



# Board Bullets

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*Highlights of the Cherokee County Board of Education Meeting of Thursday, November 17, 2016*

- Beginning at 6 pm, Ms. Wanda Arrowood called the meeting to order.
- Mr. Tim Coffey led the pledge of allegiance.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan read the mission statement.
- The agenda was approved.
- The Minutes from the October 13, 2016 board meeting were approved as presented.
- Ms. Arrowood called for public comment and there was none.
- Ms. Jenni Irwin was recognized and delivered the 2015-2016 PRIDE Survey results. During her report, Ms. Irwin noted numerous positive decreases of uses of drugs and alcohol by our students. Of note, Ms. Irwin provided a graph that depicted the relationship between student drug and alcohol use and teachers who speak of the ill effects of drugs and alcohol noting that those students who reported teachers speaking often of this issue were markedly less likely to experiment or use drugs or alcohol and conversely, those students who reported their teachers never address the issue were more likely to experiment or use drugs and alcohol.
- Following this, Mr. Randy Barnett delivered a Financial Planning Subcommittee update. Those items reported are:
  - 1) Completion of the AHS/MHS track resurfacing projects.
  - 2) Replacement of the REMS Pre-K playground fence.
  - 3) Need of boiler services at MHS, AHS, Marble, and HDS. This last item was put before the board for consideration as it involved the request for use of ½ Cent Sales tax. The motion was approved.
- Ms. Stephanie Hass was recognized and presented several budget amendments for consideration. Those amendments were:
  - 1) Amendment to the State Public School Fund
  - 2) Amendment to the Local Current Expense Fund
  - 3) Amendment to the Capital Projects Fund: Use of ½ Cent Sales tax in the amount of \$13,480 for use as follows:
    - i. Bolton HVAC—MHS: .....\$9,654
    - ii. Bolton HVAC—AHS/Marble:.....\$1,345
    - iii. Bolton HVAC—HDS:.....\$2,481
  - 1) Application for use of NC Education Lottery Funds
    - i. 2016-2017 Debt Service Payment—QSCB AHS Bldg. B:.....\$42,862.85
- The amendments, usage of ½ cent sales tax, and application for NC Education Lottery Funds were approved as presented.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan began by identifying two policies that were recommended by the Policy Subcommittee for consideration of approval without being presented as first readings. The policies presented are:
  - 1) 7601 Merit-Based Bonuses
  - 2) R-CCS Middle School Athletic Regulatory Policy (*This policy has been tabled and will be re-evaluated at the next board meeting.*)
- Hearing no objections to this recommendation, Ms. Hogan proceeded to present policies for second reading as prepared by the Policy Subcommittee:
  - 1) 1760/7280 Prohibition Against Retaliation
  - 2) 2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses
  - 3) 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability
  - 4) 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety
  - 5) 5027/7275 Weapons and Explosives Prohibited
- After the motion was made for approval of these policies, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. Several administrators were on hand (Ms. Julie Higdon, AMS, Mr. Lance Bristol, AHS, Mr. Paul Wilson, MCEMS, Mr. Tom Graham, MHS, and Ms. Tiffany Clapsaddle, MMS) and each contributed to a discussion about the average grade

standard for athletic eligibility contained in the R-CCS Middle School Athletic Regulatory Policy. A number of the administrators spoke in favor of increasing the grade average from 70% to 77% for athletic eligibility, with a number advocating for it to remain at 70%. There was much discussion about this which included increasing the grade average eligibility review based on the report card schedule and including probationary periods for athletes who fall below the required minimum average. Mr. George Postell and Mr. Winfield Clonts each added that they advocate for the grade remaining at 70%. It was also discussed that whichever direction this policy took that it be enforced consistently throughout the school district as it does no good for one school to adhere to the policy and another not. It was also proposed that athlete grades be reviewed every few weeks to ensure athletes are maintaining the minimum average—be that 70 or 77% and that tutoring programs be established to ensure these student’s academic needs are met. Mr. Tom Graham addressed the possibility of amending the HS Athletic Eligibility Policy and stated that further discussions were needed before the policy could be adequately addressed. At the conclusion of this discussion the R-CCS Middle School Athletic Regulatory Policy was tabled for further development.

