



# Board Bullets

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## *Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting held Thursday, October 12, 2017 (Central Office)*

Thank you to those Principals, Administrators, and Central Office Staff attending.

- Beginning at 6 pm, Ms. Wanda Arrowood called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
- Mr. Paul Brown led the pledge of allegiance.
- Mr. Tim West read the mission statement.
- The agenda was accepted as presented.
- The Minutes from the September 14, 2017 regular board meeting were approved as presented. The Minutes from the October 5, 2017 Building Exploration Work Session were approved as presented.
- Ms. Arrowood called for public comment. There was none.
- Dr. Jeana Conley spoke about the Eclipse Event and recognized Ms. Amber Ledford; she spoke of how Ms. Ledford became the coordinator for the event and how she was able to work with Ms. Julie Higdon and many others to create a venue that proved to be not only a once in a lifetime memorable event but financially lucrative for the students of Andrews Middle School. In conclusion, Dr. Conley presented Ms. Ledford with a Certificate of Achievement and a check for \$100 as a show of gratitude for her extraordinary efforts. Dr. Conley stressed that the money and certificate weren't nearly enough to repay her for what she accomplished but it served in a small way to demonstrate Cherokee County School's appreciation for what she did. Following this, the Board recognized Ms. Andrea Stewart who delivered an overview of the work-up leading to the Eclipse Event. Ms. Stewart spoke of AMS being one of 32 announced eclipse sites invited to NCCAT and of receiving three Grants to be applied towards preparation for the eclipse event. Ms. Stewart addressed some of the requirements associated with receiving the Grants; one being hosting an Event Party. She next displayed several of the items received from NCCAT and Ms. Amber Ledford stated she is still using many of the items in her Eclipse Box as a teaching resource. In conclusion, a video overview of the Eclipse Event was shown to the Board. Following this, Ms. Julie Higdon spoke of the success of the event stating the overall money collected was \$38,000 and after paying for various fees the net gains for Andrews Middle School amounted to \$24,000. She explained how the money was to be applied to enhance educational opportunities for students of her school. She concluded by naming numerous staff members who were monumental in contributing to the success of the event and by thanking Dr. Conley for giving her and her staff 100% support during the preparations and execution.
- Dr. Lisa Fletcher presented the AHS School Improvement Plan. During her presentation she provided an historical overview of her schools School Report Card score beginning with her tenure as principal as well as the margin by which her school was deemed "not to have met growth" for the 2016/2017 school year. She began her career at AHS inheriting a composite score of 64 and moving the school now to a current 73. Following this, Dr. Fletcher delivered a very comprehensive overview of her School Improvement Plan. There was some discussion about various aspects of the plan and the staff of Andrews High School were commended on the changes made thus far.
- Following this, Mr. Tom Graham and his School Improvement Plan Team presented the MHS School Improvement Plan. Mr. Graham began by explaining the five target areas. Following this, he delivered a

detailed overview of Goal 1 and how it affects “completers”. Dr. Conley interjected an explanation of the term “completer”. Next, Ms. Amy Brown explained in great detail Goal 3 of the improvement plan and their mechanism set in place to ensure the goal is met. At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Wendy Leatherwood provided a comprehensive overview of the focus on the core of the third strategy of the Plan; she stated that it is their goal to ensure the students become readers, stressing that it is critical to every other aspect of the educational process. Dr. Conley commended Murphy High School’s Summer Reading program and all those staff members who made it possible. Following this, Ms. Leia Hays delivered an overview of the school’s plan to address the Math I goal and increasing students test scores. Ms. Hays explained how the teachers were going to utilize MobyMax to facilitate obtaining the Math I goal. Next, Mr. Graham summarized the plan and concluded by explaining the plan for addressing the Biology goal. Dr. Conley added that the school’s plan was heavily focused on test scores simply because that is how the State grades schools.

