

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

February 2004

Volume XIX, Number 7

Board Highlights

.... from February 9, 2004

- ✓ The Board recognized Rachel Lindsey as the Stellar Performer for January. She teaches an Exceptional Children's pre-kindergarten class at Hawkins.
- ✓ Also recognized were the January Lights of Character: Diamond Baskerville and James Hargrove, Hawkins; Sierra Hicks and Maria Lopez, Mariam Boyd; Shirley Asor-Sallaah and Marquita Henderson, South Warren; Tonia Davis and Haley Short, Northside; Saquanna Francis and Barbara Rowlett, Vaughan; Kendra Sylver and Carlton Powell, WCHS; Mercedes Ellis and Carolyn Sykes, WCMS; and Sallie Howell, Central Office/Maintenance/Transportation.
- ✓ Chris L'Orange, project manager for College Tech Prep Programs at Praxis Research, Inc. in Charlotte, presented College Tech Prep data pertaining to the Franklin-Granville-Vance-Warren and Vance-Granville Community College Tech Prep Partnership Consortium.
- ✓ Dr. Linda Mason presented information to the Board on the state's Model Teacher Education Consortium and the services provided to Warren County teachers during the 2002-2003 school year.
- ✓ Dr. Mason provided information for the Board on testing requirement revisions for teachers.
- ✓ The Board approved make-up days for students and teachers as a result of inclement weather, Jan. 26 - 30.
- ✓ The Board voted to eliminate Keyboarding and ELPS from the course selection at WCHS, effective 2004-2005. Also approved was the addition of Digital Communication Systems, Civics and Economics, Advanced Function and Modeling, and Theatre Arts II, effective 2004-2005.

(SEE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 4)

Calendar revisions approved

At Monday night's meeting, the Board of Education approved calendar revisions that allow for making up days missed during the recent snow.

As recommended by Dr. Spain and a committee of administrators and teachers, student days will be made up on February 16, March 18 and 19, May 26 and 27. April 14, 15 and 16 will become optional teacher workdays.

The third nine-week grading period will still end on March 11. March 18 will be a 1 p.m. dismissal day for students, with parent/teacher conferences beginning at 3 p.m. and concluding at 7 p.m. Students and staff will be dismissed at 1 p.m. on March 19.

At Warren County High School, exams will be held on May 26 and 27, and students will be released at that school and at WCMS at 1:30 p.m. on both of those days. Graduation remains scheduled for Friday, May 28.

Curriculum altered at WCHS

Changes were made to the curriculum offerings at Warren County High School as a result of Board action at Monday night's meeting.

Deleted from the curriculum are Keyboarding 6512 and Economic, Legal and Political Systems (ELPS). According to Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent for Instructional Services, keyboarding is taught at the middle school level, giving students sufficient background to enter the next level of coursework at the high school. ELPS will be replaced by Civics and Economics, as indicated by a change in the Standard Course of Study.

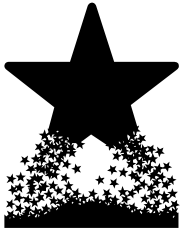
Three additional courses added to the high curriculum are: Digital Communication Systems, a course designed to teach basic digital input skills including keying using the touch method, speech recognition and use of hand-held devices; Advanced Functions and Modeling, a mathematics course to follow Algebra I and II and Geometry; and Theatre Arts III. BRIDGES (Building Respect and Responsibility, Integrity, Determination and Good Judgment for Educational Success), a course needed to bridge the adjustment from middle to high school, will be presented at a later date for inclusion.

Consortium investment paying dividends in Warren County

Dr. Linda Mason, Personnel director, reported at Monday night's Board of Education meeting that Warren County Schools' membership in the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium provided services for 52 individuals in the 2002-2003 school year. Those services were worth \$32,722.35, a 1060 percent return on the system's \$3,085 investment in membership fees.

