

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, December 12, 2016

The Habersham County Board of Education met in a Work Session on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Habersham Central High School. Present were:

Don Corbett
Dr. Robert Barron
Russ Nelson
Pat Taylor
Rick Williams
Matthew Cooper, Superintendent
Jennifer Thacker, Board Attorney

David Foster, of Habersham Electric Membership Corporation, presented a capital credit refund check to the Habersham County Board of Education in the amount of \$23,638.05.

Chair Don Corbett called the meeting to order.

The Board amended the work session agenda as follows:

- Move item #4 to item #6 – Executive Session: Personnel and Real Estate
- Add item #4 – Discuss Final Reading of Policy Changes
- Add item #5 – Board Attorney Selection Discussion

The Board unanimously accepted the amended work session agenda.

Wes McGee, Lisa Saxon, and Martha Cantrell gave an AP Capstone update. Approval of AP Capstone Program at Habersham Central High School will be a business item during the January 2017 regular board meeting.

Geep Cunningham led a stadium reserved seating discussion.

Mr. Cooper led a discussion regarding future regular board meeting dates. Approval of Board of Education board meeting date of January 9, 2017 will be a business item during the regular board meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. Approval of Board of Education dates for the remainder of 2017 and January 2018 will be a business item during the January 2017 regular board meeting.

Mr. Cooper led a discussion regarding proposed policy changes. Approval of a final reading of the following policies will be a business item during the regular board meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.:

- BH – Board Code of Ethics
- GAE – Complaints and Grievances
- JR – Student Records
- JRA – Student Data Privacy Complaints

The Board held a board attorney selection discussion. Approving the selection of board attorney for 2017 will be a business item during the regular board meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

The Board unanimously voted to enter executive session for personnel and real estate reasons as described in the board minute's affidavit.

The Board unanimously voted to exit executive session.

No action was taken during executive session.

The Habersham County Board of Education held its Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016 at Habersham Central High School. Present were:

Don Corbett
Dr. Robert Barron
Russ Nelson
Pat Taylor
Rick Williams
Matthew Cooper, Superintendent
Jennifer Thacker, Board Attorney

Chair Don Corbett called the meeting to order. Mr. Corbett thanked Wes McGee and Habersham Central High School for hosting the meeting. Mr. Corbett thanked the Culinary Arts Program at Habersham Central High School for the wonderful pre-meeting meal.

Pastor Mike Franklin of The Torch gave the invocation.

Habersham Central High School JROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Regular Board Meeting, November 14, 2016
- GSBA Annual Conference, December 1, 2, and 3, 2016

Under announcements and recognitions, Dr. Robert Barron presented The Extra Mile Award to Joe Stover, Technology Teacher at North Habersham Middle School. Tracy Allison made the nomination and in her nomination states:

I would like to nominate Mr. Joe Stover, a technology teacher at NHMS, for having a servant's heart for the Extra Mile Award. He often goes out of his way to help others, but I wanted to share a specific incident in which he was a good Samaritan.

On November 7th we had two home basketball games, which ran fairly late. Afterwards, the weather was very damp and very cold. Pretty much everyone was gone from the game/school except for the custodians, Mr. Stover, and me. Unknowing to me, a parent of the opposing team had a flat tire and was broken down in our upper parking lot. Mr. Stover who was not required to stay for either of the basketball games but did, noticed and went out to help him. Mr. Stover waited with the man's truck until that parent from the other team could leave and go get special tools, etc. to fix the flat tire, break down, etc. It took almost an hour for the man to get back to North Habersham, as there's not too many places open at that time of night especially in the Northern part of the county. Mr. Stover who was wearing a very thin jacket patiently waited outside and spent almost another hour on the ground trying to help the man use a special jack to get the spare tire from up under the truck to come down. Despite their best efforts, they couldn't get it to work. During this entire time, Mr. Stover continued to work with a man he had no clue who he was and kept telling me that there was no reason for me to stay too as he had things under control and he would lock everything up himself. Finally, some time after 9:00 pm the

man from the other team gave up because they couldn't get it to work. The man left his truck there and had it towed the next morning. Only then did Mr. Stover feel like he could leave.

