

## Board Highlights

.... from August 9, 2004

✓ The Board recognized participants in "Project Soaring High," a staff development program for teachers and assistants provided by Bennett College in Greensboro. Those participating were Earlene Clanton, Chelsea Jennings, Brenda Patton, Mildred Broadnax, Marcia Greenway, Jill Burnette, Shauna Davis, Veronica Richardson and Belinda Robertson.

✓ Princine Jefferies provided a presentation on the establishment and use of mobile computer labs.

✓ Princine Jefferies provided information to the Board on the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). School improvement initiatives in the Warren County Schools district include *High Schools That Work* and *Making Middle Schools Work*.

✓ Costel Evans presented information to the Board on the non-promotions in grades 1-12 for the 2000-2001 through 2003-2004 school years. There were 237 retentions prior to summer school and 136 following summer school.

✓ Bobbie Richardson, Exceptional Programs director, presented information on the Comprehensive Exceptional Children's Accountability System (CECAS) training program. Warren County Schools has received an allotment of \$18,180 to support the implementation of the program, which will provide for staff members hands-on experience to successfully automate the various processes involved in providing services to exceptional children.

✓ Upon Dr. Spain's recommendation, the Board approved a contract between Warren County Schools and the Warren County Sheriff's Office for a School Resource Officers at WCHS and WCMS. The contract for the year

(SEE **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**, PAGE 4)

## Leandro decision means funds for Warren County Schools

On Friday, July 30, the NC Supreme Court issued its decision in the Leandro case, and Warren County's students will reap some of the benefits from what is a loss for the state. The court's decision will mean an appropriation of \$777,500 for Warren County Schools, according to Gary Ward, Finance officer.

In upholding the earlier rulings of Judge Howard Manning, the court gave the State Board some clear direction regarding how it needs to assist school districts with high teacher turnover, large numbers of students in poverty and large numbers of students below grade level. The State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction have been working since 2002 on the LEA Assistance Program, designed to help districts address the needs that triggered the initial Leandro case.

Each of the identified systems benefiting from the ruling will complete and submit to the State board of Education an Action Plan and an accompanying Budget Plan by September 15, 2004.

These documents should reflect the strategies to be implemented and how the additional funds received will support the designated strategies. Upon approval at the Board meeting in October 2003, funds will be released to the LEAs. The areas of focus that LEAs should address in their plans are: recruiting and retaining teachers, class size reduction, and PEP development and implementation.

"We will be putting together a team of individuals to work on our plan," said Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent. "First we will attend an orientation session, then we will be working with an assigned LEAAP Team to develop our plan. This action is a boost for us and will definitely help us in several areas," he said.

## Montague resigns

Carol Montague, principal at Warren County High School, has tendered her resignation and has accepted a position as principal at Carver High School in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system.

Montague is a native of Warren County, and has been the principal at WCHS since October 1998. She is a graduate of Norlina High School, and earned a bachelor of science degree from Elizabeth City State University and a master of education in Supervision and Administration from the University of Maryland at College Park.

She has taught and coached in Maryland and has also served as assistant principal at Great Mills High School and principal at Esperanza Middle School in Maryland.

"Ms. Montague has done an outstanding job at Warren County High School," said Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent. "Under her leadership, the school has moved along and made good progress under the State's accountability program as well as with the new No Child Left Behind requirements. She will be missed in Warren County by the students, parents, community and the staff."



“She moves fast, she stays late and she always gets things done.”

These were but a few of the accolades Principal Clara Thompson had for Zandra Spruill, teacher assistant in Orlinda Perry’s first grade class at Northside Elementary School, as she named her the school year’s first Stellar Performer.

“She is very helpful and always willing to go beyond what’s expected of her,” Thompson said. “She wants to ‘take care of things.’ She only has to hear that something needs doing, and she volunteers to do it, whether in the classroom, in the school’s office or anywhere. Before you know it, it’s done.”

Spruill has worked at Northside since 1979, when hired by Principal Henry Greene. At Northside, she has worked at all levels except fourth and fifth grades, spending most of her time at the third grade level.

A native of Warren County, Spruill attended North Warren School from first grade through ninth grade. She graduated from John Graham High School and attended Vance-Granville Community College, where she received an associate degree in Teacher Associate.