- Ms. Stephanie Hass presented budget amendments for the following Funds:
  - State Public School Fund
  - Local Current Expense Fund
  - Federal Programs Fund
  - Capital Projects Fund
  - Grants, Donations & Reimbursements Fund
  - Usage of ½ Cent Sales Tax funds in the amount of \$22,167 for the following purposes:
    - Hillside Nursery
      - AMS, HD, & MCS Field Maintenance \$7,933
    - FRS
      - AMS Cafeteria Combi-Oven replacement \$14,234
- The amendments and use of Public School Building Capital NC Education Lottery funds to be applied to the 2017/18 Debt Service Payment—QSCB for the Andrews High Building B in the amount of \$42,762.85 are approved.
- Following this, Ms. Hass provided a briefing on Insurance Coverages provide Cherokee County Schools and a plan on reducing certain expenditures in vehicle coverage.
- Mr. Jeff Tatham delivered the Policy Subcommittee recommendations by announcing the following policy for second reading:
  - 3460 Graduation Requirements.
- The policy presented for second reading is approved.
- Next, Mr. Tatham presented the following policies for first reading:
  - 2310 Public Participation at Board Meetings
  - 2400 Board Policies
  - 2670 Business Advisory Council (New policy for consideration)
  - 3530 Citizenship and Character Education
  - 7130 Licensure
  - 8510 School Finance Officer
- Dr. Conley delivered her superintendent’s report. She began by informing the Board that on Monday night, October 9, Alpha Delta Kappa hosted a wonderful: “Grandparent’s Night”. She stated that there are many grandparents who are raising their grandchildren—raising children that are not theirs—and a lot of them seem lost with regards to the available technological resources. She went on to say, they were welcomed into three of our schools; AMS, MMS, and REMS. While there, grandparents went through workshops about google classroom, poweschool, and technological resources typically taken for granted by most. Dr. Conley said she was able to participate in the Andrews event and it was amazing the gratitude the people showed. She next stated that the event was sponsored by the Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators and that the Sorority President, Ms. Amy Brown, was the coordinator behind the entire

event; and did a great job! Dr. Conley stated that there was a huge work force available to support the initiative, and a lot of people helped, but Ms. Brown did a great job and she wanted to point that out. Following this, Dr. Conley presented the following good news items as delivered by principals:

- Andrews High:
  - 77% of the senior class has submitted a college application
  - Ms. Kilpatrick received a Donors Choose donation project that allowed her to get 30 copies of the novel *The Help*, 2 audiobook copies of the novel, and the film adaptation of the novel. These resources will be put to good use in her classroom to help foster a lifelong love of reading.
  - Mr. Anderson's Business, Finance, and IT classes received a donation of 10 copies of *Blood, Sweat, and Pixels*, a non-fiction book about the business of videogame development. Videogame development and publishing has become one of the fastest growing industries in the country, with 2016 revenues of \$91 Billion. This donation was made by author/journalist Jason Schreier and publisher HarperCollins.
  - Andrews High School's "Pride of The Valley" Band took part in the AC Reynolds Competition on Saturday, October 7th. They placed 2nd in the Drum Major, 2nd in the Color Guard, 2nd in Percussion, 1st in the Music Category, 1st Place overall in the 1A Category, and Won Grand Champion of the 1a/2a division.
  - Andrews High School received an Ejection Free Award for the 2016-2017 Athletic Season from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association at the Region 8 meeting held in Asheville!!!
  - A new sound system was purchased for Hugh Hamilton Stadium.
  - A record 14 freshmen moved up to the Varsity football team from the JV football team. GO CATS!!!
  - Savannah Horton was recently filmed by a CNN crew for a sports special that will be aired on CNN later this Fall. This will highlight Savannah's work with the SAAC committee, United Sports and her role as a student leader.
  - FACS received a donation of several pumpkins. One was 60 lbs. Students learned to roast pumpkins and cook with REAL pumpkin, not that canned stuff!
- Hiwassee Dam Elementary Middle:
  - The Hiwassee Dam Screaming Eagle Band performed at Andrews for the Far West Invitational. This was the first time HDS has ever put together a marching band field show.
  - The 3rd annual Bradley Classic Band competition was held on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017 at Bradley Central High School, in which 16 area schools participated. The HDS Band placed 5th.
  - On October 7, the Band competed in the Lake Lanier Band festival and competition. The band received excellent in band and drumline, and a superior rating for Drum Major Gabriella Stiltner. During the competition portion of the event the band brought home excellent in band and drum line, and superior in both drum major and color guard. The band placed second in their class.
  - The band will compete this Saturday at the Blue Ridge Band Festival, October 28 at Alcoa, TN, and Nov 4 at the Old South Band Festival in Newnan, Ga.
  - We are hosting a Spina Bifida Awareness fundraiser this month. It has been very successful so far. Close to 200 t-shirts have been pre-ordered. Our Walk-and-Roll event is scheduled for October 30. Students will walk-and-roll two laps around the school in honor of our 8th grader who was born with this condition. He is showing his peers that, while the world sees him as 'wheelchair bound', there truly are no boundaries.
  - Our K-8th grade students were incredibly moved by the Moving Wall experience. Thanks to all who made this a possibility!

