

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

November 2006

Volume XXII, Number 3

Board Highlights

.... from October 30, 2006

- ✓ The Board recognized Angela Richardson, curriculum specialist at WCMS, who was named Stellar Performer for the month of October.
- ✓ The Board recognized October Lights of Character: Dustin Jordan, Mariam Boyd; Traquan Bullock, Northside; Malik Davis, South Warren; Nathaniel Taylor, Vaughan; Selina Lopez, WCMS; Timothy Batchelor, Hawkins Educational Center; Walter Hundley, WCHS; and Debbie Cox, Central Office.
- ✓ The Board recognized Jacqueline Teeters for receiving certification as a North Carolina Environmental Educator.
- ✓ The Board recognized Noel Robertson as the Warren County School's Principal of the Year.
- ✓ Mr. Evans and Mr. Mustian discussed the condition and the need to replace the HVAC units at WCHS.
- ✓ Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent, informed the Board that WCS had received the planning grant for the New Schools Project.
- ✓ Dr. Chris Withrow presented a report to the Board on the status of instructional software programs. He also proposed a network honor code for all WCS staff.
- ✓ Dr. Linda Mason, presented two programs for WCS teachers to receive a Masters degree.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board agreed to support the Fast Track Program aimed at helping teacher assistants become certified classroom teachers.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board agreed to approve a request to the County Commissioners to replace the cooling tower at WCMS.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board approved the

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Noel Robertson named Principal of the Year

Noel Robertson, principal at Vaughan Elementary School, has been named Warren County's Principal of the Year. The announcement was made at the October 30th school board meeting by Warren County School's Human Resources Director, Dr. Linda Mason.

Robertson who is in his third year as principal at Vaughan Elementary is a resident of the Parktown community in Warren County. He is a graduate of Vance Senior High School. He also is a graduate of Appalachian State University, where he received both a B.S. degree in history, as well as Masters degree in history.

Mr. Robertson started his teaching career at the college level as a social studies, political science and world history instructor at Lees McRae Jr. College in Banner Elk, NC. When a vacancy opened up in Warren County at John Graham, this would mark the beginning of a somewhat nomadic journey with in Warren County Schools. Robertson taught both history and social studies until the school closed in 1981 and he continued teaching social studies at the then new Warren County High School. In 1987, Mr. Robertson was hired as the assistant principal at both Norlina and John Graham Middle Schools after he received his Principal's Certificate from North Carolina Central University. Robertson was made the principal at Norlina Middle School in 1990. In the 1991-92 school year he returned to the high school to teach social studies once again. Robertson was moved to the new Warren County Middle School in 1995 as an assistant principal. In 2000, he then traveled over to Northside to be an assistant principal for four years. In 2004, Robertson was named Principal at Vaughan Elementary. Robertson has seen schools close and schools open in the 29 years he has worked for Warren County Schools.

"I have been a school administrator at all levels except high school, but I taught at that level for almost 15 years. I cannot tell you the value of experience when it comes to being a principal." stated Robertson.

Robertson has been married to Donna Dillard for over twenty years. They have two daughters Peyton and Madison, who both attend Northside Elementary. "They are the center of our lives, the end all and be all. Parenting is what is most important. I used to think it was teaching, but I was wrong." Mr. Robertson wanted to make sure that he recognized his mother, Mrs. Hazel Robertson and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Dillard for all of the wonderful support that they both have given him.

Robertson has several hobbies and interests. He likes gardening, historic restoration of old houses, surfing the net and alternative energy sources. "I heat my house with corn and would like find other ways to save and protect our nature resources" Robertson said.

Robertson said he was "surprised" to receive this recognition. "It is exciting and rewarding to feel like you qualify for something like this." When asked what he enjoys the most about being a principal? Mr. Robertson responded, "I like being able to make children feel comfortable and safe at school."

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Stellar Performer

Angela Vaughan, "a true asset to Mariam Boyd."

