

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held on Thursday, August 8, 2013 6:00 p.m., at Central Office

Thank you to those Principals, Administrators, and Central Office Staff attending: Cindy Bean, Alissa Cheek, Bill Gaither, Tom Graham, Virginia Haynes, John Higdon, Arnold Mathews, Delaine Macdonald, Andy Pyle, Boyd Shields, Paul Wilson, Stephanie Anderson, Anne Boring, Kenny Garland, Kim Gibson, Jeana Hardin, Karen Kephart, Gary Wright, and SRO Libby Thigpen.

- Mr. Erik Brinke called the August School Board meeting to order and welcomed all present to Central Office.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Wanda Arrowood read the mission statement.
- The Board consented to amend the Agenda by moving the Facilities Sub-Committee Update from item number 9 to item number 12. The Minutes were approved as presented and there was no public input.
- Ms. Jeana Hardin presented six proposed Resolutions nominating Ms. Andee Casey, Colonel Howard Lovingood, Blue Mountain Coffee and Grill, The United Way of Cherokee County, Snap-On Tools, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cherokee County to be added to the NCSBA 2013 Business and Non-Profit Honor Roll. The Resolutions were approved.
- Mr. Gary Wright requested approval to use the following charter bus companies for the 2013/2014 school year: Young Transportation—Asheville; Cross Roads Charters and Tours; Christian Tours--Newton, North Carolina; All Aboard USA Hixson, Tennessee; Holiday Tours Randleman NC; Cherokee Boys Club Cherokee NC. The charter bus companies were approved.
- Dr. Stephen Lane presented two contractors for inclusion on the approved contractors list for Cherokee County Schools. Dr. Lane identified Chris Vaughn, a landscaping contractor and Appalachian Flooring. The contractors were approved.
- Next, Dr. Lane presented bids offered from propane suppliers and recommended Heritage Propane be awarded the contract to supply propane for Cherokee County Schools. The propane supplier was approved.
- Ms. Stephanie Anderson presented an application for use of NC Education Lottery funds for approval. The application was approved.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan presented several policies for first and second reading. The following policies were heard for second reading and were approved:
 - 3100 Curriculum Development
 - 3115 Curriculum and Instructional Guides
 - 3120 Lesson Planning
 - 3200 Selection of Instructional Materials
 - 3225/4312/7320 Technology Acceptable Use
 - 3410 Testing and Assessment Program
- The following policies were heard for first reading:
 - 3460 Graduation Requirements
 - 3510 Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs
 - 4135 Tuition for Discretionary Admissions
 - 4400 Attendance
 - 5210 Distribution and Display of Non-School Material
- Dr. Stephen Lane presented a Facilities Sub-Committee update to the Board. He addressed the Hiwassee Dam Health Clinic and its operational state; the Hiwassee Dam Ball Field and addressed the status of completion of Phase I, and the commencement of Phase II; the Andrews High School Stadium addressing funding and a structural engineer review and the engineer's recommendations as well as the Facilities Sub-Committee's correspondence with the County Manager. Dr. Lane next informed the Board of the purchase of a commercial grade lawn mower. Dr. Lane then addressed lease options being explored with Wells and West for the utilization of the former Emerson Building for use as a TCEC auxiliary campus. He stressed that this was only

an option being explored due to growth of the TCEC and that it was the desire of the committee that the TCEC campus remain as a part of the TCCC campus. Dr. Lane will be discussing the TCEC issue with Dr. Donna Tipton-Rogers. Lastly, Dr. Lane addressed the status of the Solar Array project applications for the Hiwassee Dam, Ranger, and Mountain Youth schools' solar arrays. He informed the Board that the applications were received and Mr. Erik Brinke informed the Board that all had been approved.

