

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, November 14, 2016

The Habersham County Board of Education met in a Work Session on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Baldwin Elementary 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.

The Board unanimously accepted the work session agenda as presented.

Denise Gunn, Staci Newsome, and Matthew Cooper led a Hazel Grove Elementary School and Woodville Elementary School renovations discussion. The Board agreed to amend the regular board meeting agenda to add the following business item:

- Add item 10d – Approve Construction Delivery Method of Design-Build for Hazel Grove Elementary School and Woodville Elementary School Renovation Projects

Matthew Cooper led a board policy update discussion. Approval of a first reading of the policies will be a business item during the regular board meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. The proposed board policy changes and addition will be available for public review at habershamschools.com.

Matthew Cooper led a discussion regarding upcoming board meetings. A facility visit and called board meeting will not be scheduled for December 2016.

Mr. Cooper led a discussion regarding future regular board meeting dates. Approval of Board of Education regular board meeting on January 9, 2017 will be a business item during the December 12, 2016 regular board meeting. Approval of Board of Education dates for 2017 and January 2018 will be a business item during the January 2017 regular board meeting.

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, November 14, 2016 at Baldwin Elementary 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 Vicki Wade and Baldwin Elementary School for hosting the meeting.

Pastor Mark Thomas of Baldwin Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Baldwin Elementary School fifth grade chorus students, Amayah Dooley and Maddie Taylor, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board amended the agenda as follows:

- Add item 10d – Approve Construction Delivery Method of Design-Build for Hazel Grove Elementary School and Woodville Elementary School Renovation Projects

The Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Regular Board Meeting, October 17, 2016
- Facility Visit and Called Board Meeting, November 3, 2016

Under announcements and recognitions, Rick Williams presented The Extra Mile Award to Marybeth Simmons, Counselor at Fairview Elementary School. Mrs. Chitwood and Mrs. Wilbanks made the nomination and in their nomination state:

We feel that Mrs. Simmons, our FES counselor, has gone the extra mile for the students at Fairview Elementary. Mrs. Simmons has spent countless hours outside of school making videos that correlate with our character education program. These videos are unique and capture the student's attention like no other. Mrs. Simmons always has special guests that appear in her videos, one being Sahara, her pride and joy, an Australian Shepherd. The students love watching her creativity come to life. Fairview loves Mrs. Simmons' for her unique personality, humor, and inspiration. Mrs. Simmons has a wonderful rapport with the students at Fairview Elementary. She is a good listener and encourages the students to be their own problem solver. Everything she does is for the students.

Mrs. Simmons is not only a counselor, she also our sponsor for Student Council, campaign manager for United Way, event planner, advisor, and videographer. She creates our School Video yearbook each year. The video includes pictures and video clips showcasing each flex class and performance, special events such as Daddy/Daughter Dance, Career Day, Hometown Hero Celebration, musicals, Field Day, Special Olympics and costume parades, and other special moments for our students and staff. Mrs. Simmons continuously uses her gifts and talents to serve Fairview in a multitude of ways.

Mrs. Simmons received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Zaxby's.

Don Corbett presented the Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Karen Hinson, Media Clerk at Level Grove Elementary School and Cross Country Coach. Darlene Hudson made the nomination and in her nomination states:

Mrs. Hinson is being nominated for this award for her exceptional work coordinating the Saturday morning Habersham County Raider Relay for the elementary schools. Karen spends countless hours creating this wonderful event for Habersham County children. The event is well organized from beginning to end. Karen is hands on with every detail of the event, from

communicating with all the coaches, ordering shirts and trophies, physically setting up the course, recruiting and training high school students to run the event, and presenting the trophies. Few opportunities for all of the elementary schools to participate together in an event exist, and this one is top notch! We all appreciate Karen for her passionate commitment to helping our students develop and enjoy healthy habits and competition.

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

Mr. Cooper and Marybeth Thomas recognized Chris Chitwood for the following:

During the Fall Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP) conference, Mr. Chitwood was named the Assistant Principal of the Year. While at the conference, Mr. Chitwood interviewed with a committee of 8 GASSP members. Two of the committee members had the following to say about Mr. Chitwood:

“Chris did a great job in his interview with the committee. I was the chairperson of that committee and I can tell you he had a great story and great data and description of the school and the children there.

During his interview his passion for students and serving a community was so evident that it became clear he was the best candidate.

We look forward to the fact that Chris will represent Georgia in the National Assistant Principal of the Year competition in Washington later this school year. He will be a great candidate for that honor also. His passion, genuine concern, and love for students are something your community can be very proud represents you. We are proud of him at GASSP and the state of Georgia.”

