

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, May 8, 2017

The Habersham County Board of Education held its Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017 at Fairview Elementary School. 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.

Pastor Scott Doster of Providence Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Fairview Elementary School Flag Bearers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Everyone enjoyed two song selections by the Panther Performers.

The Board amended the agenda as follows:

- Change item #8e – First Reading of Board Policy IHF (6) – Graduation Requirements – Entering Fall 2008-09 and Thereafter
- Change item #8f to #8g – Approve the Conferral of High School Diplomas for HB 91 Students
- Add item #8f – First Reading to Rescind Board Policy IHE – Promotion and Retention

The Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Work Session, March 30, 2017
- Regular Board Meeting, April 3, 2017
- Called Board Meeting, April 25, 2017

Under announcements and recognitions, Russ Nelson presented The Extra Mile Award to Chris Akridge, Social Studies Teacher and Head Baseball Coach at Habersham Central High School. Varsity Baseball Parents Rick and Jennifer Austin, Ritch and Michelle Wilbanks, Cliff and Misty Baird, Robb and Candace Blackburn, Scott and Georgia Pitts, Shane and Lana Jones, Brian and Sheree Irvin, Paul and Denise Lee, Larry Sheffield, Derek and Jen Munroe, Jackie Cabbagestalk, Harold and Lori Pearson, and Allen Haynes made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Coach Chris Akridge exemplifies being a role model for his players and his students. He is a man of character who exhibits the values of integrity, honesty, dedication, and hard work...in the classroom, on the field, and in his personal life. He is mindful to surround himself with assistant coaches like Coach Satterfield and Coach Mayfield who also exemplify these characteristics.

Coach Ak's commitment to his players is extraordinary, and the amount of time, energy, and effort he daily pours into them is to be commended. His focus is not only on developing a strong team with sound fundamentals, but also on training these young men to become leaders and men of character. He strives to identify and bring out the leadership qualities in each one of his players. He does this through weekly leadership breakfast meetings with his players. He

also organizes “team building” opportunities for our boys, which focus on building positive relationships with the coaches and their teammates, while establishing character both on and off the field. As an example, each season he plans an overnight team building experience for his players. He also encourages his players to “give back” to the community by participating in Opening Day Ceremonies for Little League, assisting with the Challenger League, and helping with Baseball Camps for younger students.

Coach Ak is an excellent communicator exerting extra effort to ensure that both players and their parents stay informed. In order to foster a well-informed and unified Baseball Family, he hosts a pre-season dinner for all players and families in the Raider program. He also held an informal varsity parent meeting to share his goals and to listen to ideas and suggestions from parents. In addition, he maintains contact with former players, and their regular communication with him is a testament to the relationship he built with them as players. The level of dedication and love for his players is truly evident. Building relationships with his players brings out the best in them.

As parents, we understand how rare it is to have a coach like Chris Akridge and his staff to guide our sons. They go the extra mile every single day. After they have exhausted themselves in the school building and then on the baseball field, they head home to be husbands and fathers. They are true examples of what it means “to go the extra mile” for the students in Habersham County.

Mr. Akridge received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Subway.

Rick Williams presented the Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Murray Kogod, School Resource Officer serving Habersham Central High School. Habersham Central High School Administration (Wes McGee, Adam Bagwell, Amy Hood, Lisa Saxon, Jonathan Stribling) made the nomination and in their nomination state:

On the morning of April 27, 2017, a student’s parked vehicle caught fire in the front parking lot of Habersham Central High School. 911 was notified of the incident and dispatched fire department personnel. HCHS School Resource Officer Murray Kogod arrived on the scene before the fire department. The student’s vehicle was fully engulfed in flames when Deputy Kogod arrived. Without hesitation, Deputy Kogod retrieved a fire extinguisher from his patrol car and ran to the burning vehicle, putting himself in harm’s way to rescue anyone who might have been in the vehicle. He opened the driver’s side door and was quickly able to determine that no one was in the vehicle. He continued to battle the flames until fire department personnel arrived and fully extinguished the fire. Everyday, Deputy Kogod works with Habersham Central High School staff and students to ensure the safety of everyone on our campus. We appreciate Deputy Kogod for his dedication to keeping our Raider family safe.

Mr. Kogod received a framed certificate of recognition from the Clarkesville Rotary Club and a gift certificate to Midtown Grill.

Mr. Wes McGee and Ms. Rhea Galati introduced and recognized the following Habersham Central High School student for her accomplishments:

Congratulations to junior Alexa McAlister for being selected as a Georgia Governor’s Honor Recipient in Communicative Arts/English. The Georgia Governor’s Honors Program (GHP) is a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school students who will be rising juniors and seniors during the program. The program offers instruction that is significantly different from the typical high school classroom and that is designed to provide students with

academic, cultural, and social enrichment necessary to become the next generation of global critical thinkers, innovators, and leaders.

McAlister completed a strenuous application process, including essays and interviews, in a four-step process, and she will be spending mid-summer (mid-June to mid-July) in a residential educational experience at Berry College in Rome, GA.

Staci Newsome brought the financial report.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper introduced and recognized Blake Foster and our Teach One To Lead One community mentors for their hard work and dedication to Habersham County Schools.

Mr. Cooper thanked Jennifer Chitwood and Fairview Elementary School for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Cooper asked Ms. Chitwood to present information regarding Fairview Elementary School students and staff.

