

## Board Highlights

.... from March 7, 2005

- ✓ The Board recognized Rhonda Mushaw, secretary at Hawkins Educational Center, as the January Stellar Performer.
- ✓ The Board recognized the Lights of Character for January and February: at Hawkins, Paul Scott, Shelverly Battle-Jones, George Hargrove, Lucy Brown; at Mariam Boyd, Courtney Durham, Willistine Williams, Montrell Davis, Reneka Andrews; at Northside, Michael Hargrove, Crystal Moseley, Joshua Tatum, Bonnie Schlupp; at South Warren, Nakiyah Bullock, Alice Parks, Ian Williams, Katherine Munn; at Vaughan, Rachel Phillips, Renee Mizelle, Tyler Rodwell, Erica Daves; at WCHS, Alison Davis, Lisa Watson, Maryanne Henry, Dr. Tony Cozart; at WCMS, Toshiba Hargrove, Marcia Greenway, Matthew Huffman, Cheryl Sebrell; at the Central Office, Carolyn Buffaloe and Rosemary Harrison.
- ✓ Costel Evans announced that the Best Attendance Award for the fifth attendance month of school will go to Mariam Boyd Elementary School. The Most Improved Attendance Award will go to Warren County High School.
- ✓ A policy prohibiting discrimination, Harassment and Bullying was presented to the Board for a second reading. The Board adopted the policy.
- ✓ A "100 Percent Tobacco Free Schools" policy was presented to the Board for a first reading. It was later adopted by the Board.
- ✓ Winona Anstead, Indian Education coordinator, provided a presentation on the district's Indian Education Program.
- ✓ Nanci Lucas, AIG coordinator, provided a presentation on the 2004-2007 AIG plan.
- ✓ The Board approved overnight field trips for the following: the WCHS

(SEE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 4)

## Board adopts 2005-2006 calendar

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent, and the Calendar Committee, the Board approved a calendar for the 2005-2006 school year.

The calendar reflects changes in the school calendar law that were implemented as the result of new legislation passed by the General Assembly in the Summer of 2004.

Dr. Spain reviewed the process for developing the proposed calendar, noting that a representative committee first reviewed and discussed the new legislation. A survey was developed and distributed to the system's staff members, along with a blank calendar for the upcoming school year, and employees were asked to provide "major concerns that should be taken into consideration by the Calendar Committee."

Staff members were asked to indicate the "impact these concerns have on instruction."

The results of the survey were compiled and discussed in detail by the committee, and those suggestions that were feasible for inclusion in the calendar were noted.

Using the suggestions, the committee developed a proposed calendar for the 2005-2006 school year.

The proposed calendar was presented at Monday night's meeting and adopted by the Board. It brings teachers to school on August 18, 2005 and students on August 25. The last day for students is June 9, 2006 and for teachers, June 13.

The most obvious difference in the new calendar is the length of the Winter Break, which begins with a 1 p.m. dismissal on December 22 and runs through Friday, December 30. A second major change is the scheduling of end of the first semester—January 13, 2006. Following the end of the second semester is a week-long break for students that includes the Martin Luther King holiday, two teacher workdays, and two annual leave days.

The calendar reflects the legislation's reduction in teacher workdays from 20 to 15, and the implementation of seven "protected" workdays on which there can be no staff development, make-up days or instruction. Annual leave, however, is an allowed use of the protected workdays.

## Make-up days scheduled

A final plan for making up days missed due to inclement weather in January was approved by the Board of Education at Monday night's meeting.

The day missed on January 24 was made up on February 21. The optional teacher workday that was to be held on February 21 is now the optional teacher workday that was observed on January 24. The days missed on January 20 and 21 will be made up on March 17 and 18, days previously scheduled as teacher workdays. Students will be dismissed on those days at 1 p.m. On March 17, parent conferences will begin after students leave and will run until 7:30 p.m. On March 18, both students and staff will be dismissed at 1 p.m.

The two teacher workdays scheduled for March 17 and 18 will be observed on June 6 and 7.



