

Board Highlights February 2, 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, February 2, 2015 at T.S. Cooper Elementary School. Glendale Boone, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m., and welcomed visitors and staff.

Public Comments

Mrs. Carol Whitt, Gates County Resident, requested that she be allowed to take her therapy dog, Everest, into the schools, with the principals' permission, to promote reading programs. She provided handouts to the board members, with information about therapy dogs, and stated that Everest is registered and insured, and has been involved with a reading program with the Gates County Public Library for the past two years. She has seen great improvement with the children they have worked with. She shared an article from the *Front Porch* publication, concerning a kindergarten Spanish speaking child that she was able to assist in being promoted to 1st grade. Chairman Boone said the board will look into this matter.

Agenda Items

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

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Williams presented a powerpoint highlighting the following:

- Guide to strengthening NC Public Schools – superintendents across the state are working together to improve education for North Carolina
- A-F School Performance Grades – School Report Card is scheduled to be released February 5, 2015. This report card will only reflect a part of what our schools do. The report currently is based on 80 percent passing rates and 20 percent growth. Many feel this is an unfair scale, and think change is necessary. There is a bill before congress now, to abolish the grading scale entirely.
- State Board of Education Summative Task Force – they continue to discuss and draft models for effective teaching tools
- Teacher Engagement Poll – Survey to be handed out to teachers regarding the performance of the Damascus After School Program
- Communication – essential to being successful

Dr. Williams presented a certificate and award, from Relay for Life, to recognize Gates County Schools for their 100% participation in the fight against cancer.

During the Academic Report, Mary Hobbs shared an electronic program she uses in her classroom that monitors the students' behavior. She was introduced to the idea from her son, who attends Gates County High School. One of his teachers has been using the program. Ms. Hobbs has found the program to be an essential tool in the classroom. The students are engaged and excited to participate. Ms. Nowlin, Mrs. Lassiter, Mrs. Parker and some of their students shared what they have learned in kindergarten. Ken Moors,

third grade teacher, and two of his students presented information about an after school project on the history of Battleship North Carolina. As part of their project they put together a model of the battleship, which they displayed, and answered questions highlighting what they have learned. Ms. Kight, fourth grade teacher, and students presented projects where they were asked to produce an animal that did not exist. Mrs. Copeland and students presented information on the Digital Wildcats.

During the report from the Board, board members complimented the organizers of the Polar Plunge, that was held last Saturday, January 31, 2015. They also thanked the participants in the Academic report for their hard work. Chairman Boone reported that she attended the Public Policy Conference in Pinehurst in January and found the conference to be very informative.

Dr. Benthall gave an update on the After School Program.

Mrs. Gail Hawkins presented information regarding the revision of the Gates County High School Honors program, to make sure it meets the requirements for the Honors Portfolio required by the state. The first district review will be on February 20, 2015. The second review will be April 3, 2015, and then it will be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. After the high school honors program is in place, the committee will begin working on the middle school honors program.

Approval Items

Vivian Goldsby, requested the approval of an off-campus, after-school bowling party for fifth graders in the Battle of the Books Club. The party was held on January 19, 2015 and Ms. Goldsby's request was superintendent approved on January 14, 2015.

Mrs. Adrienne Bradley requested the approval of Policy 4201/7271 – Injury and Loss Prevention. There was some discussion regarding the policy.

Mr. Jonathan Hayes requested that Track and Field be added to the athletic program at the high school. This addition will not exceed the athletic budget previously approved, and will be accomplished by limiting the number of boys' tennis matches for the 2014-15 school year. He also made a request to eliminate the boys' tennis program beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Hayes requested approval of a fundraiser request for the soccer team at the high school.

Mrs. Gail Hawkins requested approval of transportation contract with Betty Lassiter to transport exceptional children.

Mr. Rube Blanchard requested approval of Cell Phone Usage Agreement.

Ms. Jennifer Hill requested approval of Beginning Teacher Support Program.

Mr. James Woods requested approval of installing a frosty fruit machine at Central Middle School. It meets the USDA smart snacks and school nutrition guidelines. He

also requested the approval of installing a drink/vending machine, which will only be available to students after 3:30. The installation of these machines will help to generate revenue for the school.

Mr. Blanchard requested the approval of Contract with Douglas A. Hollowell, PC to conduct Audit for 2015.

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

Budget Amendment No. 3– Federal Funds

Budget Amendment No 4– Local Fund #8

Budget Amendment No. 5 – State Funds

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

Barbara Knight – Reassigned from position as Bookkeeper/Power School Data Manager at T.S. Cooper Elementary School to Human Resources Assistant at the Central Office

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN’S TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Rebecca Davis – Full-time permanent Exceptional Children’s Teacher Assistant at Gatesville Elementary School – replacing Sasha Claverie

Laurie Morse – Full-time Temporary Exceptional Children’s Teacher Assistant at Buckland Elementary School (Grant Position) for remainder of the 2014-15 school year

INTERIM MATH TEACHER

Debra Vaughan – Interim Math Teacher at Gates County High School

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

Diane Brothers – Long-Term CTE Substitute Teacher at Gates County High School

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Brian Riddick – non-certified

TUTORS FOR BUCKLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Avis Holley – Teacher

Phillipa Smith – Teacher

Anita Winn – Teacher

Lauren Bright – Teacher

Michelle Newsome – Teacher

Carol Wartian – Teacher
Susan Stahl – Teacher
Elaine Vaughan - Teacher
Kristal Brooks – Teacher Assistant

TUTORS FOR GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Arlene Bass – Teacher
Crystal Lee – Teacher
Kim Kirby – Teacher
Korey Lawlis – Teacher
Staley Marie White – Teacher
Cynthia Buck – Retired Teacher
Kathy Byrum – Retired Teacher

TUTORS FOR GATES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel Badgett – Teacher
Gerald Lee – Teacher
Lisa Perry - Teacher

COACHES FOR GATES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Wayne Hathaway – Assistant Football Coach
Tommy Arline – Head Boys Tennis Coach

COACHES FOR CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marcus Barber – Assistant Track Coach
Russell Atstupenas – Assistant Baseball Coach

STUDENT TEACHER OBSERVATION HOURS

Kristen Williams – Observation Hours in elementary schools, under the Supervision of Tammy Boone, Director of K-8 Curriculum/Federal Programs

RESIGNATION

Barbara Knight – Bookkeeper/Power School Data Manager at T.S. Cooper Elementary School to take position as Human Resources Assistant at Central Office