- Dr. Lane delivered his Superintendent's report to the Board: The first great news that we've received today is tremendous for us. Our graduation rate has gone up 2.8% to 91.7% as a district. Andrews High has a 93.4%; Hiwassee Dam 93.2%; Murphy High 95.0%; Tri County Early College 95.2; and Mountain Youth has gone up greatly to 81.1% which is up from 59%. This is a wonderful accomplishment and we are hopeful that we've made the Top 10 status again for a third year in a row.
- The legislature has stated they have spent over \$300,000,000 more for education this year over last year. But when you start doing the actual comparison, they were \$117,000,000 short of what is needed to maintain a status quo. This shortfall is due to an increase of 17,500 students in North Carolina. This increase in student population wasn't adequately funded. Typically our funding is \$5,400 per student however; the legislature has provided a little over \$1,000 for each of the additional 17,500 students gained. So, it was woefully inadequate. So when it is said there has been \$300,000,000 more spent on education this year it is not untrue, it's just that this additional spending doesn't account for the growth we've had in North Carolina, and therefore, their budget is \$117,000,000 short. The document you have in your package was prepared by Phillip Price, Finance Officer for the Department of Public Instruction. Phillip did a great job going through identifying the issues with this budget. So I encourage you to read it in detail as it is a good tool. For us, our reduction came from classroom teachers, teacher assistants, instructional support personnel, classroom materials, and text books. Our text books budget went from \$250,000 to \$48,000; we lost \$240,000 in teacher assistants and over \$500,000 in teacher allocation. These budget reductions do not include the \$1.52 million we lost as part of small schools money. These reductions are on top of that figure but we are very thankful that the county commissioners have provided \$855,000 from local funds to offset the loss of the \$1.52 million. Without that funding we would be in a serious situation and would no doubt have to be looking at schools and staff and whether or not we could maintain our campuses as they are. We are very hopeful that we will qualify for small schools funding next May. One thing that this hinges on is our 2012 tax revaluation which came down, and if our evaluation is less than the state average then we qualify for small schools funding. But, as other counties do their revaluation their numbers may be coming down too. The legislature introduced a bill that changed the number of accounting for small schools from 3,200 student membership to 3,900 and had it been passed it would have given us \$717,000 this year we could have used. Unfortunately that bill was narrowly defeated but we are hopeful in the short session that it will be reintroduced. Even though this is another year of great loss for us we are confident we will not need to terminate anyone's employment. We have achieved our needed attrition through retirements and resignations, but we will not be able to hire back as many as we have lost due to the budget cuts.
- I want to announce now the Facility Maintenance Decisions Achievement Awards. Cherokee County Schools was acknowledged for as one of two winning projects in the Sustainability category. This announcement was made in the Facility Maintenance Decisions magazine which is a nationally circulated publication.
- Mr. Erik Brinke asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge publicly the appreciation for the partnership and relationship enjoyed between Cherokee County Schools and the County Commissioners.
- Dr. Lane acknowledged the efforts of Ms. Jeana Hardin on the eRate funding received and the \$2,000,000 allocation for which we are making application as part of a grant being provided by GoldenLeaf to the community.
- Ms. Hardin informed the Board that the GoldenLeaf Corporation is going to give a \$2,000,000 allotment. She spoke of the committees proposals and informed the Board that last week GoldenLeaf agreed that Cherokee County's proposal should be submitted ranked at number 2. She stated the proposal is for \$835,656 that will provide a Google ChromeBook for every teacher and student in grades 6 through 12. Ms. Hardin then informed the Board that a decision should be made by October 12, 2013. Ms. Hardin then spoke of being fully funded by eRate for the 2013/2014 school year for a total of \$218,294.87.
- Lastly, Dr. Lane informed the Board that August 26, 2013 is Women's Equality Day. Women's Equality Day was established by an act of the sixty sixth congress on May 19, 1919 and extended the right of suffrage to

women.

