

Board Highlights January 13, 2014

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 held its regular monthly meeting in the Media Center of T.S. Cooper Elementary School on January 13, 2014 at 7:09 p.m.

Chairman G. Douglas Lilley welcomed visitors and staff.

There were no sign-ups for Public Comment

At this time, Dr. Williams opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2014. Mrs. Boone nominated G. Douglas Lilley for Chairman for 2014 and Mr. Felton nominated Glendale Boone for Vice-Chairman for 2014. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion and board members approved the motion unanimously.

Agenda Items

Morgan Barnes, Student Advisor to the Board, shared the Good News about the Elementary Schools, Xavier Roscoe, Student Advisor to the Board, shared the Good News about Central Middle School, and Michelle Munoz, Student Advisor to the Board, share the Good News about Gates County High School.

Students from T.S. Cooper Elementary School presented the Academic Report:
*They made a video on “What it Means to be an A+ School”. Brittany McCants was the lead Anchor and interviewed a panel of teachers and then headed to the classroom to ask the students what they thought it meant to be an A+ school. It was interesting to hear how the teachers’ and students’ responses differed, but were also alike in certain ways. The various “news anchors” proceeded to show students that are “art smart”, “body smart”, “word smart”, “music smart”, and smart with “keeping score”. The T.S. Cooper Elementary teachers that were present at the board meeting ended the presentation with a lovely song about the value of teaching students how to learn.

During the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Williams discussed the following topics (see PowerPoint on the district webpage under “News from the Desk of the Superintendent”):

- * Principal of the Year
- * Teacher Tenure Document
- * “Lights Out” – December 17, 2013
- * Tentative Budget Calendar
- * Needs Assessment to the County
- * School Resource Officer
- * eBoard Invitation
- * Appreciation and Thank You

Dr. Williams stated that Mrs. Tammy Boone exemplified strong leadership during the recent power outage at Central Middle School. He went on to say that we were in constant contact with Dominion Power and parents were notified through School Reach of the outage. Dr. Williams presented slides from the school showing that despite the outage, the school was well lit with emergency lights.

Mr. Blanchard and Mrs. Hill presented the preliminary Budget Calendar.

Dr. Williams handed out the Needs Assessment booklet. It contains information received from directors as well as principals depicting certain needs for each school in order to keep the district moving forward. Also included is a five-year plan that was put together with the help of Mr. Joe Harrell, Director of School Maintenance. Dr. Williams expressed his hope that county commissioners will take this plan into consideration.

Mr. Felton stated that he went to Gates County High School to look at the weight room and noticed certain improvements and repairs that were needed just from that one visit. He indicated that the impact of the weight room affects every sport. He went on to say that it also affects the condition of the athlete to withstand the punishment of sports and helps with their performance.

Dr. Williams commended Ms. Bradley on the hard work she put into obtaining the SRO grant and applauded her attention to safety. The new SRO from Central Middle School was then introduced, Deputy Eric Wall. Deputy Wall explained that he has been on the force for a year and a half and is retired military. He feels that by being in the schools he is not just showing a force of presence, but is also there to assist with the needs of the students. The students are getting used to Deputy Wall being there, and he is thankful that his presence is paying off.

Dr. Williams announced that Ralph Warren with the NCSBA has invited him to attend an eBoard Conference, which Ms. Ramona Miller with the NCSBA will be hosting, in Atlanta, Georgia on February 11, 2014.

Dr. Williams reminded everyone that January is School Board Appreciation Month and he asked Ms. Monique Hicks, Mrs. Adrienne Bradley, Mrs. Jennifer Hill, and Mrs. Gail Hawkins to distribute plaques to the Board Members expressing our sincere appreciation. Dr. Williams showed a video illustrating everyone's gratitude throughout the schools, while Ms. Kelley Harris presented Board Members with a cake made by Ms. Deborah Jordan.

During the Report from the Board, Ray Felton discussed the advances in cancer research from when he was diagnosed twenty-seven years ago. He announced the Relay for Life event coming up on April 25th and 26th at Chowan University. He stated that Gates County Educators plan to raise money for this and he encouraged folks to come out and give their support. Mr. Felton stressed that fundraisers such as Relay for Life provide the necessary funds in order to continually improve cancer research.

All Board Members discussed how much fun they had at the Christmas Parade as well as the Christmas Reception. They all expressed thanks to Leslie Byrum for helping to put the Christmas Reception together and commended the delicious food.

Mrs. Whitehurst told Mrs. Ward how much she enjoyed the December High School Band Concert. Mrs. Whitehurst and Mr. Lilley attended a play by the Playmakers and Mrs. Whitehurst informed Mrs. Toti how much she enjoyed it. She then touched on Tyler Gordon, a student at Central Middle School who is battling cancer. She expressed concern over his current condition and encouraged everyone to think of anything we could do as a school system to help their family. She explained that Tyler's mother Kathy Knight is planning a Gala in May and will be selling tickets to celebrate the end of his treatments.