During the 2001-2002 school year, the membership fee was \$3,092, and services rendered totaled \$12,087.05, a 391 percent return.

Services and expenses covered for personnel included tuition, textbooks, seminars, graduate advisory sessions, transcript evaluations, lateral entry workshops, and PRAXIS preparation sessions.



Stellar Performer

Barbara Baker: Energy that Never Stops

“She goes non-stop from 6:45 a.m. until 3:15 p.m.,” said Janet Farrar, Child Nutrition director, when nominating Barbara Baker for this month’s Stellar Performer award.

Baker is the Child Nutrition manager at Warren County Middle School.

“By 7:30 a.m. she is ready to feed a couple hundred students breakfast, then by 10:30 a.m., she is ready to dish out 750 lunches.”

Baker operates the largest of Warren County Schools’ cafeterias, with the help of ten assistants.

“Her strength is record-keeping,” Farrar said. “She is very good with math.”

Farrar added that Baker is always eager to learn as much as possible to do her job well, taking advantage of all staff development opportunities and managers meetings.

“She is full of energy and youthful in her mannerisms, but is the mother of five and the grandmother of nine,” Farrar said. “She always has a big smile, and she looks just as fresh and neat at the end of the day as she does at the beginning.”

Important to Baker, Farrar said, is that she has a hand in giving children a stake in a successful future through her work in nutrition. “Her job is very important to her.”

Baker pays particular attention to presentation. “She encourages other staff members to do their best to make the meals and the serving line attractive to the students.”

Danylu Hundley, principal at the school, regards Baker as dependable and organized. “She runs the cafeteria with precision, yet she is flexible. She takes suggestions well, though she speaks her mind and lets folks know when something will not work.”

Born and raised in Warren County, Baker operated a home daycare center prior to coming to work for Warren County Schools. Once her children were all in school, she decided to make application for a cafeteria position. She began as an assistant and a bus driver, then became manager at Vaughan. After two years there, she transferred to become the Warren County Middle School Child Nutrition manager.

“My mother always insisted that I do everything to the best of my ability,” Baker said. “I learned that you should never half do anything.”

Her relentless energy comes from her father’s side of the family, she added. “From him I learned to move fast.”

Baker said that her passion is cooking and working with numbers. “Some day I would like to return to school and become an accountant.” She has already begun taking courses at Vance-Granville.

“There is large volume of work to be done at this school,” Baker said. “From the start of the day, we are pushed. But all workers do their share. I couldn’t do it without them. They help it run well.”

Baker enjoys her daily contact with students. “It’s fun to be with the students—I love kids—I had five of my own.”

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

Monthly Attendance
Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Capturing the Best Attendance Award for the fifth attendance month of school is Northside Elementary School with an average daily attendance of 93.75 percent. Close behind is South Warren, with 93.34 percent. The other rates in descending order are: Mariam Boyd, 92.26 percent; Vaughan, 92.14 percent; WCHS, 91.66 percent; and WCMS, 90.88 percent.

No school will receive the Most Improved banner because all schools showed a decrease since the fourth attendance month. A probe is underway to determine the cause of the decline. There is strong evidence pointing to the flu.

Monthly Attendance
Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

State changes testing regulations

As reported at Monday night's Board of Education meeting by Dr. Linda Mason, Personnel director, effective July 2004, the State Board of Education has approved eliminating the state testing requirements for teachers who are recruited from out of state.

Under this new policy, teachers must be fully licensed by their own state, including meeting the testing requirements there. This will allow complete reciprocity with all other states, regardless of whether standards are higher or lower than those in North Carolina.

Also effective July 2004, newly graduated teachers from colleges and universities in North Carolina will no longer need to pass subject-area tests to teach in middle or high school classrooms. Elementary teachers must still pass an exam to earn certification.

"The elimination of these tests should help to ease the state's chronic teacher shortage, and teaching quality is not expected to be compromised," Dr. Mason said.

