

Board Highlights March 30, 2015

The Gates County Board of Education met to discuss personnel as outlined in N.C. General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6).

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on, Monday, March 30, 2015 in the Cafeteria of Central Middle School. Glendale Boone, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m., and welcomed visitors and staff.

There were no public comments.

Agenda Items

Dr. Benthall and Natosha Norman gave an update on the After School Program. . He stated they attended a training session in March, provided by the Department of Public Instruction. They are incorporating what they learned, as they teach the children effective leadership qualities, reinforcing positive behavior and the value of respecting others. They are also providing tips to the teachers to help students get ready for testing. They have conducted parent meetings at all four schools. They quoted numbers of students that have improved in math and reading. The board questioned if there are reports provided to DPI. Dr. Benthall said that a report would be submitted in late April, and the board would be provided a copy. Dr. Benthall said he feels that his staff and the teachers have a good working relationship. One of the teachers present commented that she had worked with the staff, and felt this was true.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Williams asked John Smith, Director of Technology, to provide information about the State Wi-Fi Upgrade Project. Mr. Smith stated that NCDPI is currently in the process of awarding contracts to purchase equipment and services, for upgrading current systems to high density wireless. There should not be any cost for Gates County Schools, since our district would receive an 80% discount from the federal government, and the state has committed to fund the remaining 20%, using Race to the Top funds. Mr. Smith also gave an overview of the process. In October 2014, a wireless survey was conducted at all schools to gather data about the existing wireless infrastructure. In early March of 2015, a more detailed walkthrough of the schools was conducted. Currently, work is being done on the final evaluation of vendors and we will submit our request prior to the April 16, 2015 deadline.

Dr. Williams spoke briefly about the constant change of the education system in our country, and once again a proposal has been made to implement a new testing program. There will be pilot programs established, and there should be further information provided in the near future.

Mrs. Lisa Ward and some of her HOSA students presented information about how well our students represented Gates County at the HOSA Conference in Greensboro. Many of our students received awards, and six of the students received medals.

These six will be able to attend the National Conference in California this summer. Ashley Hall is our District 1 Representative for the NC HOSA Executive Council and has the distinct honor of being chosen as the NC Vice President for the HOSA Executive Council for 2015-2016. Mrs. Ward was also chosen to serve as District One Representative on the State HOSA Board. Mrs. Ward expressed how proud she is of all of her students, and their hard work to achieve these goals. The students also expressed their gratitude for Mrs. Ward's dedication to this class.

Dr. Williams presented North Carolina School Boards Association Certificates to Glendale Boone, Ray Felton, Leslie Byrum and Claire Whitehurst, for completing their annual school board member training for 2013-14.

Dr. Williams presented a plaque to Mary Riddick, teacher at Central Middle School, honoring her 54 years of service and dedication to Gates County Schools.

During the Academic Report, Mr. James Woods, principal at Central Middle School, welcomed the board members, staff, parents and students. The students presented a skit, focusing on leadership, and highlighted students' achievements in the arts and academic areas.

Student Advisors –Deja Gainey, Michelle Munoz and Morgan Barnes presented Good News from the schools.

Approval Items

James Woods requested the approval of a Fundraiser Dance sponsored by the Central Middle School Cheerleaders, on April 24, 2015.

Tammi Ward requested approval of an overnight trip for approximately 5 Gates County High School students, to attend the State Horse Judging Competition in Raleigh, on April 24-15, 2015.

Tammi Ward requested the approval of an overnight trip for the Gates County High School Playmakers to go to New York City in December, 2015.

Tammi Ward requested the approval of a field trip to Luray Caverns, in Virginia, for the Earth and Environmental Science students, on April 22, 2015.

Tammi Ward requested the approval of a field trip to Busch Gardens for the Gates County High School Physics class (approximately 10-15 students).

Dr. Williams requested the approval of JKF Architecture to assess Central Middle School for possible upgrade.

Dr. Williams requested approval of exemption of bidding process for facility assessment and approval of JKF Architecture to provide the services.

Rube Blanchard requested the approval of request to pull from capital outlay fund balance.

Rube Blanchard requested the approval of request to purchase maintenance truck.

Mr. Blanchard requested the approval of the following budget amendments:

- Budget Amendment No. 4– Capital Outlay Fund No. 4
- Budget Amendment No 5– Local Fund No. 2
- Budget Amendment No. 6 – Local Fund No. 8
- Budget Amendment No. 7 – State Funds

PERSONNEL APPROVALS

1. LEP/ELL TUTOR

Yvonne Paris-Dixon – LEP/ELL Tutor at T.S. Cooper Elementary School –
tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-12-2015

2. TUTORS FOR BUCKLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ruby Holder
Amy Roth
Heather Boyd
Susan Parker
Eboni Branch
Robin Boone
Alisha Hawk

3. TUTOR FOR GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Courtney Hale – *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-20-2015*

4. SUBSTITUTE/ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER

Benecia Spivey - *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-20-2015*

5. DAYCARE SUBSTITUTES

Holly Harmon – *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-20-2015*
Jordan Hofler - *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-23-2015*
Amanda Hurdle - *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-23-2015*
Charlene Walker - *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-23-2015*

6. RETIREMENT

Julia Beamon – Teacher Assistant at Gatesville Elementary School - Effective: 7-1-2015

Regina Hurdle – Exceptional Children’s Teacher at Gates County High School - Effective: 7-1-2015

Yvonne Taylor – Guidance Counselor at Gatesville Elementary School - Effective: 7-1-2015

Emily Winslow – Teacher at T.S. Cooper Elementary School - Effective: 7-1-2015

Doretha Woods – Teacher at T.S. Cooper Elementary School - Effective: 7-1-2015

7. RESIGNATIONS

Lauren Hargett – Resigned as Assistant to Director of Testing/Accountability and Student Data Manager at Central Office to accept Data Manger/Testing Coordinator position at T.S. Cooper Elementary School, replacing Barbara Knight - Effective 3-6-2015 *tentatively approved by Superintendent 3-4-2015*

Elizabeth Martin – Resigned as regular bus driver for remainder of the school year to be long- term substitute teacher at Gatesville Elementary School. She wishes to remain on substitute bus driver list – effective 3-31-2015