- Prior to restating the motion to approve policies for second reading, Dr. Conley went on record by stating that she believes the merit based bonuses governed by policy 7601 are a hurtful, drastic, situation to be given our school system. She added that we’ve been given \$46,000 to distribute with no real guidance on how to do it, except to say it can only be given to state paid employees except teachers are not allowed to receive it; and under these guidelines we’ve distributed it to the best of our ability; and despite how we looked at this policy, there was no good fair way to pay everyone that works with our children and they certainly deserve a bonus. Having stated this, Ms. Hogan restated her motion to approve the following policies:
  - 1) 1760/7280 Prohibition Against Retaliation
  - 2) 2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses
  - 3) 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability
  - 4) 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety
  - 5) 5027/7275 Weapons and Explosives Prohibited
  - 6) 7601 Merit-Based Bonuses
- The policies were adopted as presented. Next, Ms. Hogan presented policies for first reading as prepared by the Policy Subcommittee:
  - 1) 1310/4002 Parent Involvement
  - 2) 1320/3560 Title I Parent and Family Engagement
  - 3) 3410 Testing and Assessment Program
  - 4) 3450 Academic Policy for Honor Students/Class Rankings
  - 5) 6420 Contracts with the Board
  - 6) 6440 Local Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
  - 7) 6450 Purchase of Services
  - 8) 6560 Disposal of Surplus Property
  - 9) 7635 Return to Work
- Dr. Jeana Conley delivered her Superintendent’s report. Those items reported were:

### **Overnight Fieldtrips Approved**

- The HDHS varsity women’s basketball team will travel to Asheville on November 25, 2016. During this trip, the team will take a tour of the UNC—Asheville campus.

### **Good News**

- Dr. June St. Clair-Atkinson announced on October 6, 2016 that TCEC is one of the schools in North Carolina having a 100 percent graduation rate for the 2015/16 school year. This achievement was announced at a luncheon and recognition ceremony on Tuesday, October 25 in Durham, NC. Congratulations to the students, staff and administration of TCEC!
- In addition to TCEC being recognized, Dr. June St. Clair-Atkinson also recognized HDHS on achieving a 95.8 percent graduation rate in 2016! Congratulations to the students, staff and administration of HDHS!

### **In other good news from the Schools**

- AES reported:
  - AES received \$13,382 in Learning Links Grants from the Community Foundation.
  - A grant was also received in the amount of \$12,500 to support ESL students and families with school success.
  - AES also collected a tremendous amount of Gatorade and snacks which have been donated to the fire fighters in Nantahala.