- Trey Swain and Cadence Dilbeck were invited to participate in the Duke TIP program. We are so proud of these students and their accomplishments!
- Our school hosted a successful Share and Shop on Sept. 29 for our students and community members. Mrs. Debbie Sanders and her 2nd grade class organized this community outreach, and parent volunteers ran the event and dedicated their entire day to ensuring each student got what they need, for free! This event has grown each year. This year we had more donations than ever and reached more families than in previous years. Many happy students went home with “slightly loved” toys, clothing, and apparel that had been donated by our community and school family.
- Addison Stiles, a 5th grader at HDEMS, decided to spearhead a fundraiser for our Art Dept. She came up with the idea of “A Day of Beige”. Students brought in donations and wore beige, white, and grey clothing to show what our world would look like without all of the wonderful colors. We are so proud of Addison for being so innovative!
- Hiwassee Dam High:
  - Ditto for Band from above. Both schools are a part of the band.
  - National Honor Society members volunteered to help with the Vietnam Moving Wall.

Dr. Conley interjected that the Vietnam Moving Wall was an amazing experience for students. She went on to say that Roger Swanson and his wife Pat were truly devoted to this project and that Cherokee County Schools was able to assist financially as well as making the students of Cherokee County feel like they were part of the project. Dr. Conley added that every school held fundraisers which all combined amounted to \$2,000 to contribute to the project. There were over 2,500 students from Cherokee, Polk, and Clay County that visited the Moving Wall as well as over 8,500 adults. She then continued reporting those good news items delivered by principals:

- Gizmos are still being used and increasing student performance in biology and earth/environmental science. We love them!
- BioNetwork will be visiting Mrs. Sharkey's classroom October 27th to perform a lab called "GMO Detective" with Earth/Environmental Science and Biology classes.
- Martins Creek Elem/Middle:
  - 6th grade student, Aaliyah Lozano, made North Carolina Music Educators Association Elementary Honors Chorus for the second year in a row.
  - Four 4th graders at MCS were recently taped for the Duke Talent Identification Program. To be eligible for the program and identified by Duke University, students must score in the 95th percentile in math and reading. Those students are Hailey Ball, Fern Crayton, Samuel Lewis, Ellie Martinez, and Annie West.
  - Also receiving letters from the Duke Tip program were Robby Taylor (7th), Lydia Rogers (7th), Allison Morrow (4th), and Nadia Svitil (7th).
- Murphy Middle:
  - Ms. Rachel Payne received a Bright Ideas Grant for \$723 to be used for items in a classroom science lab.
  - We are all very excited to have a 21st Century Afterschool Program beginning soon. The program allows for 24 students to receive afterschool services/tutoring.
  - Ms. Franklin has sponsored the first FFA club at MMS. Officers were recently inducted: President - Addyson Hardin and Vice President - Gabe Abernathy. FFA members have already been working afterschool on various upcoming events for MMS. Please be on the lookout for a Christmas Tree fundraiser for these students.
  - For all those needing to relax, we have a staff yoga class on Monday and Wednesday. The classes started this week.
  - Plans for a greenhouse on campus are underway. It will be used to grow produce and flowers.

- Ms. Franklin’s 6th grade agriculture class has spent time beautifying our campus by pulling weeds, planting bushes, spreading mulch, and picking up litter. Additionally, we have 2 new Envirothon teams sponsored by Ms. Franklin.
- All MMS students visited the Vietnam Moving Wall following classroom activities in the social studies classrooms. The students were very respectful while in attendance. The MMS 8th grade chorus members performed the National Anthem at the Veteran’s Ceremony on Saturday, October 7th.
- The MHS band has won several trophies including first place in many categories at several competitions within the past month including 1st place in 1A, 1st Drumline, 1st Percussion, 1st Drum Major. We are very proud of our MMS band members who have been a part of this.
- 6th grade students have recently completed “Serafina and the Black Cloak” and have planned a field trip to the Biltmore house.
- First Annual Grandparents Night was held at MMS, AMS, and REMS sponsored by the members of Alpha Delta Kappa. Many community volunteers attended to offer resources and information to our grandparents.
- Win/Win Discount cards are currently on sale. Over half of the cards have already been sold. Get yours while supplies last!
- JV Football team is currently undefeated and finishing the season strong. Soccer and volleyball teams are working hard and improving every day. Cross Country teams have won several races with many new faces on the team.
- Peachtree Elementary:
  - PES had a tremendous turn out for 3rd grade Literacy Night. Mr. Ochoa and Mrs. McKeon, as well as, Mrs. Dockery presented to parents on mclass, Read to Achieve, and BOG scores before visiting classrooms. Intervention/Enrichment Groups for all students in grades 1-3 are underway and are going great thanks to team leaders that include classroom teachers, assistants, BEP teachers, Title 1 teacher, and a foster grandparent. One 4th grader at PES qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program. To be eligible for the program and identified by Duke University, students must score in the 95th percentile in math and reading. Congratulations to Jerry Young! PES students in Mrs. Cunningham’s Kindergarten and all of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades visited the Moving Wall Memorial. Collectively, PES gathered \$235 for the memorial. Students made donations in honor or in memory of loved ones and created a tribute at PES. A Big Thank You to Kary McClure for organizing this event. PES participated in Fire Prevention Week by visiting the Peachtree Fire Department on Wednesday, Oct. 11th. Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Waldroup, along with assistant/student teacher, Ms. Hoyt, hosted a parent meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10th. They discussed mclass, state expectations, reading levels, and ways to help children at home.
- Ranger Elem/Middle:
  - Middle School Cross Country Team - HDR - has been performing well under the direction of April Twiggs and Brandy Raper.
  - Middle School Girls Volleyball Team-HDR- have been successful under the coaching of Vivian Johnson and Christy Payne.
  - Grades 3-8 have completed 2 full sessions of Training on EVAAS and County Benchmarks from Ms. Leslie Ledford.
  - BETA Club is starting at Ranger School for Grades 5-8. Beta Club will be supported by Mrs. Theresa Allen and Mrs. Shannon Holliday. The group looks forward to giving by to the Community and participating in “Character Building” events.
  - Ranger School had Rib Country Night on September 19th and there was a great attendance for that event.

- Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade attended the play entitled Shoe Maker & the Elves that was hosted by Young Harris College.
- Ranger School Media Coordinator, Vivian Johnson hosted the Book Fair. Teachers were able to make a “Wish List” and receive new books for the classroom.
- The participated in the 1st “Lockdown Drill” for this school year. The faculty and students did a great job carrying out correct procedure for a Lockdown Emergency.
- PTA - has sold numerous PAW prints located at the entrance driveway. The classroom teachers are so happy that PTA tinted the windows to provide a classroom that is much cooler and also saves the county money.
- 8th and 5th grade students had the wonderful opportunity to attend the “Vietnam Moving Wall”. It was a wonderful experience.
- We appreciated everyone that came out to REMS to Grandparent’s Night that was hosted by the Alpha Delta Kappa of Cherokee County.
- Moby Max Training was provided by Joshua Griggs and Brandy Raper for REMS faculty & staff. This training will help everyone track progress monitoring.

● Mr. Paul Brown read the motion to adjourn to break and closed session. The motion is approved.

● A motion was made to return to open session. The motion is approved.

● When the Board returned to open session, the following actions were taken:

● **The Board approved the following Retirements & Resignations:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Type of Request</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Tracy Kephart	Retirement	01-31-2018
Sandi Davis	Retirement	12-31-2017
Angie Finnegan	Resignation	10-20-2017
Jacqueline Mathis	Resignation	11-02-2017

● **The Board approved the following leave of absence:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates</i>
Monica Sudderth	09-27-2017—12-22-2017

● **The Board approved the following hiring recommendations:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position &amp; Assignment</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Kristie Oliver	TA EC, MHS	10-09-2017
Jenessa Kuykendall	Teacher, EC, MMS	10-12-2017
Jamie Hill	School Health Educator, District	10-12-2017
James Bryan	Bus Driver	10-12-2017

● **The Board approved the following Substitute Teachers:**

- Lexie Allison
- Maraeh Carringer
- Roy Conner
- Karen Furrer
- Anna Crisp
- Paula Graham
- Kimbela Miller
- Brooke Muzik
- Margaret Steinbronn

● **The Board approved the following 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Site Directors/Tutors:**

- Kathy Casey, MCEMS
- Rodney Sellers, MCEMS
- Cindy Thrasher, MCEMS

- **The Superintendent announced the following transfers:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position, From</i>	<i>Position, To</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Heather McClure	Teacher, MES	Teacher, EC, MES	10-12-2017
Brandy Raper	Teacher, REMS	Assistant Principal, REMS	10-12-2017

- **The Board approved the following Helping Hands School Volunteers**

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Reason for Volunteering</i>	<i>Application Renewal Date</i>
David Queen	AMS	Basketball/Softball	10-12-2018
Timothy Wood	AMS	Coaching	10-12-2018
Joe Morin	MCS	Basketball	10-12-2018
Shelby Bubenik-Evans	MHS	Cheerleading, Cross Country	10-12-2018
Gavin Harris	MHS	Soccer	10-12-2018
Drew Warman	MHS	Band	10-12-2018
Kareen Morrow	MHS	Basketball	10-12-2018
Frank Bachteler	MHS	Swimming	10-12-2018
Katrina Ledford	MHS	Basketball	10-12-2018
Keith Guess	REMS	Basketball	10-12-2018
William Gibson	REMS	Basketball	10-12-2018
Vaughn Gibson	REMS	Basketball	10-12-2018

- Ms. Arrowood announced the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, November 9, 2017 beginning at 6 pm at Central Office. The next Financial Planning Subcommittee and Policy Subcommittee meetings will be held Thursday, November 2, 2017 beginning at 4 and 5 pm at Central Office.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.