

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, October 17, 2016

The Habersham County Board of Education met in a Work Session on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. 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 work session to order.

The Board unanimously accepted the work session agenda as presented.

Blake Foster gave an update regarding the Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) program at Habersham Success Academy.

Jane McFerrin of Northeast Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) presented information to the Board.

Wade Rhodes and Staci Newsome led an ESPLOST Renewal discussion.

Dennis Unbehant led a non-employee e-mail accounts discussion.

Matthew Cooper led a discussion regarding upcoming board meetings. The Board agreed to a Facility Visit and Called Board Meeting on November 3, 2016 at Hazel Grove Elementary School at 7:15 a.m. The November 14, 2016 monthly board meeting will be held at Baldwin Elementary School with work session beginning at 4:00 p.m. and regular meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. The December 12, 2016 monthly board meeting will be held at Habersham Central High School with work session beginning at 4:00 p.m. and regular 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, October 17, 2016 in the Board of Education Meeting Room. 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 Jeff Johnson for video recording the meeting and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Father Jose of St. Mark Catholic Church gave the invocation.

North Habersham Middle School students led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented. Pat Taylor was not present for the vote.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Regular Board Meeting, September 12, 2016
- Called Board Meeting, September 27, 2016

Pat Taylor was not present for the vote.

Under Announcements and Recognitions, Don Corbett presented The Extra Mile Award to Karrie Esparza, Second Grade Teacher at Woodville Elementary School. Cindy Corbett, Jennifer Andersen and Woodville Elementary School Third Graders made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Karrie Esparza is very worthy and deserving of the Extra Mile Award. She is an exceptional teacher, an initiator of many programs, and has sacrificed her time and resources to make Woodville and Habersham County Schools better.

Karrie Esparza teaches second grade at Woodville Elementary. As described by her students, Karrie is loving and kind, often spending time at recess to talk to and get to know her students. Karrie also spends countless hours coming in after school and on the weekends to prepare enriching and challenging activities and events for her students. She has planned and organized a Science Day, Dr. Seuss Day, Polar Express Day, and Johnny Appleseed Day for her students that spanned across multiple grade levels and included community involvement.

Karrie is also deserving of this award because she started and led new student programs at Woodville Elementary. Last year, Karrie started and coached the first ever Odyssey of the Mind Team for Woodville Elementary and Habersham County Schools. Odyssey of the Mind is an internationally recognized critical thinking and problem-solving program that culminates in a competition where students have to create an elaborate skit to solve a problem. Karrie met with the Odyssey of the Mind Team afterschool twice a week to prepare for the competition. On February 27, 2016 Karrie took two Odyssey of the Mind Teams to Flowery Branch High School, where the students represented Woodville and Habersham County Schools.

Karrie also took on the responsibility of heading up student council. Karrie and the Student Council started a recycling program at Woodville Elementary. Each Friday, Karrie takes the recycling in her car and delivers it to the recycling drop off after school.

Furthermore, Karrie sacrifices her time to make Woodville safer and a better place for students and staff. Last year, Karrie tutored students after school at St. Dominic's Learning Center. Over the summer, Woodville had new flooring installed and computer labs dismantled. Extra materials were moved into the computer lab. Karrie volunteered to clean and organize this room. She stayed at school until 1:00 in the morning to get this room organized. She never asked for help nor sought attention in return. In addition to this, she has taken it upon herself to keep the school bulletin boards looking fresh.

Finally, Karrie gives of her personal resources to help her students. Over the summer, Karrie took one of her former students back-to-school shopping to ensure he had clothes and supplies for a new school year.

Karrie Esparza is a valuable asset to Woodville Elementary and Habersham County Schools. She never looks for self-recognition. However, we feel she should be recognized for all she has done. Thank you for considering her for this award.

Ms. Esparza received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Zaxby's.

Dr. Robert Barron presented The Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Deborah Payne, Lead Custodian at Demorest Elementary School. Connie Yearwood, Misty Turpin and Vicki Wade made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Ms. Deborah is a true servant leader. Ms. Deborah shared concerns that SPED summer school, flooring replacement, and YMCA day camp had the potential to limit the DES custodians' ability to complete the thorough cleaning, furniture moving, painting, and waxing floors in as timely a manner as in previous summers. Ms. Deborah said that she had a plan, and that plan included an idea for helping a co-worker and another school.