- AHS reported:
  - Sarah Tatham received a grant in the amount of \$790 for EC Students to produce a short news page quarterly to be displayed around the AHS campus.
  - The AHS “Pride of the Valley” Marching Band performed in the North Carolina State Marching Band Music Performance at North Henderson High School. Their ratings were as follows:
    - 1st Place Overall Class 1A
    - 1st Place Music
    - 1st Place Visual
    - 1st Place Guard
    - 2nd Place Percussion
  - Tiffany Holloway was named All Conference in Volleyball and Megan Yonce was named Honorable Mention.
  - David Soto was named Honorable Mention in Soccer for the SMC.
  - Hannah McCaw’s application to Governor’s School will proceed to the State Level. Her audition for Instrumental Music will take place in February.
  - The AHS Seniors have participated in College Application Week. Here are some statistics:
    - 95% of Seniors have Submitted at least 1 College Application
    - 58% have submitted 3 or more College Applications
    - 75% of the College Applications Submitted have been to 4 year institutions
    - There have been 25 acceptances thus far and still counting.
  - Lastly, AHS is currently holding a canned food drive with a goal of collecting 1,000 cans of food.
- AMS reported:
  - Google Parent Night on November 7th was a huge success - parents met with teachers and learned about Google Classroom, digital behavior cards, and how to stay updated on grades online.
  - AMS would like to thank the following community organizations for supporting our students:
    - Andrews Police Department for conducting a forensics lab teaching students about the use of the electromagnetic spectrum;
    - Sherri Goodlet for presenting the significance of Soil and Water Conservation, and
    - Jerry Stadtmiller of BIPE for educating students how biplanes are constructed.
  - Mrs. Ruby Cutshaw, Ms. Jenna West, and Mrs. Camille Brown each received grants from Learning Links totaling \$2,000 for robotics, math, and science kits.
  - Ms. Crystal Ware raised \$350.00 through Go Fund Me for Breakout Boxes.
  - Mrs. Alaina Ledford was awarded STEM kits through Donors Choose.
  - Coaches Crystal Ware, Ruby Cutshaw, Avery Cutshaw, and Charlene Rickett have been offering mandatory homework sessions for athletes in the media center after school before practice.
  - Mr. Colby White has spearheaded the first Andrews Middle School wrestling team. Parents have informed Ms. Higdon this has helped their child immensely - one stated “My child has turned over a new leaf - he suddenly cares about his grades so he will be eligible to participate. We no longer argue over completing work”.
- HDHS reported:
  - Alysha Floyd has been named Little Smokey Mountain Conference Player of the Year in Volleyball, Zoey Jacobsen and Michaela Murphy received All-Conference, and Brittany Davis, Madison Crisp, and Hannah Rhodes all received Honorable Mention. In addition to this, CJ Anderson placed 14th in NCHSAA Cross Country Championship.
  - Attendance at HDHS has improved with the new attendance incentive program. During reward program for 1st grading period, HDHS had 90 students that had less than 2 absences/tardies in any class; the school has collected 50 prizes through donations from area businesses for their drawings.
  - Lastly, but certainly not least, Connie McClure, of HDHS has been named the EC Teacher of the Year!
- HDEMS reported:
  - Nancy Vento and David Decker have successfully formed an elementary school Robotics Team this year in conjunction with the middle school Robotics Team.
  - Jared Wills placed 3rd in the county Spelling Bee hosted by Martins Creek.
  - Lastly, HDEMS had a wonderful Fall Carnival on Nov. 5th. Students, parents, teachers, and community members came out and enjoyed the food, fun, and fellowship!
- Marble reported:

- They had their family literacy night a couple of weeks ago and had over 130 in attendance. Parents and students participated in a variety of literacy building activities and every child received a free book.
- Also, Marble will be having their Fall Festival this Saturday, the 19th, from 12-4. There will be singing, craft vendors, pony rides and an auction.
- MCEMS reported:
  - 4th Grade Teacher Kathy Casey was recently informed that she successfully renewed her National Board Certification.
  - The 4th Annual MCS Car Show featured 72 cars this year, and thanks to local business sponsorship, the event raised \$2,000 with only a \$170 investment from the school for trophies.
  - Mrs. Debbie Ledford, Mrs. Maria Dobbs, Mrs. Cynthia Postell, and Mrs. Nicole Matheson all received Learning Links grants of \$800 each. These funds will be used to purchase needed technology for the classrooms.
  - 5th Grader Aaliyah Lozano and 6th Grader Ty Caley were recently selected to participate in Honors Chorus. They traveled with music teacher Carol Moss to Winston Salem to perform.
  - 100 students at MCS in grades 1-8 made the honor roll the first grading period (that's 51% of the students in those grades).
  - The 4th grade class raised money and donated it to Samaritan's Purse for North Carolina Flood Relief.
  - In response to reading Because of Winn Dixie, fourth graders are collecting items for the Valley River Humane Society to be delivered next week.
  - All students created cards and pictures to send to the USFS, NCFS and local firefighters to thank them and encourage them in their hard work fighting the many recent fires.
  - In the media center, students are engaged in STEM activities through recently constructed Lego-maker-spaces.
  - Lastly, on Friday, CCS veteran educator Mary Beth Cornwell will be reading and signing her new book She's Still My Mom in the media center.
- MES reported:
  - Melissa Reid and first year teacher, Allison Prohl each wrote a grants for \$800 to purchase Ipads for her classroom.
  - Melissa Johnson earned a grant for \$800 for third grade to go on a field trip to Tellus Science Museum.
  - Lastly, Brenda Worley received \$800 from DonorsChoose for Ipads getting her classroom close to a 1:1 with technology.
- MHS reported:
  - This week is "College Application" week and as of today (Nov. 17), 98% of MHS Seniors have completed 1 or more college applications which translates into a total savings of \$3,350 for application fees. Seniors have till 5:00 pm Friday, Nov 18th to apply for free.
  - The new Pep Club is leading the charge to energize school spirit and Bulldog Pride.
  - Mrs. McCoy's ProStart II class is participating in the Blue Ridge Food tour and will be seeing first-hand how what they are learning applies to careers in the food industry.
  - The MHS SGA has been very active. After promoting unification within the school by purchasing matching "United We Stand" t-shirts for all the faculty and staff, SGA hosted an appreciation dinner for Cherokee County Law Enforcement. They invited all of Cherokee County Law Enforcement and were able to provide dinner to all of those able to come. They have a very active and motivated group of young people intent on improving MHS and promoting community involvement.
  - The MHS Men's Cross Country team won conference for the first time in 8 years. The Women's team placed 6th in the State Meet and beat every Traditional High School in 1A. Cameron Rice was named Conference Runner of the Year and to the 1A All State Team. Peyton Wood, Ethan Murray, and Aidan Hall were also named All-Conference and Katlyn Stiles, Brigitte Hernandez, and Luke Garrett were named All-Conference Honorable Mentions. MHS took 6 individuals to their first ever State Championship meet. It is something they will never forget.
  - Also, MHS students participated in elections for "Paynesylvania" and elected Cory Farmer and Jonathan Hogan as Presidents of their class. The Presidents have presided over new legislation in the classroom for bills such as immigration, common core, and welfare reform.
- PES reported:
  - Holly McKellar received a grant worth almost \$800 to purchase an Ipad and software for her classroom and Sandi Davis received a \$500 grant for art supplies.

- Over \$3000 was raised in the October fundraiser and fair. Proceeds will support technology at PES.
- PES had a wonderful Veterans Day celebration led by Mr. Dickert with the help of the MHS band. The Principal and staff of PES extend a heartfelt thank you to Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church for letting them use their facility as they have outgrown their gym!
- Big Brother/Big Sister will be starting soon thanks to the TCEC mentors.
- Lastly, Peachtree United Methodist Church is donating 20 Thanksgiving dinners to PES families in need.
- AIG reported:
  - There are four students moving on to the State Level selection process of the NC Governor’s school; they are:
    - AHS: Hannah McCaw for Instrumental Music
    - MHS: Austin (Trent) Ledford for Natural Science,
    - TCEC: Joseph Miller for Mathematics
    - HDHS: Kirsten Pickelsimer for Social Science
  - Lastly, Jane Ware has been informed she has successfully renewed her National Board Certification.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program at REMS reported:
  - The 21st CCLC Program at REMS was selected to partner with NASA and the US Department of Education to participate in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) challenge. The STEM challenge is based upon real mission data and experiences that occur during human and robotic exploration of the solar system and the GLOBE investigation focuses on science protocols. These content opportunities are designed for grades 5-8, and connect virtually, students in 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLCs) with NASA scientists and engineers to discuss proposed challenge solutions and science protocols in real time. The participating sites create and submit brief videos showcasing their responses to the challenge or investigation. U.S. Department of Education leaders and NASA scientists and engineers then select student videos to highlight in a culminating live Web event or to be showcased during state-based culminating experiences.
- SADD but TRU—AMS, MCEMS, & MMS reported:
  - Seven students from these three schools will be traveling tomorrow to attend the NC SADD conference in Raleigh; while there they will gain leadership skills, share ideas with other students from around the State, and above all return home with an even deeper commitment to combat alcohol and other drug use among our youth.
- At the conclusion of her report, Dr. Conley joined Ms. Arrowood in recognizing Board Members. First, Ms. Arrowood recognized Mr. George Postell for his past service as a Board of Education Member from 1976 to 1993 and for agreeing to serve out the unexpired term, from February 2016 to November 2016, of a Board Member who had resigned. Ms. Arrowood presented Mr. Postell with a certificate of appreciation for his many contributions to public education. Following this, Ms. Arrowood recognized the service of Mr. Randy Barnett and Ms. Debbie Hogan who each served from December 2006 to November 2016. She presented each with a certificate of appreciation expressing gratitude for their many years of dedicated service to public education.
- Ms. Debbie Hogan 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 and Resignations**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position &amp; Assignment,</i>	<i>Type of Request</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Grace Ellis	TA, AES	Resignation	10/31/2016
Laurie Gaskin	Cafeteria, MCEMS	Resignation	10/26/2016