This month's Stellar Performer is Angela Vaughan, exceptional children's resource teacher at Mariam Boyd Elementary School.

Nominated by her colleagues at the school, Vaughan is quoted to be "the first person to step up and carry-out whatever responsibility given to her beyond the call of duty."

"She is always an asset to the school," said Canecca Davis, principal at Mariam Boyd. "She is so thorough and dedicated to the profession. All you have to do is ask her to do something and she will get it done no questions asked. She is all about love, the love for teaching and her students is what drives her in her daily work."

"She wears many hats around here, sometimes literally," said Jamar Perry, Media Coordinator at Mariam Boyd. "She has volunteered for so many responsibilities at the school it's hard to say what she is not involved with." Just a few of these responsibilities are Co-Chair Person on Mariam Boyd's Leadership Team, the school's Safe Schools Committee and Positive Behavior Support program.

Pamela Eason, speech and language pathologist at Mariam Boyd, had this to say about Mrs. Vaughan. "She has such a high level of consideration for her students, it is not just teaching kids to her, its about improving them. Mrs Vaughan's main goal is to have her students test out of EC programs."

Vaughan is a graduate of Northern Vance High School. She attended East Carolina University and graduated with a B.S. degree in Special Education in 1998. Mrs. Vaughan chose teaching as a career because "I love children and children with special needs deserve a lot of love. I worked at a child development center in high school and found it very rewarding and I felt like it was my calling to teach."

Mrs. Vaughan has been teaching for nine years. She was hired in 1999 by Danylu Hundley, then the principal of Mariam Boyd. "The most outstanding characteristic of Mrs. Vaughan is her level of compassion. Her high level of compassion is what really allows her to excel in a exceptional children's classroom." said Hundley. Vaughan received her National Board Certification and was recognized as the Warren County Teacher of the Year both in 2003.

When asked what she expected from her students, Mrs. Vaughan responded with one word, "Success. My students may not be straight A students, but they can do something, they can succeed. It is my job to help make that happen. It is my inspiration."

In her personal life, Mrs. Vaughan is married to Jonathan Vaughan and they have a 5-year-old daughter Angel. Angel is in kindergarten at Mariam Boyd and her mother really likes having her nearby. During her freetime Mrs. Vaughan continues to give of herself as she volunteers for two very important agencies to her. She volunteers for the Ronald McDonald House and the Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill, both agencies were of great help to her and her family when Angel was born 2 months premature.

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Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

This month, the good news is that Mariam Boyd students did the best job of getting to school. They will take the Best Attendance banner after charting an attendance rate of 96.84 percent.

The bad news is that there will be no Most Improved attendance banner - Attendance has declined, such that all schools fell into the minus column when it comes to improvement.

Close behind Vaughan, is with 96.41 percent, followed by Northside, with 96.38 percent. WCMS charted a rate of 95.47 percent; South Warren, 94.91 percent, and WCHS, 92.11 percent.

The Most Improved banner wants out of the closet! Please stress to students and parents the importance of good attendance.

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

WCHS "Dynamic Marching Machine" are National Champions!

Warren County High School's "Dynamic Marching Machine" left Warren County late in the evening on Thursday, November 9th to attend the 5th Annual National High Stepping Marching Band Championship Competition in Birmingham, Alabama. "I did not have a good feeling about our chances, I didn't think the band's heart was in it," said Taylor Whitehead, the band's director. "I almost called it off at the last minute. Two weeks earlier we were ready and I knew we could win it, but the band's attitude had slipped some. Hotel deposits had already been paid so, I had no choice but to leave it up to the band. Somewhere between the high school and the competition field on that long ride to Birmingham the band decided they were going to win".