Ms. Deborah shared that the custodian at HGES didn't have help while the principal was working to fill a vacant position. Ms. Deborah expressed concern for the heavy cleaning and lifting that the custodian would have to do without help. Ms. Deborah suggested that she and another custodian from DES could go to HGES and help their custodian. She said that after the three of them finished at HGES, the custodian from HGES could come help the DES custodians get caught up from the delay from so many summer activities.

This was a fantastic idea, and Ms. Turpin, HGES principal, and the custodian agreed. Because of Ms. Deborah's leadership, the needs at both schools were efficiently met.

Another example of Ms. Deborah's servant attitude: Ms. Wade, BES Principal, shared that their custodians were absent the day of open house. Ms. Deborah quickly went into action, and went to BES with another one of our custodians to help ready BES for open house.

Ms. Deborah is a vital part of our school, and we are fortunate to have her on our DES team.

Ms. Payne received a framed certificate of recognition from The Clarkesville Rotary Club and a gift certificate to Midtown Grill.

Wes McGee introduced and recognized Rhea Galati for being one of four teachers from Georgia to earn The Yale Educator Award. Former Habersham Central High School student Spencer Shimek nominated Dr. Galati.

The Yale Educator Recognition Program recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who have supported and inspired their students to achieve at high levels.

The Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions has the distinct pleasure of recognizing educators as recipients of the 2016 Yale Educator Award. The Yale Educator Recognition Program recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who have supported and inspired their students to achieve at high levels. Matriculating students are invited to nominate high school educators, and a committee composed of Yale admissions officers reviews the nominations individually and designates recipients. Of this year's 326 nominees, who represent 33 states and 24 countries, 55 teachers and 28 counselors were selected to receive the award. In September, the

winner were sent engraved desk sets and congratulatory letters, and administrators of the high schools were notified of their achievement.

The entire Yale Admissions Office credits the excellent quality of the Yale student body to educators like these, who shape their students long before they attend Yale, and would like to thank these and all educators for their ongoing efforts in motivating and supporting their students.

Adam Bagwell presented the strategic plan report. School safety was the focus of the report.

Denise Gunn brought the facilities report.

Staci Newsome brought the financial report.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the Finance Report as presented.

Staci Newsome shared information related to the FY 2015 Annual Financial (Audit) Report. Ms. Newsome reported there were no findings and the school system is in full compliance with Georgia law receiving an unmodified opinion, which is the best possible result.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper asked Brent Tuck of North Habersham Middle School to present information regarding her students, staff and school.

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

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Woodville Elementary School – 97.18% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School – 97.43% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Level Grove Elementary School – 98.1% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – Habersham Success Academy – 98.2% 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, September 12, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor and Rick Williams
- ii. Called Board Meeting, September 27, 2016: Don Corbett, Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor and Rick Williams

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

Requests to Raise Funds

SchoolOrganizationFundraiser

Baldwin Elementary	Admin	School Spirit Vending Machine
Baldwin Elementary	Chorus & Incentive Committee	Candy Sales
Baldwin Elementary	Media Center	Sucker Sales
Baldwin Elementary	PTO	Box Tops
Baldwin Elementary	PTO	Family Movie Night
Baldwin Elementary	PTO	Father/Daughter Dance
Baldwin Elementary	PTO	Kona Ice Sales
Cornelia Elementary	Admin	School Spirit Vending Machine (stickers)
Cornelia Elementary	Admin	Yearbook
Fairview Elementary	PTA	After School Dances
Fairview Elementary	PTA	Cookie Dough Sales
Hazel Grove	Admin	School Spirit Vending Machine (stickers/pencils)
Hazel Grove Elementary	Media Center	Book Fair
Woodville Elementary	PTO	Big Green Egg Raffle
North Habersham Middle	20 Time	Bake Sales
North Habersham Middle	Media Center	Shirt Sales
North Habersham Middle	PTSO	Bag Sale-Initials Inc.
South Habersham Middle	8 th Grade	The Outsiders Dance
South Habersham Middle	Admin	Kona Ice Sales
South Habersham Middle	Yearbook	8th Grade Dedication Pages
South Habersham Middle	Yearbook	Duct Tape Your Teacher to the Wall
South Habersham Middle	Yearbook	Old Yearbook Sales
South Habersham Middle	Yearbook	Spring Sidewalk Chalk Art Competition
Wilbanks Middle	Admin	Kickball Tournament
Wilbanks Middle	Admin	Socials
Wilbanks Middle	Media Center	Book Fair