● **The Board approved the following Leave of Absence:**

Linda Gentles	School Nutrition/MCEMS	10/28/2016—01/09/2017
Tiffany Purcell	Admin Assistant/HDEMS	11/29/2016—01/06/2017
Angie West	Cafeteria Mngr., AHS	10/31/2016—12/31/2016

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
Rhonda Smiley	EC Teacher, MHS	11/17/2016
Margaret Jordan	EC Teacher, MES	02/01/2017

- **The Board approved the following substitute teachers**
  - Teresa Aaron
  - Jennifer Barton
  - Grace Ellis
  - Katrina Evans
  - Deborah Holloway
  - Stephanie Ledford
  - Ashley Morris
  - Melisa Paul
  - Janice Pryor
  - Cari West
- **The Board approved the following 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC substitutes and tutors**
  - Amanda Barber
  - Jamie Verola
  - Christina Cunningham
  - Frances Wildsmith
  - Pam Sankey
  - Casey Gibby
  - Shannon Holiday
  - Jessica Ennis
  - Tonia Forrister
  - Brandy Farmer
  - Efrain Ochoa
  - Tamara Stewart
  - Delores Howell
  - Jessica Sheppard
  - Jennie Dalton
- **Part time School Nutrition Assistants**
  - Pamela Sankey, MES
  - Marcy Myers, REMS
  - Toni Martin, Marble
- **School Nutrition Substitute**
  - John Sponseller

• **The Superintendent announced the following transfers**

<i>Name</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Date</i>
Amber Ledford	Teacher, MMS	Teacher, AMS	10/24/2016
Phyllis Fuller	Teacher, AMS	Teacher, MMS	10/24/2016
Angelia Owenby	EC TA, AMS	Title I TA, Marble	11/17/2016
Jessica Wilson	Title I TA, Marble	PK TA, AES	11/17/2016
Elizabeth Roper-Gibson	Teacher, AMS	Assistant Principal, MES	12/05/2016

• **The Board approved the following Helping Hands Volunteers**

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Application Renewal Date</i>
William Roberts	HDS	Basketball Coach	11/17/2017
Roger Adams	REMS	Softball Coach	11/17/2017
Andrew Mashburn	REMS	Basketball	11/17/2017
Cassidy Dalrymple	AHS	Dance Team Coach	11/17/2017
Wendy Byrd	AMS	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	11/17/2017
Eric Byrd	AMS	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	11/17/2017
Elysse Byrd	AMS	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	11/17/2017
Kristie Oliver	MHS	Cheerleading Coach	11/17/2017

- Ms. Arrowood announced the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, December 8, 2016 beginning at 6 pm at Central Office.
- It was announced the Policy Subcommittee would meet at 5 pm on December 1, 2016 at Central Office which will follow the Financial Planning Subcommittee meeting that begins at 4 pm.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.