All of these staff members provided services or contributed to the educational benefit of our students. For us to continue to achieve with higher and higher goals, this reflects greatly on our staff because they are truly doing MORE WITH LESS. With 34 staff members lost at the end of this year we are thankful that retirements and resignations made up the majority of these losses, and there were only three individuals that had to be identified for non-continuation of employment. We were able to hire eight positions over the summer, which resulted in a net loss of 26 staff members. With all these reductions, we’ve had to take steps to ensure our teachers and support staff are placed in the positions where they will be the most valuable to the students. Also, some of the smaller classes that were offered in the past, we must now make sure there are sufficient students in those classes to hold them. We’re letting the students drive the selection of the courses and the ones that display high interest are the ones that will be offered for the upcoming school year. We have a great program in terms of academics and I’m really excited about the start of this year, because all things considered, it could have been a very different scenario. We are particularly pleased with our graduation rates. For this year, the National average is 71.7%, State is 77.7%, and Cherokee County is 86.1%. This is tremendous because this is also a big part of the formula for growth. When looking individually at our schools, I want to congratulate Virginia Haynes and her staff at Andrews High for having the highest graduation rate in the district, at 95.16%. Hiwassee Dam had 93.33%; Murphy High had 93.22%; and Tri-County had 91.3%. Mountain Youth came in at 52.5%. I want to commend these schools as well for working to keep kids in school. The Governor’s graduation goal is for all districts to be at 80%. We were above that last year and we’re well above it this year at 86.1%. While I’m complimenting the high school principals for all their hard work, we know that the elementary and middle schools have also contributed to this success. I want to commend Jamie Barnett and Jeana Hardin for working really hard and really quick to pull together our Cherokee County Schools On-line Learning Program. Our teachers will build the programs and also teach on line to our students. We will see a cost effective improvement over NCVPS. Also, our Career Cruising Program for counseling is just an awesome program. Jamie Barnett did a terrific job in coordinating this effort for us. It’s really going to allow counselors to counsel and parents to be involved in programs with the students, and selection of pathways is going to be an interactive process. We’re looking forward to getting our career cruising program and our own online program for 2011-2012 school year. We have a lot of exciting things that are happening in the district and I would like to add a thank you to Jodi Alverson who has worked very hard with the principals to pull together our IDEA Continuous Improvement Performance Report and audit that occurred from the state. This is a very difficult area to try to meet their criteria and very problematic in trying to get all the data and all the records in the time limits. Upon completion of the audit it was determined that we met all the expectations in every category and we had no exceptions to correct.

- Dr. Lane recognized Mr. Kenny Garland’s achievements throughout his years with education and his recent completion of the Educational Specialist degree and formally introduced him as Cherokee County Schools Associate Superintendent.
- 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 retirement requests of:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Request/Effective Date</u>
Charlene Nelson	Child Nutrition, Martins Creek	Resignation; 06/11/11
Lane Phillips	Custodian, Andrews Elementary	Retirement; 09/01/11

- The Board approved the Maternity Leave Request of: Kristen Higdon; Teacher, Andrews Elementary; Maternity Leave; 09/29/11 thru 01/02/12
- The Board approved the following hiring recommendations:
 

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
David Opperman	Band Director	Murphy High	07/25/11
Kenneth Solesbee	Interim Teacher	Andrews High	08/18/11
Debbie Reeves	Interim Teacher	Peachtree	08/18/11
Diane West	Interim Teacher	Marble	08/18/11
Phyllis LeMaster	Interim Teacher	Andrews Elementary	08/18/11
- The Board approved the following substitute teacher applications:
 

Milton Teasdale	Jacqueline Tallman	Donna Wytovak	Kristy Sanchez
Paul Nave, Jr.	Stephanie Elliott	Jacqueline Lee	Brittany Karageanes
- The Board approved the following volunteers:
 

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>School</u>
William Bateman	Volleyball	Andrews High
Chris Wood	Basketball	Hiwassee Dam & Ranger
Jason Bryson	Basketball	Hiwassee Dam & Ranger
Hillary Chastain	Volleyball & Basketball	Andrews Middle
Leon Green	Basketball	Hiwassee Dam
Zackary Lovingood	Basketball	Murphy Middle
- Dr. Lane informed the Board of the following transfers:
 

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Teresa Hayes	TIMS Coordinator	.5 TIMS Coordinator .5 CTE	08/01/11
Peggy Mashburn	EC Bus Driver	EC Bus Driver Child Nutrition	08/01/11
Travis Chastain	Bus Driver .25 Custodian, MYS	Bus Driver .75 Custodian, AES	08/18/11
Kevin Carter	EC Bus Driver	EC Bus Driver .25 Custodian, MYS	08/18/11
Tiffany Beaver	Child Nutrition Manager Murphy Middle	.5 Interim CN Mgr MHS .5 Interim CN Mgr MMS	08/18/11
- The next meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Andrews Elementary September 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.