In addition to teaching technology and traveling between two middle schools, Mr. Stover who also has leadership certification, assists the administration at NHMS by spending much time during his planning or after school watching bus videos and documenting events/times which immensely helps the administrators by knowing exactly where to look on videos for discipline issues.

Mr. Stover keeps abreast of the latest in technology and readily collaborates and shares his knowledge with other teachers in our building.

Not only does Mr. Stover work as a teacher, he is an important part of our school safety team. His EMT and volunteer fireman background is a great asset to our school. Many times he will come to school after having been out all night assisting with a fire somewhere in the community. As a result, he recently used his connections to set up fire extinguisher training for our school.

He routinely thinks of and share ways that we can make improvements at our school. He currently serves as the team leader for our connections teachers.

These are just a few of the reasons why I nominated Mr. Stover for the Extra Mile Award.

Mr. Stover received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Zaxby's.

Russ Nelson presented the Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Carolyn Chambers, Custodian at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy. Connie Franklin and David Leenman made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Mrs. Chambers, custodian at HNGA, is most deserving of the Service Above Self Award. She embodies what it means to prioritize others' needs in front of one's own needs. Mrs. Chambers has perfect attendance throughout the school year thus far and comes to work with a positive attitude that is ready to overcome any challenge of that day.

Even though Mrs. Chambers is consistently deserving of this award, one particular incident best captures her Service Above Self. At a recent school breakfast, a 9th-grade student accidentally threw her expensive mouth retainer in the trashcan as she threw away her breakfast tray. The student did not realize her actions until later in first block. By that time, Mrs. Chambers had already swept the cafeteria and placed the trash bags in the dumpster like she does daily. When the student made the front office and Mrs. Chambers aware of her costly mistake, Mrs. Chambers had such sympathy for the student that she knew she had to do everything in her power to retrieve the retainer from the dumpster. Without being asked to do so, Mrs. Chambers retrieved each trash bag from the dumpster to begin her search. After opening each trash bag and digging for the retainer, Mrs. Chambers found the retainer in the very last bag at the bottom of the dumpster.

By taking the initiative to selflessly dig through the garbage to retrieve a student's retainer, Mrs. Chamber exemplified what it means to put service above self.

Mrs. Chambers received a framed certificate of recognition from the Clarkesville Rotary Club and a gift certificate to Hawg Wild BBQ.

Habersham County athletic teams and students were recognized. Teams represented were Boys Middle School Tennis, 8th Grade Football, Varsity Boys Cross Country, Varsity Girls Volleyball, and Varsity Competition Cheerleading.

Congratulations!

Habersham County Athletics were the focus of the strategic plan report. Geep Cunningham gave a report on Fall Athletics and discussed upcoming Winter/Spring Sports.

Denise Gunn brought the facilities report.

Staci Newsome brought the financial report.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the financial report as presented.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper was proud to announce that the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) recognized Habersham County Board of Education as a 2016 Quality School Board during their Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on December 2, 2016.

The recognition program was designed to showcase best practices in school governance and leadership. GSBA recognizes good school board governance to foster educational community cultures in order to advance student learning and achievement.

The Habersham County Board of Education met and or exceeded the criteria set forth by GSBA to earn the honor of being named a 2016 Quality Board.

Mr. Cooper thanked Wes McGee and Habersham Central High School for hosting the meeting. Mr. Cooper thanked the JROTC for leading the pledge and thanked the culinary arts program for a great meal.

Wes McGee presented information regarding Habersham Central High School students and staff.