The new federal standards for teachers under the No Child Left Behind law give North Carolina schools an extra measure of quality control. This law now requires that schools hire only teachers considered "highly qualified," meaning that they have a college major in the subject they are teaching or have demonstrated their knowledge of the subject with an exam.

Fourth Annual Spelling Bee

The Warren Education Fund will sponsor the Fourth Annual Community Spelling Bee on Friday, March 26 at Warren County High School.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with refreshments, and the actual spelling bee will begin at 7 p.m.

The competition is open to adults and high school students. The bee will be limited to 40 teams of four persons each at a cost of \$40 per table (\$10 per person). During the event, teams will be given 30 seconds to determine the correct spelling of each word called. If a word is misspelled in one of the early rounds, a team has the opportunity to "buy" the word for \$10 and remain in the competition. During the final elimination round, teams will not have the option to buy words, but must rely on their spelling talents to stay in the competition.

All schools are encouraged to support teams for the Bee, and organizations at Warren County High School are encouraged to sponsor student teams. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 12.

Funds raised at the Bee will be used to support the Teacher MiniGrant Program and the Schoolwide Grant Program.

For further information or to register a team, see a school principal or contact Mary Hunter in the Central Office, 257-3184, or Portia Hawes, Fund President, 257-9194.

STELLAR PERFORMER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Particularly enjoyable for Baker is her work with the system's Health Advisory Council, chaired by Odessa LeMay-Smith. The committee assesses the health needs of students and offers advice on policy and planning.

In her time away from school, Baker enjoys movies. Since her children have left home and her husband travels, she doesn't do much cooking at home. "I spend right much time caring for my parents who are both elderly."

Baker is active at Coley Springs Baptist Church where she intends to become involved with the youth. "I love the church and enjoy the Bible study."

She is married to Kenneth Baker who works in sales for Georgia Pacific in Asheboro. Her five children are Lisa, Bridget, Carson, Laquita and Yolanda.

NCCEY Awards

Teachers are reminded that the deadline to submit a nomination for The Kenan Institute for Ethics' Sixth Annual North Carolina Character Education Year (NCCEY) Awards Program is Feb. 23. Since 1999, the NCCEY Awards have been given to recognize those K-12 educators in North Carolina who are integrating character development into their classroom instruction in innovative, exemplary, and replicable ways. Up to nine awards are given annually ranging from \$1,000-\$3,000. Applications for NCCEY 2004 must be for projects taught between January and December 2003. Educators must self-nominate. For details and an application form, please go to the Kenan Institute for Ethics Web site at <http://kenan.ethics.duke.edu> and click on "Grants and Awards." Please note that some eligibility requirements have changed for this year.

Teachers needed for course development

LEARN NC is seeking AP-certified teachers to develop online courses in AP World History and AP Human Geography for the 2004-05 academic year, in addition to an AP study skills course for delivery in summer 2004. Course developers will spend the spring and summer designing and building instruction. LEARN NC offers the training and content conversion assistance necessary to deliver the courses online through Blackboard. Course developers will be compensated for completing the course, and will then be offered the opportunity to teach the course online in 2004-05 for additional compensation. For more information, please contact Jim Barber, Executive Director, LEARN NC, 919/843-8659, or by email, jbarber@learnnc.org.

Coming Up - - -

❖ A one-day, multi-county workshop has been scheduled for middle and high school teachers on the Holocaust. Participants will receive a copy of "The Holocaust - a North Carolina Teacher's Resource," a guide for teaching about the Holocaust. Workshops are as follows: Feb. 12, Williamston; March 4, Wilkesboro; March 11, Salisbury; March 16, Eden; March 30, Wadesboro; April 22, Enka; and April 26, Murphy. Substitute teacher pay is provided, but space is limited. For more information, including registration, please contact Linda Scher, Holocaust Teacher Workshop Coordinator, at Brisket234@aol.com.

