

# "Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of  
Warren County Schools

December 2004

Volume XX, Number 5

## Board Highlights

.... from December 13, 2004

- ✓ Recently elected Board members Roberta Scott, Al Cooper and Angella Dunston were sworn in by Richard Hunter, Warren County Clerk of Court.
- ✓ Dr. Charles Grady and Al Cooper were elected as chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board, respectively.
- ✓ Honored at a reception prior to the Board meeting were district retirees Patricia Adcock, 4th grade teacher, Vaughan; Lucinda Baker, Child Nutrition, South Warren; Angie Bland, Child Nutrition, WCMS; Billie Jo Bunnell, Speech/Language, districtwide; Coseye Hawkins and Charles Holmes, Social Studies, WCHS.
- ✓ The Board recognized Karen Fleming, teacher at WCMS, as the November Stella Performer.
- ✓ November Lights of Character (Cooperation) recognized at the meeting were: Tyrell Perry and Chiquita Fletcher, Hawkins; Shirlecia Hunt and Rebecca Carter, Mariam Boyd; Daniel White and Kimberly Jones, Northside; Rashawn Steverson and Stephon Goode, South Warren; Michaelah Richardson and Pamela Vedo, Vaughan; Tymesha Cooper and Patricia Boyd, WCHS; Toni Marrow and Millon Blackshear, WCMS; and Mary Hunter, Central Office.
- ✓ The Best Attendance and Most Improved Attendance Awards for the fourth attendance month of school were presented to Joyce Long, principal at Mariam Boyd Elementary School.
- ✓ David Askew, Emergency Services Director/Fire Marshal, provided information on the Warren County Full Scale Exercise held at Warren County High School on November 16.
- ✓ Gary Ward, Finance officer,

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## Evans reviews Report Card

Costel Evans, associate superintendent for Federal Programs and Administration, presented a review of the North Carolina School report Card for the 2003-2004 school year at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

The annual report card gives parents and others information about school, district and state level data in a number of areas including student performance on tests, teacher qualifications, school safety and class and school sizes.

Evans highlighted areas where Warren County students are performing at a level at or above other students in the state as well as areas that are of concern. Notable is that at both the elementary and the high school levels, minority students are performing well as compared with the same groups at the state level. "This shows that our work to 'close gaps' is paying off," Evans said.

Evans pointed out that average course sizes in Warren County Schools are very close to or below the state averages, and the percentages of students promoted at each "gateway" are very close to or above the state averages.

In terms of funding sources, Warren County receives more funding from state and federal sources than the averages for the state, but less in local funding than the state average.

More information about the Report Card is available at <http://www.ncreportcards.org>.


## High School Reform Plan Launched

The N.C. Action Plan for High School Innovation was unveiled at conferences in Raleigh and Charlotte to more than 1,000 educators and business leaders. The plan is the first step in building support for reforming the state's 343 public high schools. High schools, as we now have them, were created to serve a world that no longer exists. "Jobs are changing. Technology is changing the way we live and work. Students need to be better prepared to live and work in the world, to be prepared for the jobs that will exist tomorrow," announced Howard Lee, chair of the State Board of Education.

The Action Plan was made possible through an \$11 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and developed by the N.C. New Schools Project, an initiative of the Governor's Office, the State Board of Education, other members of the Education Cabinet, and the Public School Forum.

The plan is based on a new version of the 3 Rs: rigor, relevance, and relationships. An integral part of the plan is to change high schools into a place where every student is known. Other ideas include building smaller schools of up to 400 students or making existing schools into smaller learning communities with specific themes, such as health care and technology.

Workbooks and DVDs promoting the plan will be distributed across the state and will be available on the New Schools Project website. The New Schools Project has funded 23 small school projects across the state, and will soon launch efforts in 15 to 20 more.



**Stellar Performer**  
*Joyce Henderson:*  
**conscientious and professional**

This month's Stellar Performer is Joyce Henderson, Child Nutrition manager at Vaughan Elementary School.

Having taught her at Warren County High School, Principal Noel Robertson said, "She was a conscientious student, and she has grown up to be a conscientious cafeteria manager. It feels good to see a former student excel in adulthood and in her career."

Robertson said that Henderson regularly asks for feedback from him and from others in the school on ways to improve the operation of the cafeteria. "She's eager to improve the quality of the food and the appearance of the cafeteria," he said. "She is professional and has an excellent working relationship with the staff here at Vaughan and the other cafeteria workers."

Robertson is particularly pleased with the ratings the cafeteria staff has earned from Environmental Health. "As a result of the last visit, we are posting a 97.5 sanitation rating," he said.

Important to Robertson is the manner in which Henderson gets involved with the total school program. "She is supportive of all of our programs such as the tutorial programs that take place after school and the Community Schools' Afterschool Program. Henderson is a native of Warren County, having grown up in the Norlina community. She has taken various classes at Vance Granville Community College and dreams of returning to school for a degree in psychology.