Mr. Cooper recognized and presented trophies to the following schools for outstanding student and staff attendance for November 2016:

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Cornelia Elementary School – 97.1% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School – 97.1% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Cornelia Elementary School – 96% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – Habersham Ninth Grade Academy – 98% Staff Attendance

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows:

Approved the following per diems:

- i. Regular Board Meeting, November 14, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Rick Williams
- ii. GSBA Annual Conference, November 30, 2016: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Rick Williams
- iii. GSBA Annual Conference, December 1, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Rick Williams
- iv. GSBA Annual Conference, December 2, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Rick Williams
- v. GSBA Annual Conference, December 3, 2016: Dr. Robert Barron, Pat Taylor, Rick Williams

Approved the following requests to raise funds and field trip requests:

Requests to Raise Funds

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Fundraiser</u>
Demorest Elementary	PTO	Fit-Bit Raffle
Fairview Elementary	Archery Club	T-shirt Sales
South Habersham Middle	Admin	Concessions
South Habersham Middle	Beta Club	Pennies for Patients
Wilbanks Middle	Admin	Admin Hat Day
Habersham Central	Wrestling	Power Tool Raffle
Habersham Central	Wrestling	Team Apparel Sale
Habersham Central	Wrestling	Candy Bar Sales
Habersham Central	Wrestling	Domino's Discount Card

Field Trip Requests

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates & Location</u>
Habersham Central	Wrestling	January 11-14, 2017 Macon, GA
Habersham Central	Wrestling	February 8-11, 2017 Macon, GA
Habersham Central	Drama	February 9-11, 2017 Columbus, GA

Under business and following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel recommendations:

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following resignations:

- Brian Goldman – Science Teacher at Habersham Central High School – effective May 31, 2017
- Hannah Goss – Special Education Paraprofessional at Level Grove Elementary School – effective December 16, 2016
- Marva Griffith – PE Paraprofessional at Fairview Elementary School – effective December 16, 2016
- Cindy Fulford – School Nutrition Assistant at Habersham Central High School – effective December 16, 2016
- Diane H. Kerns – School Nutrition Assistant at South Habersham Middle School – effective December 16, 2016

Accept the following transfer for 2016-2017:

- Amy Wright – transferring as Special Education Paraprofessional at Demorest Elementary School to Administrative Assistant at Demorest Elementary School

Accept the following personnel for 2016-2017:

- Brett Irvin – Network Administrator in the Technology Department
- Guadalupe Rios – Parent Involvement Coordinator at Demorest Elementary School
- Hannah Nickels – School Nutrition Assistant at South Habersham Middle School
- Natasha Jones – School Nutrition Assistant at South Habersham Middle School
- Sydney Diskin – School Nutrition Assistant at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Chasity Jones – School Nutrition Assistant at Level Grove Elementary School
- Kristina Oliver – School Nutrition Assistant at Cornelia Elementary School
- Amanda Skelton – School Nutrition Assistant at Fairview Elementary School

The Board unanimously approved the Surplus Property Declaration.

Ms. Lee Kilby highlighted accomplishments made by Habersham County Family Connection for FY 17. Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the Habersham County Family Connection Fiscal Agent Designation and Acceptance Agreement for FY 18.

The Board unanimously voted to select Jennifer Thacker as Board Attorney for 2017. Ms. Jennifer Thacker, of Adams, Ellard & Frankum, will continue to serve as Board Attorney through December 31, 2017.

The Board unanimously approved January 9, 2017 as their next regular monthly meeting date with work session beginning at 4:00 p.m. and regular meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Approval of Board of Education dates for the remainder of 2017 and January 2018 will be a business item during the January 9, 2017 regular board meeting.

The Board unanimously approved a final reading of the following policies and the policies are adopted:

- BH – Board Code of Ethics
- GAE – Complaints and Grievances
- JR – Student Records
- JRA – Student Data Privacy Complaints

There were no public comments.

Don Corbett thanked the Board, Habersham Schools and the community for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education for the past four years. Board members and Mr. Cooper thanked Mr. Corbett for his commitment to Habersham County Schools.

This is Mr. Corbett's final board meeting.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.