On Friday night the winning began as Warren County's "Steel Stix" drumline captured 1st place as they battled head to head with 10 of the nation's best drumlines. The winning continued on as the "Dynamic Marching Machine" made their way on to the competition field on Saturday. "Just as the band went on the field, a light rain turned into a downpour. The show went on and the band did their thing," said Dennis Sneed, assistant principal at WCMS and band supporter. Mr. Whitehead stated "It was nothing new to us. We had practiced in the rain before, not to practice being rained on, but to become better prepared for a halftime show later in the week." The practice paid off. The WCHS "DMM" racked up the accolades. Warren County won the following awards 1st Place Class A Band, 1st Place Percussion, 1st Place Musicians, 1st Place General Effect, 1st Place Marching & Manuevering and 2nd Place Flags.

The Dynamic Marching Machine pulled into Warren County early Monday morning just a little different than they had left. They came home as champions, not just as band champions, but champions for us all. They proved to us and everyone else that with a lot of hard work and desire, no matter how hard it rains, we can rise to the top.

Thank you, Mr. Whitehead, band director, thank you, Mr Joyner assistant band director (Volunteer). Thank you, Band Boosters and Supporters. Most of all thank you, the now "National Champion, Warren County High School Dynamic Marching Machine." You have made us proud.

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

November's Stellar Performer, Angela Vaughan gives of herself for the benefit of others. She serves on committees here at school that ensure that the students of Mariam Boyd have a safe and comfortable place to learn. She teaches in a classroom where every student can and will succeed. Mrs. Davis said, "Mrs. Vaughan fits our school motto perfectly, so much so I sometimes wonder if she made it up. The motto at Mariam Boyd is "Teamwork makes the Dreamwork," and the Dream is working partly because of Mrs. Vaughan's dedication and commitment to Excellence. This is why we as a staff chose Mrs. Vaughan as our Stellar Performer."

Teacher's Corner

What's New on the Web

The Annual School Health Services Report on Public Schools is compiled at the end of each school year by school nurses, and contains data collected from each local education agency (LEA) in North Carolina. It contains information on the numbers, employers, educational background and locations of all school nurses employed in North Carolina public schools, including the school nurse to student ratio in each LEA. It also contains data on health conditions identified in the student population and the school health services that are provided statewide. Please visit <http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/> to download this report.

New Positive Behavior Support Site Launched: Positive Behavioral Support Programs are a way to impact the learning environments in the schools in order to support high student performance and to reduce behavioral problems. This new site provides access to professional development, resources and on-going support in order for schools to successfully implement Positive Behavior Support locally. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/positivebehavior/> to learn more.

Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Newsletter Online: The fall issue of the Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps newsletter, "Changing the Way We Do Business in the Village," is now available online at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/racg/resources/newsletter/>.

Details about the Prezell R. Robinson Scholarship Available: The Prezell R. Robinson Scholars Program (formerly the Challenge Scholars Program) is designed to encourage high school students to pursue careers in teaching. Low-wealth school systems and school systems with documented difficulty in recruiting qualified teachers are eligible to participate. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/scholarships/robinson/> for details.

Principal of the Year, cont'd from Page 1

It is also rewarding to be involved in the work of putting students in the position to enjoy coming to school and learning.” He continued to say that he feels that his most important responsibility to the children is to ensure that students get what it takes to be good citizens.

Robertson’s staff all responded the same way when they found out that he was awarded Principal of the Year. They all said things like. “I already new that,” or “Tell me somthing I didn’t already know.” In the end, Robertson would respond in a humble way saying, “I am not sure one person can take this credit. Teachers, assistant teachers, bus drivers, school custodians, all school employees and even the students make a team and determine that team’s success.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

overnight fieldtrip request of the WCHS FCCLA to attend the 2006 FCCLA National Cluster Meeting in Charlotte, NC on Nov. 17-19, 2006.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the establishment of a new principal’s position for the new proposed technology high school effective beginning the second semester of 2006-2007 school year.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board agreed to adopt the hourly rate set by the State Legislature for activity bus driving and wait time.