“Within the next five years, I hope to complete a degree so that I can have a classroom of my own,” she said.

Spruill worked as an assistant in Albertha Valentine’s third grade class for several years.

“She is a hard worker, always cooperative and always seeking to improve her skills,” Valentine said. “Whatever I asked her to do, she was willing to try, even if she didn’t know how.”

Valentine said that Spruill genuinely enjoyed the students and found that she demanded respect, and they gave it to her.

“They knew she cared about them,” she said.

Spruill said that her mother has always been her role model. “I have three sisters, and my mother taught us that we should always do the best we can, to have respect and consideration for others along the way and put them first. She taught us the value of home and church,” she said.

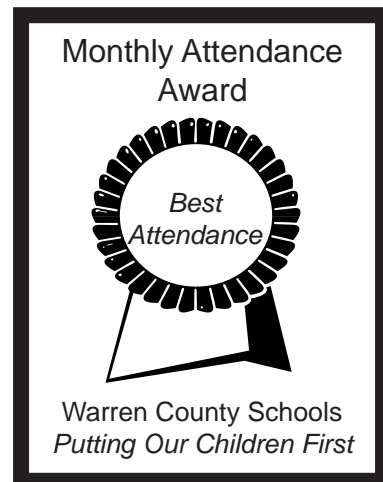
At school, she said, this respect, concern, caring and understanding flows into the classroom. Students in the classroom benefit from and respond to this understanding.

“There was a student last year whose mother was very sick,” she said. Spruill noted that the student was extremely shy and withdrawn. About mid-year, after offering the child extra care and concern, Spruill noticed that things “clicked” with the student.

“She began to ask for help and by the end of the year she knew her sounds and was doing well at reading. She even received the class award for ‘perseverance.’”

Spruill said that in the classroom, first she gets to know the individual child and tries to understand his/her needs. “I try to meet their educational needs, but also help them learn how they can fit into the world as they get older. And I ask them to do their best—not what it takes just to get by. And I don’t let anything keep them from reaching their goals.”

(SEE **STELLAR PERFORMER**, PAGE 3)

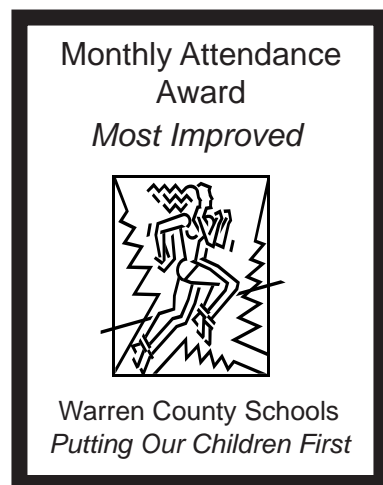


Final figures are in for the end of the 2003-2004 school year, and they show that Vaughan Elementary received the Best Attendance Award for the last attendance month of school. Students there achieved a rate of 96.29 percent.

Named the Most Improved for the month was Warren County High School, with an .84 percent boost over the previous month.

Northside Elementary School came in on top for the year, with an overall attendance rate of 95.90 percent. Close behind was Vaughan with 95.58 percent, Mariam Boyd with 95.50 percent, and South Warren with 95.43 percent. WCMS and WCHS had yearly averages of 94.41 and 92.39 percent, respectively.

The system’s overall average for the year was 94.87 percent



## Calendar bill becomes law

Gov. Mike Easley signed into law House Bill 1464, a law that extends summer vacation until late August and eliminates five teacher workdays.

The bill provides that public schools open for students no sooner than August 25 and close no later than June 10, except in year-round schools, in schools in any local school district that have been closed eight days per year during any four years in the last decade because of severe weather, energy shortages, power failures or other emergency situations, or in certain schools with modified calendars.

The new law dictates specific, uniform scheduling for workdays. Prior to the passing of the law, the school calendar included 20 such days over and beyond the 180 days that students are in class. And until now, schools and districts have had flexibility in scheduling those days—some scheduling more before the school year starts; others including more between the first and last days of school.

Beginning next year, five of the 15 workdays must be set at specific intervals: one the day before school starts and one each at the end of four nine-week quarters, including the day after the last day of classes.

