

Board Highlights December 2, 2013

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 Central Middle School on December 2, 2013 at 7:02 p.m.

Chairman G. Douglas Lilley welcomed visitors and staff.

Deborah Byrd addressed the Board during public comment regarding her daughter's absences. Her daughter is a tenth grader at Gates County High School and has unexcused absences for being out sick. Ms. Byrd expressed concern over the fact that students who are absent from school with an illness are not considered excused unless they furnish a doctor's note. She believes this is ridiculous because she doesn't always bring her daughter to the doctor when she is sick. She brought a paper she had gotten signed by forty-five students who claim that they go to school sick in order to avoid unexcused absences. She is asking for a change in this policy to allow absences to be excused with a note from a parent. Mr. Doug Lilley indicated that the Board and Dr. Williams would discuss the matter and respond to her as soon as possible.

Donna Richardson with AdvancED presented a plaque and banner in honor of Gates County Schools' District Accreditation. She commended Gates County Schools for being one of sixty-five schools across the state to receive AdvancED Accreditation. She praised Dr. Williams, Monique Hicks, and Twanna Morales for their commitment and dedication. She also applauded Gates County Schools' conscious efforts to maintain small class sizes.

Agenda Items

Morgan Barnes, Student Advisor to the Board, shared the Good News about Gates County Schools.

Central Middle School presented the Academic Report:

*Students handed out ipads and ipods to the board members, Dr. Williams, and other attendees. Participants were then given a sheet of questions dealing with certain academic content areas such as, math, science, history, etc. They all went around the room with their devices and scanned these codes called, "QR" codes which would produce valuable information to aid in answering the questions on the handout they were given. It was an interesting research tool and partakers enjoyed the activity.

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"):

- * What's Super About Public Schools?
- * Art Work At CMS
- * Governor's School
- * Board Members Receive Accolades

- * School Board Leadership Breakout Session
- * 2012-2013 Test Score Data

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 five.

Adrienne Bradley presented the Loss Control Policies put together by Joe Harrell and Gary Stevens. Mr. Felton suggested that the wording be changed a bit before approval.

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

*Jason Goddard, for his son, Daniel Goddard to continue at T.S. Cooper Elementary School for the 2013-14 school year.

Approval Items

Tammy Boone requested the approval of Central Middle School's Bus Stop Exceptions Report.

Janet Mizelle requested the approval of the following 6300 series policies:

- 6340 – Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts
- 6305 – Safety and Student Transportation Services
- 6306 – School Bus Idling
- 6306-R – School Bus Idling Procedures
- 6315 – Drivers

- 6320 – Use of Student Transportation Services
- 6321 – Bus Routes
- 6330 – Insurance for Student Transportation Services

Rube Blanchard requested the approval of the following 6400 series policies:

- 6401 – Ethics and the Purchasing Function
- 6430 – State Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 6440 – Local Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 6450 – Purchase of Services

Out-of-state trip for T.S. Cooper Elementary School. The fifth grade students would like to travel to the Jamestown Colony on November 15, 2013.

Budget Amendment No. 5 – State Funds

Budget Amendment No. 4 – Federal Funds

Budget Amendment No. 4 – General Expense Fund 8

25% Selection Rubric for offering teachers the four year contract.

Fundraiser request for the NCPK Program.

Overnight trip request for twelve students to attend the NCASA Twelve Competition in Durham, NC on December 13th through 14th.

Field trip request for the first semester Chemistry Class to visit the Surry Nuclear Power plant in Surry, VA on December 10th.

Field trip request for the Gates County High School Sr. Beta Club to attend the State Convention held at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, NC on January 31st through February 2nd.

2014 Junior/Senior Prom to be held on Friday, April 11th at Gates County High School.

Friday, January 17th to be an Early Release Day for Gates County High School and Central Middle School in order to accommodate the need to ensure that all testing and retesting is completed within the last five days of school.

Additional fundraisers for the Gates County High School Red Baron Cheerleaders.

Gates County High School Red Baron Cheerleaders' Business Solicitation with the Gates County Educational Association for Excellence.

Temporary Full-Time Exceptional Children's Teacher Assistant

Amy Roth – Temporary Full-Time Exceptional Children's Teacher Assistant (Grant Position) at Buckland Elementary School

Interim Teacher

Katherine Byrum – Interim 5th Grade Teacher at Gatesville Elementary School – replacing Monique Harrell-Watford

Long-term Substitute Teacher

Jessie Lawrence – Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Central Middle School replacing Paula Holler until position is filled

Tutors for T.S. Cooper Elementary School

Emma Jean Riddick – Retired Teacher – approved substitute teacher

Marva Bond – Retired Teacher

Ellen Riddick – Retired Teacher – approved substitute teacher

Loretta Jones – Retired Teacher

Kathy Byrum – Retired Teacher – approved substitute teacher

Kathy Sisson – Retired Teacher – approved substitute teacher

Cotrenia Salter – Approved non-certified substitute teacher

Pat Handy – Teacher

Nell Stallings – Teacher

Emily Winslow – Teacher

Niketa Knight – Teacher

Marcia Hobbs – Teacher

Ken Moors – Teacher

Wanda Harrell- Technology Assistant

Shirley Greene – Teacher

Coaches

Kristal Brooks – Cheerleading Coach at Central Middle School – replacing Paula Holler

Transfer

Beverly Knight – Exceptional Children's Teacher Assistant at Gatesville Elementary School being transferred to Exceptional Children's Teacher Assistant at Gates County High School

Volunteer Art Teacher

Dawn Gallop – Volunteer Art Teacher at Buckland Elementary School

Resignations

Paula G. Holler – Reading Teacher at Central Middle School effective 11-12-2013

Internship

Sarah Brooke Hale – Internship at Buckland Elementary School – 2nd semester of 2013-2014 school year