✓ The Board approved the following for employment: at WCMS, Jessica London, EC teacher effective 10/27/06, Tammy Rodwell, School Nurse at WCHS effective 11/27/07, Celestia Long, School Nurse at WCMS effective 11/6/06, Gracie Alston transfer from Guidance Counselor at WCMS to Mariam Boyd effective 11/1/06, Maurice Crump transfer from Alt. School to WCHS Social Studies teacher effective 10/31/06, Willie Richardson District Wide Groundskeeper effective 11/1/06, Eroy Green, Jerry Branch, Floor Maintenance Assistants, District Wide effective 10/27/06, Sean Bullock, transfer from Custodian at Northside to S. Warren effective 10/27/06, Artice Lockheart, Bus Driver effective 10/18/06, and Deborah Alston, Bus Driver (Sub) effective 10/31/06

✓ The Board approved the employment of Christine Carr, Positive Behavior Support Regional Coordinator (NCDPI).

✓ Approved as systemwide substitutes are Morine Clark, Frances Somerville, Thelma Taylor, Andre Palmer (Child Nutrition), Patricia Hargrove (Bus Monitor), Carol Johnson (Bus Monitor) and Ernestine Alston (Bus Monitor).

✓ The Board approved the following for extra duty assignments and volunteers at Mariam Boyd, Northside, Hawkins, S. Warren, WCHS and WCMS.

✓ Vacancies include: at Hawkins Education Center an Alt. school teacher and a EC Pre-K teacher; Elementary Ed. teacher and Intervention Specialist at S. Warren; and at WCMS a science teacher, EC teacher and a Guidance Counselor; Mariam Boyd, EC teacher; at WCHS EC teacher, Media Coordinator and a Custodian; and an ESL teacher, Testing Coordinator, Web programmer and Technician, Instructional Support Leaders in science, social studies and math are needed district wide.

“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
J. Patrick Draffin, Editor
www.wcask12.org

Calendar November

- 15 WCMS & Northside Nat. Am. Prog., 9 a.m.
- 16 Northside Mom’s Breakfast Gr. K, 4, 5, 7:45 a.m.
Vaughan K-1 Parent Lunch, 11 a.m.
South Warren Reading Lock-In, 3-6 p.m.
WCMS Math/Reading/Writing/ Science Night, 5:30-7 p.m.
Mariam Boyd Reading/Writing Fun Night, 6-7 p.m.
Northside PTA/Fall Concert, 7p.m.
WCHS SIT, 4 p.m.
- 17 Northside Mom’s Breakfast Gr. 1-3 7:45 a.m.
Vaughan K-1 Luncheon, 11 a.m.
- 20 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
SW Native American Program Gr. K-2, 1:30 p.m.
South Warren Staff Mtg. 3p.m.
- 21 SW Native American Program Gr. 3-5, 1:30 p.m.
WCHS Senior Dues Deadline
SW Grandparents’ Luncheon Gr. K-2, 11:15 a.m.
- 22 Early Release Day
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 27 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 28 IEP Chair Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 29 Mariam Boyd Gr. 2 Writing Prompt
- 30 Hawkins Char. Cel., 9:30 a.m.

December

- 4 Interim Progress Reports Issued
EC Progress Reports Issued
Leadership Team, 10 a.m.
South Warren Staff Mtg, 3 p.m.
- 5 WCMS Fall Athletic Awards Prg., 6:30 p.m.
- 6 S. Warren Pepsi with the Principal, 8:15 a.m.
- 11 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
South Warren SIT 3 p.m.
Northside Staff Mtg. 3:15 p.m.
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12 Management Team, 9 a.m.
IEP Chair Mtg., 3p.m.
Hawkins Christmas Prg., 6 p.m.
SW PTA/Winter Prg., 7 p.m.
Vaughan PTA/Winter Concert, k-2, 7 p.m.
- 13 General EC Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
Northside SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 14 Northside Drama/Chorus Prg., 7 p.m.
WCMS PTSA/Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- 15 S. Warren Winter Dance, 3-6 p.m.