Alan Long
Jefferson County High School
"Warrior Nation"

"Mr. Chitwood was one of six finalists chosen for the GASSP (Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals) Assistant Principal of the Year. The six finalists were chosen from a pool of candidates from around the state. An interview committee interviewed the six finalists on Sunday morning and Mr. Chitwood emerged as the top choice. The committee was very impressed with Mr. Chitwood and the accomplishments of Wilbanks Middle School. I was very impressed by the humility of Mr. Chitwood after being named the winner and how quickly he gave the credit to the outstanding faculty, staff, students and Habersham community."

Ben Wiggins
President GASSP
Principal, Oconee County High School

“Hilliard A. Wilbanks Patriots are very proud of Mr. Chris Chitwood and this accomplishment. Mr. Chitwood is a leader who encourages and inspires others to strive for excellence. His collaborative approach to leadership fosters a team atmosphere of success for all students, teachers and staff.”

Marybeth Thomas
Principal, Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School

Congratulations!

Habersham County Schools Fine Arts Programs were the focus of the strategic plan report. Everyone attending enjoyed performances by the following:

- Baldwin Elementary School Chorus students
- South Habersham Middle School 8th Grade Chorus students
- Habersham Central High School Drama students

Matthew Cooper 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 thanked Vicki Wade and Baldwin Elementary School for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Cooper celebrated the ESPLOST renewal. Mr. Cooper thanked The Northeast Georgian for their support. The ESPLOST #5 will begin January 2018.

Mr. Cooper celebrated 2016 Habersham Central High School and Habersham Success Academy Graduation rates. Habersham Central High School achieved a 91.2% rate and the Habersham Success Academy achieved a 54.1% rate.

Jill Maxwell shared that Habersham County Schools Special Education Department has received 100% compliance on their recent District Determination by the state. This is the second year Habersham County Schools has received a perfect review score.

Mr. Cooper asked Vicki Wade to present information regarding Baldwin Elementary School students and staff.

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

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Cornelia Elementary School – 96.9% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School – 97.5% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Level Grove Elementary School – 97.3% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – South Habersham Middle School – 98.04% Staff Attendance

Mr. Cooper and the Board thanked everyone that supported the ESPLOST renewal.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows:

Approved the following per diems:

- i. Regular Board Meeting, October 17, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Rick Williams
- ii. Facility Visit and Called Board Meeting, November 3, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, 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	PTO	Change Our Playground
Clarksville Elementary	Admin	Mayfield Ice Cream Sales (Smart Snack)
Fairview Elementary	Archery Club	T-shirt Sales
Hazel Grove Elementary	Admin	Kona Ice Sales
Woodville Elementary	Student Council/PTO	School Store
North Habersham	PTSO/8 th Grade	Domino's Pizza 'Slice the Price' Card Sales
South Habersham	FFA	Christmas Broom/Pinecone Sales
South Habersham	Band	Online Catalog Sales
South Habersham	8 th Grade Field Trip	Candy Sales
South Habersham	Art	Children's Paint Workshop

Field Trip Requests

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates & Location</u>
North Habersham	8 th Grade	May 12-13, 2017 Walker County, Macon, Andersonville, GA

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

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following resignation:

- Angela Cook – Parent Involvement Coordinator at Cornelia Elementary School – effective January 3, 2017

Accept the following transfer for 2016-2017:

- Tammy Teasley – transferring as Administrative Assistant at Demorest Elementary School to Administrative Assistant at Habersham Central High School

Accept the following personnel for 2016-2017:

- Nereyda Gonzalez – Administrative Assistant 49% at Cornelia Elementary School
- Paula Kimbrell – Special Education Paraprofessional at North Habersham Middle School
- Veronica Golden – School Nutrition Assistant at Level Grove Elementary School
- Megan Haygood – Kindergarten Teacher at Fairview Elementary School

The Board unanimously approved a resolution to payoff the 2005 bond early. The school system has one final payment on the 2005 bonds in the amount of \$2,650,000.00 (principal only). It is due on April 1, 2017. We are allowed to pay our payment early to save on interest, which is estimated to be about \$31,000.00.

The Board unanimously approved a first reading of the following policies:

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

The proposed board policy changes and addition will be available for public review at habershamschools.com.

The Board unanimously approved construction delivery method of design-build for Hazel Grove Elementary School and Woodville Elementary School renovation projects.

There were no public comments.

Board members and Mr. Cooper expressed how much they enjoyed the Veterans Day programs at the middle schools.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.