- 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 retirements and resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Request/Effective Date</u>
Tammy Roberts	Counselor/HDHS	Resignation/July 31, 2013
Kenneth Queen	Part-Time Maintenance/District	Resignation/July 19, 2013
Lindsay Hall	Title I Reading /Ranger	Resignation/July 31, 2013
Steve Simonds	Counselor/MCS-Ranger	Reduction to Part-Time/July 31, 2013
Randy Mann	Assistant Principal/AES-AHS	Resignation/July 31, 2013
Lisa (May) Ledford	Title I Reading/AES	Resignation/July 31, 2013
Kim Morrow	Teacher/AHS	Resignation/July 31, 2013
Faye Parker	Teacher Assistant/MBL	Retirement/November 1, 2013
Penny Reynolds	Teacher/HDES	Resignation /August 15, 2013

- The Board approved the following Leave of Absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Leave Type & Inclusive Dates</u>
Betty Symons	Part-Time Cafeteria MBL	Medical Leave/August 19, 2013-December 18, 2013

- The Board approved the following hiring recommendations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Kami Tipton	Assistant Principal/AES-AHS	August 15, 2013
Debbie Hawkins	Teacher/MBL	August 19, 2013
Donald Gaddis	Bus Driver/District	August 15, 2013
Carrie Brousseau	Bus Driver/ District	August 15, 2013
Monica O'Connell	Bus Driver/ District	August 15, 2013
Timothy Lee	Teacher Assistant/AES	August 19, 2013
Heather Luther	Teacher Assistant/AES	August 19, 2013
Elaine Luther	Pre-K Teacher Assistant/MCS	August 19, 2013
Amber Wills	Teacher Assistant/MCS	August 19, 2013
Grace Ellis	Pre-K Teacher Assistant/AES	August 19, 2013
Debra England	Interim Part-Time Teacher/MYS	August 19, 2013
Megan Queen	Pre-K Teacher/ Ranger	August 19, 2013
Jake Wentsek	Band Director/MMS-MHS	August 19, 2013
Lisa Graves	CTE Teacher/MHS	August 19, 2013
Susan Steiner	Teacher/MHS	August 19, 2013
Elizabeth DeLong	Teacher/AHS	August 19, 2013
Jennifer Forchetti	Teacher/AES	August 19, 2013
Tyler Edwards	Teacher/AES-AMS	August 19, 2013
Leia Hays	Part-Time Teacher/ MHS	August 19, 2013
Charlene Rickett	DLA/AHS	August 19, 2013
Lauren Gentry	DLA/MHS	August 19, 2013
Michael Trammell	EC Assistant/AHS	August 19, 2013
Michelle Allen	Teacher/TCEC	August 19, 2013
Casey O'Connor	EC Teacher/MCS	August 19, 2013
Amanda Johnson	DLA/HDHS	August 19, 2013
Katrina Griggs	Counselor/HDHS	August 19, 2013
Emily Hedden	Counselor/ AES	August 19, 2013
Teresa Bryant	Part-Time Cafeteria Employee/AHS	August 20, 2013
Crystal Chastain	Part-Time Cafeteria Employee/MHS	August 20, 2013
Judy Allison	Interim Title I Teacher/AES	August 19, 2013

- Dr. Lane announced the following personnel transfers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Sarah Sisson	Title I- AIG Teacher/MBL-PT-HD	Teacher/MMS-MHS	August 19, 2013

Steve Bias	Teacher/AMS	Teacher/MYS	August 19, 2013
Andrea Stewart	Teacher/AHS	Teacher/MMS-MHS	August 19, 2013
Jane Ware	EC Teacher/MCS	AIG Teacher/District	August 19, 2013
Tyler Bannister	Teacher/AES-AMS	Teacher AMS	August 19, 2013
Kendra Gibson	Teacher/TCEC	Teacher/AMS	August 19, 2013
Chelsie Picon	Counselor/AES	Counselor/Ranger-HDEMS	August 19, 2013
Suzanne Borowski	PT Cafeteria Employee/AHS	PT Cafeteria Employee/Ranger	August 20, 2013

- The Board approved the following Substitute Teachers:

Brenda Millett	Anna Lewis
Cristen Cameron	Gary Kenney
Nicole Smith	Ariel Montgomery
Regina Holloway	Sandra Silvers
Talon Stiles	

- The Board approved the following volunteer:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Reagan Jordan	AMS	Volleyball

- The next regular meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Marble Elementary School on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.