Of the remaining 10 days, eight are required of all teachers—regardless of how much vacation time they have saved. Currently, veteran teachers with extra vacation time can take off workdays unless their school or district mandates that they work.

“Our calendar will look very different from those of the past several years,” said Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent. “There are several questions yet to be answered, but we will work with the new law, keeping the delivery of instruction as our focus.”

## Coming Up - - -

❖ “Making the Promise a Reality” is the theme of the 54th Conference on Exceptional Children scheduled for Nov. 1-3 at the Koury Convention Center/Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro. Sessions related to IEP development, state alternate assessments, AYP for students with disabilities, behavior, literacy, math, writing, and many other pertinent topics will be featured. For more information, please contact David Mills, Exceptional Children Division, via email at dmills@dpi.state.nc.us.

❖ UNC-Chapel Hill’s Center for International Business Education and Research is offering “Working Spanish for Educators,” a 10-week online program that teaches Spanish to K-12 educators so that they can communicate effectively with native Spanish-speaking students and their parents. There is a \$225 cost for each 10-week session with the next session starting Aug. 23. For more information go online to <http://www.kenanflagler.unc.edu/KI/cultureLanguage/workingLanguage/spanishEducators.cfm> or contact Kathy Sadler at 919/962-7843 or [sadler@unc.edu](mailto:sadler@unc.edu).

### STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The entire school benefits from Spruill determination and dedication, Thompson said. “She is an organizer and she always wants to support the school’s mission and do what’s best for the whole school.”

Spruill spends her time away from school taking care of things too. She is an active member at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Wise, the Warren County Training School (North Warren) Alumni and Friends and the Warren County Missionary Union. She loves to read and work crossword puzzles. Spruill has one son, Elton, who lives in Greensboro.

## Education Fund awards grants

Portia Hawes, president of The Warren Education Fund, awarded eight Teacher MiniGrants and four Schoolwide Grants to teachers and administrators at last week’s Opening Convocation.

Receiving Schoolwide Grants are: Renee Mizelle, Vaughan, *Check It Out!*; Danylu Hundley, WCMS, *Brain Food: We’re Hungry to Read*; Thadddeus Alston, Loree Harris, Chelsa Jennings and LeAnn Wooten, Mariam Boyd, *Art Smart*; and Carol Montague, WCHS, *Exercise for Everyone*.

Teachers receiving Teacher MiniGrants are: at Mariam Boyd, Teresa Solomon and Johnnie Wilkins—*Comprehension from Many Dimensions*, Melanie Burnette—*Beach Buddies with Tate the Great*, Gail Coleman, Lorell Lewis and Catherine Sledge—*More Than Meets the Eye! A study and Comparison of Saltwater to Freshwater Ecosystems*, Karen Paynter and Rebecca Carter—*Hooked on Homework* and Stephanie Alston and Norma Retzlaff—*Mariam Boyd Awesome Authors*; at South Warren Elementary School, Emma Williams—*Writing into Reading*; at Warren County Middle School, Cheryl Sebrell—*The Write Stuff*, and Gwendolyn White—*Oh! What Stories They Can Write*.

Awards totalled \$12,173.

The Warren Education Fund is a local foundation that was formed in 1986 and governed by a board of directors composed of community leaders. The mission of the Fund is “to develop programs and support projects that enhance educational opportunities for the students of Warren County Schools.”

Anyone with questions concerning the Fund’s grants programs should contact Mary Hunter, Fund advisor, 257-3184.

## National Board Certification

Teachers considering applying for National Board certification are invited to visit [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org) to review the areas offered for certification and the standards for those areas of certification. The state of North Carolina will pay the \$2,300 assessment fee for all teachers who meet the eligibility criteria as indicated at [www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts). The state continues to pay a 12 percent pay differential for the life of the certificate. The application window is open until Nov. 15, 2004. The following steps are suggested for those teachers who are considering this opportunity:

- Visit the Web site, [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org), to review information about certification standards, research, etc.
- Visit the Web site, [www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts), to review information as it relates to guidelines for funding in North Carolina, pay differentials, frequently asked questions, etc.
- When applying for National Board Certification, teachers MUST also apply at the North Carolina site if they are requesting funding from the state.