❖ Because space remains available in the High School Writing Across the Curriculum Institute, DPI staff has extended the registration deadline to Feb. 20. An updated Web site with the agenda, a link to the Institute registration form, and information on hotel reservations, has been posted at <http://www.radisson.com/ncdpihswac>

❖ NC DPI and TEAM II (Teaching Excellence and Mathematics II) will sponsor a series of two-day workshops in June and July for K-8 teachers focusing on the implementation of the 2003 NC Mathematics Standard Course of Study. Registrations are currently being taken for the grade level sessions: Grades K-1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, Grades 6-8. The sessions are first come, first served, so don't delay in reserving your place. If additional information is needed, please contact Linda Patch, Mathematics and Science Section, DPI. 919/807-3841, or by email, lpatch@dpi.state.nc.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- ✓ The Board approved an overnight field trip request for the WCMS Speech and Debate team to travel to Washington, DC, March 5-6.
- ✓ The Board approved a revised field trip request for the Mariam Boyd Safety Patrol to travel to Washington, DC in May, even though the national parade is being moved to Orlando, Fla.
- ✓ The Board approved budget amendments as presented by Gary Ward, Finance officer.
- ✓ The Board approved extended sick leave for Karen Jerman, FACS teacher, WCHS; Karen Kimball, science teacher, WCMS, and Christa Moody, Biotechnology teacher, WCMS. Under the Family Medical Leave Act, leave for Shelverly Jones at Hawkins was approved for 12/19/03-12/19-04.
- ✓ The Board approved John Brooks as a substitute custodian.
- ✓ Approved as substitute teachers are Carla Burgess, Joy Currin, Muriel Davis and Stacie Pulley.
- ✓ Extra Duty assignments were approved for Stephanie Ayscue, John Shrack and Orlando Jones, WCHS. Karen Kimball, Veronica Richardson and Cheryl Sebrell were approved as homebound teachers for WCMS. Carols Bardales was approved for ESL tutorial work.
- ✓ Current vacancies include: Career-Technical director, districtwide; an EC teacher, South Warren; a Language Arts teacher, WCMS; a music teacher, Mariam Boyd; a choral music teacher, WCMS; mathematics teacher, WCHS; and an administrative assistant, Central Office.

"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

Calendar FEBRUARY

- 11 WCMS Storytelling Contest
9 a.m.
Northside School Imp. Team
Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
- 12 Mariam Boyd Valentine's
Dance, 3-5 p.m.
- 13 Hawkins Parent Luncheon
South Warren Valentine's
Social, 3-5 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Snow Make-Up Day
President's Day
- 17-19 NC Computer Skills Test
Grades 8-12
- 17 Nat. PTA Founders Day
Vaughan School Imp. Team
Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
WCHS School Imp. Team Mtg.
3:30 p.m.
- 18 South Warren School Imp.
Team Meeting, 3 p.m.
- 19 Mariam Boyd Math Family Fun
Night, 7 p.m.
Northside PTA, 7 p.m.
- 22-28 Nat. FFA Week
- 23 WCMS School Imp. Team Mtg.
3 p.m.
- 24 South Warren Spring Book Fair
Begins
WCMS PTSA Exec. Bd.
Committee Mtgs., 5:30 p.m.
WCHS Black History Prog.
7 p.m.
Board Work Session, 6 p.m.
- 25 Ash Wednesday
- 26 Black History Programs:
Mariam Boyd, 9 a.m.;
WCMS, 9 a.m.; Vaughan,
1:30 p.m.; South Warren,
7 p.m.
Northside SPLASH/Family
Reading Night, 6-8 p.m.

MARCH

- 2 NC Writing Assess., Gr. 4, 7 &
10
Read Across America/Dr. Seuss
Day, All Elementary Schools
WCMS Beta Club Installation
7 p.m.
- 4 ASSET Test, Seniors/
Completers, WCHS