## Stellar Performer

### *Stacey Williams: An Inspiration*

The Stellar Performer for this month is Stacey Williams, Child Nutrition assistant at South Warren Elementary School.

"Stacey is a special person," said Rose Moss, Child Nutrition manager at South Warren. "This is her first year here, but already she's gained the respect of all of her coworkers."

Moss added that Williams is assertive and frequently makes good suggestions for improving the Child Nutrition program at the school. When a cashier was out for a period of time, Williams stepped in and took over, as though she'd done it all along. "She catches on very fast and never complains when given something to do that's out of the ordinary."

Moss said that Williams has outstanding initiative, is eager to learn and is very patient and kind with the students.

"She follows the recipes, too," according to Janet Farrar, Child Nutrition director, "and they say she makes the best cole slaw in the county."

Important to Farrar and Moss is Williams' attendance record. "She's only been absent one day this entire school year," Farrar said, "and more than once, she's apologized for that!"

Farrar also noted that Williams took a sanitation course and passed the subsequent exam, an accomplishment that some of the most seasoned employees have not achieved.

One of Williams' daily chores at the school is preparing the snacks for the programs that occur after school. "That can get forgotten because they are so busy with breakfast and lunch," Farrar said. "But out there, there's never any worry that the snacks will be ready for the children at 3 p.m."

Williams has just as many compliments for the cafeteria staff members as they have for her. "It's been great working here. My boss is great, the staff is great, the children are great, I have great hours—I love my job!"

Williams is the mother of one daughter, Dar'Neshia, a student at Northside, and one stepson, Keon Williams, at WCHS. Her husband, Melvin, works for CC Mangum Asphalt Co. in Raleigh.

Williams is looking ahead to her future with Warren County Schools. "I'd like to work with the summer program, if possible." If that doesn't work out, though, she is happy to help her mother with her gardening.

"And, of course, I hope that one day I will be full-time during the regular school year."

Williams, a native of the Arcola area, is a 1990 graduate of Warren County High School. She has worked at Fashion Cleaners, Cochrane and Food Lion. She began working for Warren County Schools in August of 2004.

She and her twin brother are the babies in a family of nine children. "My mother always taught us to do the very best you can do—to set out to do your best."

Apparently, her mother taught her well. "She's an inspiration to the others," Moss said. "It's like she's always been here."

### Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

Mariam Boyd will hang on to one banner this month, after capturing the Best Attendance award for fifth attendance month of school. With an attendance rate of 96.43 percent, students at the school were slightly above Vaughan where attendance was 96.31 percent. Close behind was Northside with 95.98 percent and South Warren with 95.61 percent. WCMS and WCHS charted 94.25 percent and 93.41 percent, respectively.

Warren County High School students deserve the back pats for Most Improvement by boosting their rate over the previous month by .53 percent. Vaughan, Northside, and WCMS also showed improvement over last month's attendance figures.

### Monthly Attendance Award

*Most Improved*



Warren County Schools  
*Putting Our Children First*

## 100 Percent Tobacco-Free Policy

Following pleas from members of the WCHS Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) club and members of the Warren County School Health Advisory Council, the Board held a first reading on Monday night of a policy that prohibits tobacco use of any kind, anywhere on school campuses, by anyone at anytime. The Board later adopted the policy.

Information related to the proposed policy was presented by Rosemary Lewis, Student Services director.

"The use of tobacco interferes with students' attendance and learning. It causes or contributes to asthma, ear infections and upper respiratory infections, leading to absence from school," Lewis noted.

Lewis further stated that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke has also been linked to decreases in reading and math scores and language and reasoning deficits in children and youth.

"The trash caused by tobacco use adds to school maintenance costs and creates potential fire hazards and damage to property," she added.

At present, according to Lewis, more than 50 percent of the schools and approximately 45 percent of the school districts in North Carolina are 100 percent tobacco free. "Tobacco-free schools policies are endorsed at the state level by the governor, the former state superintendent and the state school board. Local endorsement for this policy comes from the Warren County School Health Advisory Council.