Mrs. Glendale Boone attended the Commissioners Meeting with Dr. Williams and highly praised his excellent speech on why we should have a new SRO.

Mr. Lilley announced how much he enjoyed Buckland Elementary School's Christmas Program.

Mrs. Whitehurst reminded Board Members that it was time to change the school they are each responsible for attending. Mrs. Boone will now have T.S. Cooper Elementary School, Mr. Lilley will now have Gatesville Elementary School, Mr. Felton will now have Buckland Elementary School, Mr. Byrum will now have Gates County High School, and Mrs. Whitehurst will now have Central Middle School.

During the Report from the Board, Mrs. Whitehurst reported on the NCSBA Conference they attended in Greensboro, NC. She commended the Freedom Writers presentation and she also praised Dr. Williams' presentation and noted that many counties have requested a copy of it. Mrs. Whitehurst went on to say how proud she was of the Gates County High School girls who won the first place award in the NCSBA 2013 High School Video Contest.

Mrs. Boone spoke on the NCSBA Conference in Greensboro, NC as well. She mentioned the excellent speakers that were there and how some really stood out. There was an excellent motivational speaker from Real Talk and a speaker from Freedom Writers. There was also a speaker from the State of Florida who had some very good ideas. She is an advocate for Common Core and gave pointers to get parents and community leaders involved. Finally, credit was given to a Vietnam Veteran's speech on leadership.

Mr. Byrum also commended the speakers at the NCSBA Conference as well as Dr. Williams' presentation. He stated that Dr. Williams may be called to the National School Board Conference on April 14, 2014. Mr. Byrum also mentioned the Southern Regional Conference on eBoard that is coming up. Mr. Byrum reflected on a conference he and Mrs. Boone attended where parents of children who perished in the Sandy Hook tragedy are partnering with a company developing software accessible by laptop, phone, and other electronic devices. With this software, electronic devices will be able to access all safety manuals, cameras, first responders, etc.

Rube Blanchard presented the financial report for the end of month six.

John Smith presented policy number 6524 – Network Security for a thirty-day review.

Twanna Morales presented the 2014-2015 School Calendar for a thirty-day review.

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Request:

*Jason and Kimberly Riddick for their children, Kaiden and Addison Riddick, to attend Gatesville Elementary School for the upcoming 2014-15 school year.

Approval Items

Twanna Morales requested the approval of the Beginning Teacher Support Program.

Vivian Goldsby requested the approval of the Bus Stop Exemptions Report for Buckland Elementary School.

Sallie Ryan requested the approval of the Bus Stop Exemptions Report for Gatesville Elementary School.

Jeremy Wright requested the approval of the T.S. Cooper Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2013-2015 school years.

Tammy Boone requested the approval to hold a Valentine's Day Dance on February 13, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Rube Blanchard requested the approval of the following budget amendments:

Budget Amendment No. 6 – State Funds

Budget Amendment No. 5 – General Expense Fund 8

Rube Blanchard requested the approval for the clarification of dinner reimbursement on the day of departure for overnight travel.

Rube Blanchard requested the approval for the additional destination to be added to the standard mileage reimbursement chart.

Rube Blanchard requested the approval for a decrease in the mileage reimbursement rate from 56.5 cent per mile to 56 cent per mile.

Dr. Barry Williams requested the approval of the Gates County Board of Education Voucher Litigation Resolution.

Teachers

*Courtney Hale – 5th Grade Teacher at Gatesville Elementary School – Replacing Monique Harrell-Watford

*Richard Turner – Exceptional Children’s Teacher at Central Middle School – Replacing Odessa Bond

Exceptional Children’s Teacher Assistants

*Sasha Claverie – Temporary Full-Time Exceptional Children’s Teacher Assistant at Gatesville Elementary School – Replacing Beverly Knight (this is a grant position for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year)

*Victoria H. Ali – Temporary Full-Time Exceptional Children’s Teacher Assistant at Gates County High School – Replacing Laurie Morse (this is a grant position for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year)

Interim Math Teacher

*Debra Vaughan – Interim Math Teacher at Gates County High School for second semester of the 2013-14 school year

Long-Term Substitute Teachers

*Gerald Lee – Long-Term Substitute Exceptional Children’s Teacher at Gates County High School – Replacing Maria Clarke

*Armental Crawford – Long-Term Substitute Exceptional Children’s Teacher for Maria Clarke at Gates County High School.

Substitute Teachers

*Lou Riddick – Certified

*Adam Williams – Certified

Tutor Requests for T.S. Cooper Elementary School

*Mary Hobbs – Teacher

*Beth Copeland – Teacher

*Ervina Bunch – Retired Teacher

Tutor Requests for Gatesville Elementary School

*Lou Riddick – Retired Teacher

Substitute Activity Bus Driver

*Taurus Jordan

**Community Center Employees Change in Status from County Employees to Gates
County School Employees**

*Connie Wolfrey

*Guy Holley

*Faye Moore

Resignations

*Jarvis Randy Byrum – Teacher at Buckland Elementary School