

Board Highlights

.... from May 10, 2004

- ✓ The Board recognized members of the county's Speech and Hearing department after they received a Public Information Award at the recent Speech and Hearing conference.
 - ✓ The Board presented an Outstanding Bus Driver Award to Brenda S. Bullock, WCMS/WCHS.
 - ✓ The Board recognized WCHS VICA Masonry regional competition winners Randy Howard, 1st place, and Cardell Wych, 3rd place.
 - ✓ The Board recognized Judy DuPre, South Warren literacy specialist, as April Stellar Performer.
 - ✓ The Board presented the following Lights of Character Awards for Citizenship: Richard Garcia and Rachel Lindsey, Hawkins; Jennifer Quick and Stephanie Alston, Mariam Boyd; Tray Bullock and Jackie Hargrove, Northside; Markita Cousin and Samuel Fields, South Warren; Selina Lopez and Patricia Adcock, Vaughan; Kara Fleming and Johnny Williams, WCHS; Latroshia Jeffries and Carolyn Walker, WCMS; and Mary Hunter, Central Office/Maintenance/Transportation.
 - ✓ The Board presented the Best Attendance Award for the eighth month of school to Vaughan. South Warren received the Most Improved Attendance Award.
 - ✓ Staff members from Mariam Boyd provided an overview on the Young Scholars Program. The program has been extended for another two and one-half years.
 - ✓ Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent, announced that Warren County Schools is one of 52 districts in the state to receive special recognition for having all eligible schools accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
 - ✓ Costel Evans, associate superin-
- (SEE **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**, PAGE 4)

Board tables adoption of 2005-2006 calendar

The Board of Education tabled the adoption of the 2005-2006 calendar at Monday night's meeting following an overview of the work of the Calendar Committee this spring by Mary Hunter, Community Schools director.

Hunter reported that the committee held three meetings, during which three calendar options were developed and distributed to staff members for consideration. The options varied primarily in their placement of the Spring Break. Option A, the calendar that kept the Spring Break in its traditional spot, the week after Easter, was the version that was most favored by staff systemwide.

Following comments by Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent, who supports placing Spring Break the first week in April as a standard regardless of where Easter falls, the Board tabled action on the calendar. Citing current discussion in the General Assembly regarding delaying the opening of school and shortening the length of the school year by ten teacher workdays, as well as a need for revamping the calendar development process, the Board decided to delay any action on the 2005-2006 calendar.

It was noted that the 2004-2005 calendar that was adopted in Spring 2003 would remain in place as it is.

Members of Hawkins Alumni, Inc. appear before Board

In response to a new article in last week's *Warren Record*, Alumni from John R. Hawkins High School offered public comments to the Board of Education at Monday night's meeting expressing interest in making use of the building for a heritage center or museum to showcase African American history and heritage in Warren County.

Last week's article and subsequent letters to organizations in the county, noted the state of disrepair at the site and the need for renovation or demolition. Parties interested in taking on the project are to contact Dr. Spain by May 19, 2004 with plans for renovation and usage.

W.E. Exum, retired Warren County educator, and L.C. Cooper, retired Extension Service director, served as spokespersons for the group Monday night and had no specific plans to present to the Board, but rather asked for time to put such a plan in place. Exum acknowledged that the current structure is in a dilapidated state and that it would not be feasible to renovate it. He said, though, that the group has interest in salvaging some of the materials in the building to be placed in a new structure.

Exum and Cooper said that they would work to form a non-profit organization to raise funds in support of the project.

Dr. Spain asked that their request be put in writing and submitted to him by May 19, 2004. Once the letter is received, Dr. Spain will ask the group to respond to a list of questions, outlining plans for use of the property.



Stellar Performer

Barbara Rowlett is fully engaged in the classroom

This month's Stellar Performer is Barbara Rowlett, kindergarten teacher at Vaughan.

"She has the children at heart in all circumstances," said Rosemary Harrison, principal at Vaughan. "She not only is an outstanding educator but a very hard worker and a team player."

Harrison noted that she is able to rely on Rowlett for most anything. "She is always willing to help out, doing everything with a smile," she said.

Particularly noticeable when you enter Rowlett's room, Harrison said, is the excitement. "She is fully engaged—she's excited, the children are excited—the environment is inviting," she said.

Harrison mentioned that there is talk of retirement, but that the parents are trying to talk her out of it. "She is well loved by the students and the parents," she said.

Rowlett served as a mentor for Lou Ann Bender, also a teacher at Vaughan, when she was first hired. "She was very helpful to me as I got started. She was positive, upbeat and provided good guidance. And she still does."

Bender, who teaches third grade, noted that Rowlett sets high standards for children when they are in her room. "They get a good footing there that prepares them for what's ahead."

Bender mentioned that she has worked with Rowlett on lots of committees. "You can always count on her."

Currently Rowlett is on the School Improvement Team, co-chair for planning for SACS, and grade chair. For years she has served as the NCAE representative for the school, but has just passed that on.

Rowlett is a Warren County native who graduated from John R. Hawkins High School. She completed degrees in Sociology/Social Work and Early Childhood Education at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh and reported for her first teaching job in Roanoke Rapids in 1972. The following year, she changed jobs, moving to a kindergarten classroom at Vaughan Elementary School. Thirty-one and one-half years later, she is still there.