The proposed policy states, "The prohibition (of tobacco products usage) applies to all students, staff, employees, visitors, guests, patrons, vendors and their agents." July 1, 2005 is designated as the date for implementation of the policy.

## Teachers' Corner

► **Trek North Carolina: A Historical, Geographic, and Cultural Study** will provide up to 30 elementary educators with an opportunity to journey across North Carolina to study, observe, and receive first hand experience on the state's history and culture. The dates for this professional development workshop are June 12-18. Application packets can be downloaded at [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org), Trek North Carolina Project. For more information, call Tracey Greggs, Instructional Services, DPI, 919/807-3836, or by email, [tgreggs@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:tgreggs@dpi.state.nc.us).

► **The Capital Area Writing Project**, an affiliate site of the National Writing Project, is hosting a "Writing Across the Curriculum" one-day conference on Saturday, April 16, in Raleigh. Break out sessions will offer teachers opportunities to learn more about writing in the specific content areas of social studies, science and English. For more information, including registration, please go online to <http://www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category3?OpenView&ExpandView> and link to the National Writing Project page under Instructional Resources, or contact Barbara Geiger via email at [bugeiger@uptonassociates.com](mailto:bugeiger@uptonassociates.com).

### **Congratulations Eagles!**

The WCHS Boys Basketball Team is headed to the *State Finals!*  
Saturday, March 12, 2:30 p.m.  
The Dean Smith Center, Chapel Hill  
**COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE EAGLES!**

## Coming Up:

• **The Warren Education Fund's** Fifth Annual Community Spelling Bee is coming up on April 8. Schools, organizations, and others are encouraged to pool their spelling skills and sign up teams. The deadline for sign-up is Friday, March 18. For further information, contact WEF President Portia Hawes, 257-9194, or Mary Hunter, WEF advisor, 257-3184.

• **NC DPI's Mathematics and Science Section** will sponsor the 2005 Mathematics Leadership Institutes for high school mathematics teacher-leaders July 10-14 in two sessions (July 10-12 and July 12-14) and middle school mathematics teacher-leaders July 18-22 in two sessions (July 18-20 and July 20-22). The Institutes will be held at the Radisson Governors Inn in Research Triangle Park. Go to [www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category7](http://www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category7). If you have questions, please call Bill Scott, 919/807-3842, or Linda Patch, 919/807-3841.

• **Registration for the High School Certified Trainers of Writing Phase IV** scheduled for April 17-19 is open for teachers and others interested in teaching writing in the English Language Arts classrooms. For more information, visit <http://www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category3?OpenView&ExpandView>, HS Certified Trainers of Writing under Instructional Resources or contact Kim Bowen, Instructional Services, DPI, 919/807-3832, or by email, [kbowen@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:kbowen@dpi.state.nc.us).

### **Our Thanks - - -**

**To the Bus Drivers of  
Warren County  
Schools, for an  
outstanding  
JOB WELL DONE  
during the inclement  
weather in January!**

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

FFA Club to travel to Greensboro, March 5-6; Mariam Boyd Young Scholars to travel to Charlotte, March 19-21; WCHS FBLA Club to travel to Greensboro, April 8-9; Vaughan 21st Century After School students to travel to Jamestown and Yorktown, VA April 9-10; the WCHS VICA Club to travel to Greensboro, April 11-13; and WCHS FFA Club to travel to Raleigh, June 7-9.

✓ The Board approved the system's Technology Plan Committee as presented by Costel Evans, associate superintendent.

✓ Upon the recommendation of Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent, the Board declared as surplus property unused trailers at Vaughan Elementary School.

✓ The Board approved 2004-2005 calendar revisions as presented by Mary Hunter, Community Schools director. The two remaining snow days will be made up by having students attend school for one-half day on March 17 and 18. The workdays originally scheduled for those days will be made up on June 6 and 7.

✓ The Board approved a calendar for 2005-2006 as developed and recommended by the Calendar Committee and Dr. Spain.