The application window for this candidacy cycle will close on Nov. 15, 2004, with all portfolios being due to NBPTS by March 31, 2005. Those with questions should contact the NC National Board Certification Coordinator at 919-807-3358, Jeanne Washburn at 919-807-3373 or [jwashbur@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:jwashbur@dpi.state.nc.us), or Dan Holloman at 919-807-3375 or [dholloma@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:dholloma@dpi.state.nc.us).

### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is not expected to exceed \$85,000.

✓ The Board tabled action on a contract for Speech/Language services with Quick Communications.

✓ The Board approved the following for employment: at WCHS, Keshia Anderson, EC teacher; at Mariam Boyd, Nathaniel Lewis, music teacher, Sonya Alston, secretary, Virginia Bernard and Christine Henderson, Title I tutors; at Northside/Vaughan, Adrienne Mandley, music teacher; and at Northside, Barbara Alston and Patricia Williamson, Follett installation.

✓ Approved as Child Nutrition assistants are Ruby Ayscue and Judy Jones, WCMS; Kathleen Foster, Jessie Kearney and Esther Mayfield, Northside; Denise Perry, Mariam Boyd; Justin Walton and Kellye Walton, Central Office; and Stacey Williams and Janet Wright, South Warren.

✓ Approved as systemwide substitutes are Kimberly Jones, Quinton Joyner, Dustin Peoples, Susan Stallings and Tameka Turner. Ardith Roddy was approved as a substitute for Vaughan. Jo Ann Champion was approved as a substitute custodian. The Board accepted the resignations of Carol Montague, principal, and Benjamin Sizemore, EC teacher, both at WCHS.

✓ The Board voted to release Carol Montague from her contract prior to the 60-day regulation, but only when a replacement is found.

✓ Vacancies include: at South Warren, an Exceptional teacher, two 5th grade teachers, and a kindergarten teacher; at Northside, a 5th grade teacher; at WCMS, a band teacher, an EC teacher, and a science teacher; at WCMS, a choral music teacher, two EC teachers, a math teacher, and a principal; at the Central Office, a receptionist, a Child Nutrition administrative assistant, and a Career and Technical director; and districtwide, a Speech/Language therapist.

**“Discourse”** is published monthly during the school year by the Community Schools office of Warren County Schools. News items for each issue should be submitted to the Community Schools office by the Tuesday prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Education.

**Dr. Ray V. Spain, Superintendent**  
**Mary Lang Hunter, Editor**  
[www.warren-countyschools.org](http://www.warren-countyschools.org)

## Calendar

### August

- 16 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Vaughan 3rd Gr. Accountability Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 17-19 Grade Three Pretest
- 17 Vaughan 5th Gr. Accountability Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Northside Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg. 3:15 p.m.  
South Warren Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 18 Vaughan K/1 Accountability Mtg., 6:30 p.m.  
Mariam Boyd PTA, 7 p.m.
- 20 Mariam Boyd Kind. Accountability Seminar, 10 a.m.
- 23 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 24 WCMS 1st Hepatitis B shots Gr. 6  
WCMS PTSA Exec. Bd. Mtg. 5:30 p.m.  
Hawkins Ed. Center Open House, 6 p.m.
- 25-27 Vaughan Sound-to-Sea Environmental Education Program, Salter Path
- 25 Mariam Boyd 1st Gr. Accountability Seminar, 10:30 a.m.  
So. Warren Fall Book Fair Begins
- 26 WCHS Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg. 4 p.m.
- 27 Mariam Boyd 2nd Gr. Accountability Seminar, 11:15 a.m.
- 30 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
First Day for Hawkins Students  
Mariam Boyd Sch. Imp. Team Mtg., 3:05 p.m.
- 31 Mariam Boyd Fundraiser Kick-Off  
Northside Parent Curriculum/ Accountability Fair, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Gr. K-5

### September

- 1 South Warren Boys' Club Begins  
Mariam Boyd 3rd Gr. Accountability Seminar, 11:30 a.m.
- 2 Northside Grandparents' Breakfast, Gr. K, 4, 5, 7:45-8:20 a.m.