She began working for Warren County Schools in 1991 as a Child Nutrition assistant at Warren County High School. She then transferred to Vaughan, back to Warren County Middle School, then back to Vaughan.

Henderson recalls growing up in her large family with eight brothers and sisters, learning a strong work ethic from her mother.

"We all had our chores and roles," she said. "My mother would post our chores each week—we all had certain things we had to do, and when they were done well, there would be rewards. When they weren't, there would be punishment."

She said that her mother is responsible for teaching her the value of "doing things right" and of being independent.

Henderson acknowledged that the most rewarding part of her job is seeing the smiles on students' faces. "And the hugs. They are great."


She also enjoys a positive comradeship with the other cafeteria staff members. "There are very few conflicts in here," she said. "We work as a team. I wouldn't ask them to do anything that I wouldn't do myself," she said.

At home, Henderson said that she leaves the cooking to her husband, Charlie. In her leisure time, she enjoys horseback riding, writing children's short stories and painting. She hopes to share some of her creative work with students at Vaughan at some point.

Just as those who work with Joyce Henderson might expect, she is active in her church in Henderson, Freedom Life, working with the Children's Ministry.

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Monthly Attendance  
Award



Best  
Attendance

Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*


Mariam Boyd deserves the accolades this month, having received both the Best Attendance and the Most Improved Attendance banners for the fourth attendance month of school.

With an average daily attendance rate of 96.71 percent, students there outclassed students across the county. The race for second place is a close one, with South Warren, Vaughan and Northside charting 95.96 percent, 95.86 percent and 95.58 percent, respectively. Rates of attendance for WCMS and WCHS were 93.91 percent and 92.88 percent, respectively.

Only two schools showed improvement over last month. Mariam Boyd rose by .58 percent, and WCHS by .06 percent.

Monthly Attendance  
Award

*Most Improved*



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

## **Development of 2005-2006 School Calendar to begin soon**

Work is to begin soon on designing the school calendar for 2005-2006, incorporating new legislation passed by the NC General Assembly.

Beginning with the next school year, school may not start for students before August 25 and must end no later than June 10. While instructional days remain at 180, holidays at 10 and annual leave days at 10, the number of workdays has been cut by five. Seven of the remaining 15 days must be designated as days on which teachers may take annual leave, i.e. they must be optional workdays. Five of these seven workdays are "protected," and can be used only for annual leave, not instruction, make-up or staff development. One of these protected days must be scheduled at the beginning of the year and one at the end of each academic quarter. The maximum number of mandatory days is eight.

Each school faculty will be asked to submit suggestions for the calendar, focusing on critical issues to consider. A calendar committee representative of the system will incorporate the comments and suggestions to create a working draft of the calendar. The draft will be reviewed by the superintendent, principals and school staffs for final suggestions, and a final draft will be submitted to the superintendent for Board review and approval.

## **Teachers' Corner**

► **The UNC Center for Public Television (UNC-TV)**, South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) and Georgia Public Television (GPT) have joined together to offer media-rich online professional development graduate level courses for the 2004-2005 year. TeacherLine offers more than 90 courses in mathematics, reading, instructional technology, instructional strategies, science, and curriculum mapping. For more information, please visit the TeacherLine Web site at [www.pbs.org/teacherline](http://www.pbs.org/teacherline) or contact Emily Castleberry, UNC Center for Public Television, 919/549-7190, or by email, [ecastleberry@unctv.org](mailto:ecastleberry@unctv.org).

► **The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)** are the nation's highest honor for teachers. A supervisor, principal, teacher colleague, parent, student, or member of the general public must nominate teachers. Download the nomination form from PAEMST ([www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org)) or NCDPI Math ([www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category7](http://www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category7)) and return to Bill Scott (Math) or Clara Stallings (Science) at NCDPI Mathematics and Science Section, 6352 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6352 or fax 919-807-3823. Applications are due May 2, 2005.

► **North Carolina teachers seeking National Board Certification** may apply for funding to cover one retake entry for 2004 - 2005. National Board candidates who may need to apply for retake funding should review the information/guidelines at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts>. The application window for retake funding is Nov. 16 - Jan. 15. For more information about Advanced Candidacy and Retake Funding, please contact Jeanne Washburn at 919/807-3373 ([jwashbur@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:jwashbur@dpi.state.nc.us)), or Deanna Harris at 919/807-3358 ([dharris@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:dharris@dpi.state.nc.us)).

**STELLAR PERFORMER**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

A casual observer there would probably concur with her principal who said, "She is excellent with students—she takes care of them as though she is a parent to them. They love her—she is very approachable."

## **From the State - - -**

❖ **When it comes to National Board Certified teachers**, North Carolina continues to lead the nation, according to certification results released yesterday by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This year's addition of 1,675 newly certified teachers and counselors, the largest class in the country, brings the state's total number of National Board Certified teachers and counselors to 8,280.