Wilbanks Middle	Reading Team	Book Sales
Wilbanks Middle	7 th Grade Team	Concessions
Habersham Central	Chorus	Domino's Slice the Price - discount card
Habersham Central	Mu Alpha Theta	Candy Corn Guessing Game
Habersham Central	Mu Alpha Theta	Pumpkin Carving with graphs
Habersham Central	Student Council	Pink Out Shirt Sales

Field Trip Requests

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates & Location</u>
Habersham Central	Wrestling	November 29, 2016 Anderson, South Carolina
Habersham Central	Varsity Basketball	December 6, 2016 Westminster, South Carolina
Habersham Central	Wrestling	December 29-30, 2016 Suwanee, GA
HCHS/HNGA	Swim Team	January 20-21, 2017 Dalton, GA
South Habersham	8 th Grade	May 25, 2017 Greenville, South Carolina

Approved the Tribunal Training Course Outline and Provider.

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

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following resignations:

- Julia Ortiz – Bus Driver (remain substitute bus driver) – effective October 17, 2016
- Karla Orozco – Administrative Assistant 49% at Cornelia Elementary School (remain Administrative Assistant 49% at Level Grove Elementary School) – effective October 17, 2016
- Haley Free – Special Education Paraprofessional at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy – effective September 26, 2016
- Jeanette Cheek – Bus Driver (remain substitute bus driver) – effective September 26, 2016
- Calvin Martin – Bus Driver (remain substitute bus driver) – effective September 30, 2016
- Tracey Motes – Bus Driver – effective September 30, 2016
- Josh Farmer – Network Administrator in the Technology Department – effective October 26, 2016

- Autumn Cheek – School Nurse at Woodville Elementary School – effective October 28, 2016
- Debbie Kennedy – Special Education Paraprofessional at North Habersham Middle School – effective October 17, 2016

Accept the following transfers for 2016-2017:

- Rachel Reed – transferring as Special Education Teacher at Level Grove Elementary School to Special Education Teacher at South Habersham Middle School
- Michael Adams – transferring as Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Bus Driver
- Verner Kesler – transferring as Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Bus Driver
- John (Jake) Loudermilk – transferring as Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Bus Driver
- Mary Cathy Miller – transferring as Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Bus Driver
- Cheree Alexander – transferring as Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver
- Matthew Loftis – transferring as Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver
- Amanda McCallister – transferring as Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver
- David Tallant – transferring as Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver

Accept the following personnel for 2016-2017:

- Heather Lovins – Special Education Teacher at Level Grove Elementary School
- Melissa Braswell – EIP Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School
- Melissa Irvin – School Nutrition Assistant at Habersham Central High School
- Brigette Taylor – Special Education Paraprofessional at Cornelia Elementary School
- Rachel Barrow – Custodian at Level Grove Elementary School
- Rick Mason – Custodian at Habersham Central High School
- Katheryn Hennigan – Special Education Paraprofessional at Demorest Elementary School
- Brian Fagan – Substitute Bus Driver
- Christy Morgan – Substitute Bus Driver
- Tommy Pinion – Substitute Bus Driver
- Kevin Callahan – Bus Monitor
- Joseph Penick – Substitute Bus Driver

The Board unanimously approved Surplus Items for Auction.

The Board unanimously approved New School Bus Purchases Utilizing SPLOST IV Funds and State Bus Bond Funds. Buses will be purchased from the low bid vendor Peach State Freightliner at a cost of \$82,166.00 each for two 72-passenger buses and \$91,470.00 each for two 48-passenger lift buses with funding as follows:

- SPLOST IV Funds \$270,055.75
- State Bus Bond funds at a cost of \$77,216.25

- Grand total purchase price for 4 new buses \$347,272.00

The Board unanimously approved the FY 2018 State Capital Outlay Projects Application regarding Hazel Grove Elementary School and Woodville Elementary School additions and modifications.

There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.