✓ The Board approved the use of the WCHS football field for a back-to-school celebration planned by the National Council for Family Advancement on August 20.

✓ The Board approved the purchase of mobile computer labs and network printers for WCHS, WCMS and one elementary school, using funds budgeted during the 2004-2005 school year. The total cost is approximately \$134,385.

✓ The Board voted to proceed with full policy manual customization at a cost of \$15,000. Also approved was a subscription to "Policies to Lead the Schools" for an initial fee of \$1,500 for the first year and \$400 per year for the second and subsequent years, and the placement of the policy manual on the Internet through the NCSBA for an initial fee of \$3,650 for the first year and \$3,250 for subsequent years.

✓ The Board voted to proceed with a Central Office study as proposed by Marc Sosne of Ensos, Inc. The cost of the study is \$2,750.

✓ The Board approved budget amendments as presented by Gary Ward, Finance officer.

✓ The Board approved the employment of Katherine Hilliard, Health Educator, districtwide. Approved as After School tutors are Charles Hooker, Nathaniel Lewis, Susan Poirier, Paula Frisby, Stephanie Morris, Pattie Rodwell, Cheri Wright and Anthony Alston.

✓ The Board accepted the resignations of Linda Hicks, Speech-Language therapist, and Deborah Foster, teacher at Northside. The Board acknowledged the retirement of Glenda Solomon, third grade teacher at South Warren, effective March 31, 2005, and Erroll Royal, assistant principal, WCMS, effective August 1, 2005.

✓ Current vacancies include: at Northside, an assistant principal; at WCMS, sixth grade EC teacher, sixth grade Language Arts/Social Studies teacher, and eighth grade Science/Math teacher; at South Warren/Vaughan, a Spanish teacher; at South Warren, a custodian; at WCHS, a curriculum specialist and an EC teacher; and districtwide, an Occupational Therapy assistant, a Technology Technician assistant, a Speech Pathologist, and an EC coordinator/data manager.

✓ Board members were reminded of the following meetings: The Safe Schools Event, March 10, 5 p.m., WCHS; NCSBA President's Invitational Conference, March 13-15, Chapel Hill; a called Board meeting to interview Board applicants, March 23, 6:30 p.m.; Board meeting, April 11, 6 p.m. (closed session), 7 p.m. (regular meeting); and the NSBA Annual Conference, April 14-19, San Diego, CA.

## Calendar

### March

- 8-10 Reading and Math Benchmarks  
Gr. K-8
- 8 Management Team, 9 a.m.
- 9 1 p.m. Dismissal/Staff Dev.
- 11 End 3rd 9 Weeks  
Mariam Boyd Accelerated  
Reader Celebration  
WCMS Postive Behavior  
Support Dance, 7 p.m.
- 14 Begin 4th 9 Weeks  
Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
- 15 WMCS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 16 Northside Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg.  
3:15 p.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day  
1 p.m. Dismissal/Parent Conf.  
1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 18 1 p.m. Dismissal
- 21 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.  
Vaughan Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg.  
3:15 p.m.  
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22 Vaughan 4th-5th Gr. Parent  
Lunch, 11 a.m.  
Northside SPLASH Cultural/  
Character Night, 6-8 p.m.
- 23 Northside Triple A Awards  
12:30 & 1:30 p.m.
- 24 Hawkins Character Celebration  
9:30 a.m.  
Mariam Boyd Volunteer Tea  
10 a.m.  
South Warren Super Kids  
Award Program, 1:30 p.m.
- 25 Good Friday Holiday
- 28-31 Spring Break

### April

- 1 Spring Break
- 2 International Children's Book  
Day
- 3 Daylight Savings Time Begins -  
Advance Clocks One Hour  
at 2 a.m.
- 4 Leadership Team, 10 a.m.
- 6 Northside Spring Pictures  
Northside Vol. Recog., 9:30
- 7 WCHS School Improvement  
Team, 4 p.m.  
Mariam Boyd PTA Dinner/  
Spring Showcase, 5 p.m.  
WCMS Spring Concert, 7 p.m.

**"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)**