Mr. Cooper was pleased to present certificates and banners to Demorest Elementary School and Level Grove Elementary School for being recognized as 2017 Title I Reward Schools.

Mr. Cooper announced that Habersham Central High School's Graduation Ceremony would be held in Raider Stadium on Friday, May 26, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

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

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Level Grove Elementary School – 95.4% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – South Habersham Middle School – 96.5% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Clarkesville Elementary School – 97.22% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – North Habersham Middle School – 98.1% Staff Attendance

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows:

Approved the following per diems:

- i. Work Session, March 30, 2017: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- ii. Regular Board Meeting, April 3, 2017: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- iii. Called Board Meeting, April 25, 2017: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, 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> |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Baldwin Elementary | Administration | Sticker Machine |
| Cornelia Elementary | PTO | Chick Fil A Spirit Night |
| Demorest Elementary | Administration | Box Tops |
| Fairview Elementary | Administration | Video Yearbook |
| Hazel Grove Elementary | PTO | Raffle for YETI Roadie Cooler, 30 oz. Yeti Tumbler and ENO nest (hammock) |
| Wilbanks Middle | Administration | 6 th and 7 th Grade Dance |
| Habersham Central | Interact Club | Secret Pal Postal Service |
| Habersham Central | Habersham Soccer | Soccer Camp |
| Habersham Central | Habersham Soccer | Soccer Tournament |

Field Trip Requests

| <u>School</u> | <u>Organization</u> | <u>Dates & Location</u> |
|-----------------|---|--|
| HCHS | FBLA | June 28-July 3, 2017 Anaheim, California |
| Habersham 4-H | Habersham 4-H | July 10-14, 2017 Eatonton, GA |
| Habersham 4-H | Habersham 4-H | July 21, 2017 Franklin, North Carolina |
| Wilbanks Middle | 6 th -8 th Grades | June 6-11, 2018 Orlando and Cape Canaveral, Florida |

Under business and following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the March 2017 Financial Report as presented.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the April 2017 Financial Report as presented.

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

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following retirement:

- Dianne O. Gunn – Special Education Paraprofessional at South Habersham Middle School – effective May 26, 2017

Accept the following resignations:

- Tricia Anderson – 1st Grade Teacher at Fairview Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017
- Angela Cooper – 6th Grade Math Teacher at North Habersham Middle School – effective May 31, 2017
- Lindsay Brown – Special Education Teacher at Hazel Grove Elementary School – effective May 31, 2017

- Zachary Dalton – Agriculture Teacher at South Habersham Middle School – effective June 30, 2017
- Charles L. Hudson, Jr. – Physical Education Teacher/Coach at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy – effective May 31, 2017
- Ansley Lynn Patrum – English Teacher at Habersham Central High School – effective May 31, 2017
- Donnie Brock – Bus Driver – effective April 17, 2017
- Brittani Renshaw – Special Education Paraprofessional at Fairview Elementary School – effective April 18, 2017
- Corey Baird – Special Education Teacher at North Habersham Middle School – effective May 31, 2017

Accept the following transfers for 2017-2018:

- Jennifer Andersen – transferring as 3rd Grade Teacher at Woodville Elementary School to 3rd Grade Teacher at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Tim Boling – transferring as Special Education Teacher/Facilitator at Habersham Success Academy to Agriculture Teacher at Habersham Central High School
- Chastity Chastain – transferring as 3rd Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School to 3rd Grade Teacher at Level Grove Elementary School
- Jean Fain – transferring as Math Teacher at Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School to 5th Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School
- Alice Gunter – transferring as 3rd Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School to 4th Grade Teacher at Fairview Elementary School
- Hannah Johnson – transferring as 4th Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School to 4th Grade Teacher at Clarkesville Elementary School

Accept the following personnel for 2016-2017:

- Angela Birdsall – Substitute School Nurse - System Wide
- Leila Falotico – Substitute School Nurse - System Wide

Accept the following personnel for 2017-2018:

- Rodney Long – Principal at Baldwin Elementary School
- Susan Davis – Principal at Woodville Elementary School
- Fran Blackburn – Principal at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Andrea Green Hutchins – School Counselor at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Kelly Fennell – Science Teacher at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- William Bradley – Business Teacher/Head Girls Basketball Coach at Habersham Central High School
- Courtney Barrett – 3rd Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School
- Alison Singer – English Teacher at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Katherine Throne – Agriculture Teacher at North Habersham Middle School
- Lucia Zavala Morales – Administrative Assistant at Cornelia Elementary School
- Leah Cueva – Physical Education Paraprofessional at Fairview Elementary School
- Richard Boyd – Custodian at South Habersham Middle School

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the FY 18 Proposed Budget as presented.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved a final reading of Board Policy KG – Use of School Facilities (includes KG-R Regulation) and the policy is adopted.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved a first reading of Board Policy IHF (6) – Graduation Requirements – Entering Fall 2008-09 and Thereafter.

Prior to the vote, the Board agreed to have further discussion regarding Policy IHF during the June 12, 2017 work session with possible revisions and another first reading possible.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved a first reading to rescind Board Policy IHE – Promotion and Retention.

The proposed policy changes are available for viewing on habershamschools.com.

The Board unanimously approved the Conferral of a High School Diploma under HB 91 for the following student:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Original Expected Date of Graduation</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Marco Antonio Santaclara Romero | May 20, 2011 |

There were no public comments.

Dr. Barron thanked Jennifer Chitwood and Fairview Elementary School for hosting the board meeting.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.