❖ **The State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation** has announced a major new scholarship program that will provide a four-year college scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the 341 public and two charter high schools in North Carolina. The announcement of the SECU Foundation's "People Helping People" High School Scholarships was made at the State Board of Education's December meeting in Raleigh.

❖ **The NC Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program (NC EMPT)** program gives high school students advice on their readiness to take college level mathematics courses and aims to reduce the percentage of freshmen at state-supported universities requiring remedial mathematics courses. For more information, please visit the NC EMPT Web site at [www.ncempt.org](http://www.ncempt.org) or contact Ellen Hilgoe, East Carolina University's Mathematics Department, 252/328-6418, or [ncempt@ncempt.org](mailto:ncempt@ncempt.org).

**Best Wishes  
for a Safe and  
Wonderful  
Holiday!**

## Coming Up - - -

◆ *The Ninth Annual Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference* will be held April 4-6 at the Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center, Greensboro. Participation is limited to 3,500 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for submitting the \$110 registration fee is March 4, or when capacity is reached. Registration information has been mailed to local school systems but also is available online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schoolimprovement/closingthegap/conference/>. Online registration is not available - the form must be downloaded, completed and mailed to DPI or emailed to [jham@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:jham@dpi.state.nc.us). For more information, please contact the Division of School Improvement at 919/807-3609 or 919/807-3911.

### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

presented a calendar outlining the budget development process for 2005-2006.

✓ Costel Evans, Associate Superintendent for Federal Programs and Administration, reviewed the system's results on the NC School Report Card for 2003-2004.

✓ The Board approved the acceptance of a donation by the Laureano and Liles families who would like to donate trees and picnic tables to Vaughan Elementary School as a memorial for Chrissy Laureano and Alana Liles who were tragically killed in an automobile accident recently. The tables and trees will be used as an outdoor classroom at the school.

✓ The Board authorized the purchase of three school buses from Thomas Built Buses.

✓ Overnight field trips were approved for the WCHS FCCLA to attend the State Leadership Conference in Greensboro April 24-27, 2005.

✓ The Board approved the employment of the following: Odell Clanton, EC director, districtwide; Joseph France and Elaine Hester, EC teachers, and Nurisha Jones, teacher assistant, South Warren; Alicia Ratliff, social worker, districtwide; Laura Richardson, after school tutor and Evelon Mason, homebound teacher, WCHS; Oliva Hansley, Child Nutrition assistant, WCMS; Cynthia Parrish, Afterschool assistant, Vaughan; and David Nicholas, food transporter, Hawkins.

✓ The Board approved the transfer of Maria Lopez-Couyet, Spanish/ESL teacher at Mariam Boyd, and Sergio Escudero, Spanish/ESL teacher at South Warren and Vaughan, to districtwide ESL teachers.

✓ The Board accepted the resignation of Laura Wilson, occupational therapy assistant, and Sylvia Crouch, teacher assistant, South Warren and approved extended sick leave for Donna Liles, EC teacher at Vaughan, for 12/8/04 - 1/14/05, and Carolyn Walker, 7th grade teacher at WCMS for 12/10/04 - 1/19/05.

✓ Approved as a substitute custodian is Lillie Bullock and as school substitutes are Millie Carter, Felicia Kearney and Cheri Wright.

The Board approved a one-step salary increase for Derek Long, Technology technician, and a reimbursement of \$62.50 for bus drivers to cover the fee for obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

✓ Current vacancies include: an EC teacher, South Warren; an assistant principal, Northside; teachers at WCMS for sixth grade English/language arts, sixth grade language arts/social studies; seventh grade mathematics, and eighth grade science/mathematics; and an EC teacher assistant, WCHS.

**"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

### December

- 14 Vaughan 2nd-3rd Gr. Parent Lunch, 11 a.m.  
South Warren PTA/Christmas Program, 7 p.m.  
Vaughan PTA/Night of the Arts 7 p.m., Gr. 3-5
- 15-16 WCHS Exams/EOC Tests
- 15 South Warren Parent Luncheon Gr. 3-5, 12 Noon  
WCMS Accelerated Reader Celebration, 2 p.m.
- 16 End 2nd 9 Weeks  
Mariam Boyd Accelerated Reader Celebration  
Northside Drama/Chorus Program, 7 p.m.
- 17-21 Teacher Workdays
- 20 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 22-31 Winter Break
- 23-24 Central Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa Begins
- 27 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 30 WCHS Report Cards Mailed
- 31 New Year's Holiday

### January

- 1 New Year's Day  
Kwanzaa Ends
- 3-4 Teacher Workdays
- 3 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 7 South Warren Super Kid Awards Day, 1:30 p.m.
- 10 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11-14 South Warren Career Days
- 11 Management Team, 9 a.m.  
Vaughan Career Day, 9:30 - Noon
- 12 Northside Triple "A" Awards 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
Northside Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg. 3:15 p.m.  
South Warren Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday  
Schools and Offices Closed
- 21 Mariam Boyd Career Day