

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, February 13, 2017

The Habersham County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Present were:

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

Chair Dr. Robert Barron called the meeting to order.

Youth Pastor Chad Parham of The Torch gave the invocation.

Demorest Elementary School students led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board amended the agenda as follows:

- Move item #8b to #8c – Approve Transportation Surplus
- Move item #8a to #8b – Approve Personnel Recommendations
- Add item #8a – Approve Financial Report
- Add item #8d – Approve 2017-2018 School System Calendar

The Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

The minutes from the following were unanimously approved:

- Regular Board Meeting, January 12, 2017

Under announcements and recognitions, Rick Williams presented The Extra Mile Award to Marcia Batson, Physical Education Teacher at Cornelia Elementary School. Amy McCurdy, Misty Rice, and Kevin Weems made the nomination and in their nomination state:

We would like to nominate Marcia Batson for the Extra Mile award. Coach Batson continually goes above and beyond her normal duties to make our school run smoothly. She is a scheduling guru and is always willing to lend a helping hand. When we have an assembly or a change to our daily schedule, Marcia makes sure teachers get their planning time and that all students still get to go to computer, art, music and physical education. She is a champion for Jump Rope for Heart and fundraising for the American Heart Association. Last year we had our most successful year to date. Coach Batson always comes up with a creative way to motivate the students during this campaign. We affectionately refer to Coach Batson as “the child whisperer” as we have never witnessed anyone with better classroom management. Coach oversees the morning arrival and if you didn’t know better, you would think the gym was empty. Students are responsible

for their own behavior, transitioning to and from the cafeteria for breakfast with minimal input from Ms. Batson. She runs a very tight but respectful gym. Students love going to the gym to play “gotcha” and have relay races in addition to the prescribed curriculum. She always finds a way to integrate math into every grade level lesson. Every interaction between coach and students, parents, or staff members is meaningful. She is always positive and finds ways to uplift others in the building. She truly cares for the success of every child and finds the goodness in each student. Coach serves as a backup when the alarm goes off after hours and fills in whenever the administrator is out of town. She is very protective of our building and resources and always keeps the safety of our school as a top priority. Her behavior and dedication to Cornelia Elementary School, both in and out of the building, deserves to be recognized by receiving the Extra Mile Award.

Ms. Batson received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Zaxby’s.

Dr. Robert Barron presented the Service Above Self Award to Jennifer Butler, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper at Cornelia Elementary School. Amy McCurdy, Kevin Weems, Heather Wilson, Sherry Savage, and Tanya England made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Jennifer Butler has worked at Cornelia Elementary School for two and a half years. She has done an outstanding job working with all of our parents, students, and teachers. We are nominating Jennifer for the Service Above Self Award because of her tireless work keeping our bookkeeping records, placing our orders, filling in for the nurse when she is out, greeting parents and assisting teachers in any way that she can. She is never too busy to help out a child or a parent. She leaves no stone unturned when we are trying to reach a parent. Her patience and humble demeanor immediately put everyone around her at ease. She is the most caring, genuine and empathetic person we have ever had the privilege to work with. She is conscientious and very detail oriented. Jennifer is synonymous with excellent customer service. She always has a smile on her face and handles difficult situations with ease. She never complains and is happy to stay late and pitch in whenever needed. Jennifer is constantly thinking about staffing solutions when working with Kelly Services and is quick to suggest ways to maintain coverage in the classroom when absences go unfilled. When we started a new attendance incentive for students and staff, Jennifer willingly assumed an additional responsibility to compile the necessary data and prepare certificates. She is working on learning Spanish as a second language and enjoys trying to communicate with colleagues and parents. CES greatly appreciates all that she does for us! Jennifer is very deserving of this award.

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

Congratulations!

Staci Newsome brought the financial report.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Brent Tuck introduced and

recognized Grayson Means for publishing a sports article in The Northeast Georgian.

Grayson, for his "Twenty Time" class, wrote a sports news article after researching statistics and interviewing players about our winning football season. With the help of Mrs. Butler, it was submitted to Mr. Hess at The Northeast Georgian for publication.

Mrs. Laura Butler of North Habersham Middle School and Will Hess of The Northeast Georgian were introduced and recognized.

Congratulations!

Rhonda Andrews, Helen O'Brien, and Level Grove Elementary School students presented a One Book Habersham skit.

This year's featured book is One Cool Friend by Toni Buzzeo. One Cool Friend tells the tale of an unlikely friendship that forms during a boy's visit to the aquarium.

Mrs. Andrews invited everyone to The Commons at Piedmont College on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. for a Meet and Greet with this year's author.

Mr. Cooper presented trophies to the following schools for outstanding student and staff attendance for January 2017:

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Level Grove Elementary School – 96.33% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – South Habersham Middle School – 96.93% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Woodville Elementary School – 98.02% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – Success Academy– 98.12% Staff Attendance

Mr. Cooper was excited to share 2016 School Climate Ratings for Habersham Schools. A record number of Habersham schools received a 5 star rating:

- Clarkesville Elementary School
- Demorest Elementary School
- North Habersham Middle School
- South Habersham Middle School
- Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School

The following schools received a 4 star rating:

- Baldwin Elementary School
- Cornelia Elementary School
- Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Fairview Elementary School

- Level Grove Elementary School
- Woodville Elementary School
- Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Habersham Central High School

The Success Academy made progress receiving a 3 star rating.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

Approved the following Per Diems:

- i. Regular Board Meeting, January 12, 2017: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams

Approved the following Requests to Raise Funds and Field Trips Requests:

Requests to Raise Funds

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Fundraiser</u>
Fairview Elementary	PE-Archery Team	Archery Tournament
North Habersham Middle	Theatre Arts	T-shirt Sales
South Habersham Middle/ Habersham Ninth Grade Academy	FFA	Bass Fishing Tournament
Wilbanks Middle School	REP Connections	Hat Day
Wilbanks Middle School	REP Connections	Snack & Drink
Wilbanks Middle School	REP Connections	Candy Sales
Wilbanks Middle School	Administrative	Admin Hat Days
Hazel Grove Elementary	PTO	Crump Photo-Archery Team
South Habersham Middle	Chorus/Drama	Godspell Jr. Musical
South Habersham Middle	Chorus/Drama	Chocolate Sale
North Habersham Middle	FFA	FFA Week Activities (Hat Day, Kiss the Pig and Movie Night Concessions)
Habersham Ninth Grade Academy	HNGA Student Body	Friday Ice Cream Sales

Field Trip Requests

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates & Location</u>
Habersham Central	Mock Trial Team	February 17-18, 2017 Dalton, GA
HCHS, NGA, NHMS, SHMS, WMS	Chorus	February 23-25, 2017 Athens, GA
Habersham Central	Key Club	February 24-26, 2017

		St. Simons Island, GA
Ninth Grade Academy	FFA	March 3-4, 2017 Covington, GA
Habersham Central	Girl's Golf	March 3-5, 2017 Jekyll Island, GA
Cornelia Elementary	5 th Grade Classes	March 15, 2017 Franklin, North Carolina
Demorest Elementary	Kindergarten & 1 st Grade	March 15, 2017 Franklin, North Carolina
Fairview Elementary	2 nd Grade	March 15, 2017 Franklin, North Carolina
Habersham Central	CTI	April 19-21, 2017 Eatonton, GA
NHMS, SHMS, WMS	8 th Grade Chorus	May 5-7, 2017 Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Under business, the Board unanimously approved the financial report as presented.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel recommendations:

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following retirements:

- Alison Anglin – Principal at Woodville Elementary School – effective June 13, 2017
- Deirdre Myers – Assistant Principal at Baldwin Elementary School – effective June 7, 2017
- Deborah Cooper – School Counselor at Demorest Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Don Ledbetter – PE Teacher/Head Boys Basketball Coach at Habersham Central High School – effective May 31, 2017
- Yovonda K. Loudermilk – 2nd Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Linda Mather – Special Education Prep Teacher at Clarkesville Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Stella Price – ESOL Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Lisa Sprayberry – 2nd Grade Teacher at Fairview Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Beverly Tost – 5th Grade Teacher at Woodville Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017

- Marie Defoor – Administrative Assistant at Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School – effective June 7, 2017
- Rebecca DeMore – Administrative Assistant at Baldwin Elementary School – effective June 7, 2017
- Lynn Tallent – Administrative Assistant at Clarkesville Elementary School – effective June 7, 2017
- Karen Hogan – Special Education Paraprofessional at Success Academy – effective May 26, 2017
- Patricia London – Kindergarten Paraprofessional at Fairview Elementary School – effective May 26, 2017
- Carolyn Thurmond – Custodian at Fairview Elementary School – effective June 30, 2017
- Patricia Wilkes – 4th Grade Teacher at Woodville Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017

Accept the following resignations:

- Heather Watson – Parent Involvement Coordinator at Level Grove Elementary School – effective May 4, 2017
- Amanda G. Anderson – PE Paraprofessional/Computer Lab Paraprofessional at Baldwin Elementary School – effective February 3, 2017
- Kevin C. Alderman – Custodian at Level Grove Elementary School – effective May 25, 2017
- Joel Cox – Custodian at North Habersham Middle School – effective January 24, 2017
- Ronald C. Sosebee – Custodian at South Habersham Middle School – effective May 31, 2017
- Debra Buchanan – Special Education Teacher 49% at Clarkesville Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Montana Doran – Kindergarten Paraprofessional at Baldwin Elementary School – effective May 26, 2017
- Taylor Eastwood – Kindergarten Paraprofessional at Woodville Elementary School – effective May 26, 2017
- Brittani Renshaw – Special Education Paraprofessional at Fairview Elementary School – effective May 26, 2017

Accept the following transfers for 2016-2017:

- Jimmy Yardley – transferring as Custodian at Cornelia Elementary School to Custodian at North Habersham Middle School
- Jennifer Taylor – transferring as Special Education Paraprofessional at Habersham Central High School to Special Education Speech Paraprofessional System Wide
- Nereyda Gonzalez – transferring as Administrative Assistant 49% at Cornelia Elementary School to Parent Involvement Coordinator at Cornelia Elementary School

Accept the following personnel for 2016-2017:

- Jessica Morales – Parent Involvement Coordinator at South Habersham Middle School/Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School
- Vickie Wojteczko – Special Education Paraprofessional at North Habersham Middle School
- Lance Martin – Special Education Paraprofessional at Cornelia Elementary School
- Michael Davis – Special Education Paraprofessional at Demorest Elementary School
- Tiffani Arriaga – Special Education Paraprofessional at South Habersham Middle School

The Board unanimously approved the declaration of transportation surplus as presented.

The Board unanimously approved the 2017-2018 school system calendar as presented.

There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.