"I love teaching," Rowlett said. "I have no children of my own, but I love them."

Rowlett said that she comes to work each day looking forward to seeing the faces. "I try to present the best atmosphere possible for them to learn. I may not feel well, but I know that those children come first. My feeling is we are there to do the very best we can do for the children. That's what we are supposed to do."

Rowlett remembers with admiration a teacher from her elementary days, Rosa Paschall. "It was after having her that I began planning to become a teacher. She would encourage me to excel. She is still living and still encouraging."

During her years at Vaughan, Rowlett said that she has had several principals. "They have all been great and have all provided what we need to do our jobs in the classroom."

When she is not busy at school, Rowlett enjoys shopping. "And I love to read and spend time with family."

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

Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

This month's Best Attendance Award goes to Vaughan. Students there topped others in the system, charting an attendance rate for the eighth month of 96.62 percent. On Vaughan's heels were students at Northside, with a rate of 96.22 percent and South Warren with 96.04 percent. Next was Mariam Boyd with 95.87 percent, WCMS with 94.71, and WCHS with 92.08 percent.

The only school in the system who's attendance decreased during the seventh month, bounced back this month to take the Most Improved Award - South Warren. Students there apparently made coming to school a priority and improved over last month by 2.08 percent. And unlike in previous months, all schools in the system showed improvement this month. Let's hope Spring Fever doesn't set in!

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Board approves FY 04-05 budget

The Board approved the budget request for FY 2004-2005 at Monday night's monthly meeting.

The budget includes a projected salary increase of 5 percent for all employees, an increase in employer's retirement contribution from 3.42 percent to 5.77 percent, and an increase in health insurance premiums from \$3,307 to \$3,432.

"These projections are based on information in the planning allotments as well as from other sources," said Gary Ward, Finance officer.

The local appropriation for continuing operations request is \$2,241,226, a 2.8 percent increase from the FY 2004 appropriation of \$2,180,901. In addition, \$392,00 in expansion needs have been identified, as well as capital outlay needs of \$437,815. The expansion request includes a salary increase for non-certified employees for "skill enhancement."

The budget will be presented to the County Commissioners on Wednesday, June 2, 2004.

Coming Up - - -

❖ **Beginning in Fall 2004**, the UNC-CH's School of Education will offer an online Reading/Language Arts License Program for teachers who live outside of a 50-mile radius of Chapel Hill, designed to help practicing classroom and special teachers of reading, writing, and language arts contribute to positive change in how students are taught. Cost is \$155 per credit hour. Find information at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/ed/programs.html> or contact Dr. Dixie Lee Spiegel at dlspeige@email.unc.edu. Applications may be requested from Janet Carroll by calling 919/966-1346, or via email, jscarrol@email.unc.edu. Please request the Online Reading/Language Arts Licensure Program application packet.

❖ **The 2004 Summer Science Leadership Institutes** for middle and high school teachers and supervisors have been scheduled. The High School Institute is July 11-14 and the Middle School Institute is July 14-16, both at the Trinity Center, Salter Path. The focus for this year's Institutes will be on the newly revised 2004 Standard Course of Study for Science and the new support materials. For additional information, please go to the NC LEARN Web site at <http://www.learnnc.org/dpi/instserv.nsf/Category8> and click on Announcements/Calendar then click on Summer Science Leadership Institutes.

❖ **The Division of School Improvement** and the Division of Instructional Services of the NCDPI announce the First Annual Elementary School Conference, Oct. 11-12. The purpose of the conference is to offer K-5 educators and administrators the opportunity to learn new ways to enhance and improve student achievement. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Imperial, RTP. For more information, go online to www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/elemconf/.

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Most important to her is her work at Ridgeway Baptist Church. "That's number one," she said.

There she is clerk, adult Sunday School teacher and a member of the missionary organization.

Rowlett made a request to pass on to other educators in the system. "I wish everyone would start working to encourage others to go into education. When we look in the faces we see everyday and know we have made a difference in a child's life, that's important business. We need more young people who are willing to do that."

Speech/ Language staff recognized

Speech-language pathologists in the system were recognized at Monday night's Board of Education meeting after being awarded the Public Information Award at the 50th Annual NCSHLA convention in Asheville in April.

Gloria Quick, B.J. Bunnell, Pamela Eason, Jacquelyn Edgerton and Judith Holly were presented certificates at the meeting for their "Warren County Schools Celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month" campaign, designed to reach the 3184 students, their families and the 500 employees of Warren County Schools.

Through the campaign, pathologists planned and implemented activities to raise public awareness through a districtwide media-school calendar, lunch menu and newsletter. The campaign also included school displays, the distribution of printed materials, and various activities such as poster contests, t-shirt distribution and workshops for parents.

**Don't Miss the
Computer Fair
Saturday, May 15
11 a.m. - 4 p.m., WCHS**

**Vendors and Internet
Service Provider
Demonstrations**

**Technology Prize
Drawings!**

**Sponsored by
eNC and
eWarren County**

Brenda Bullock receives bus driver award

Brenda S. Bullock, bus driver for WCHS and WCMS, received the Warren County Schools Outstanding Bus Driver Award at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

Bullock has driven for Warren County Schools since 1991, covering approximately 9,540 miles per year.

"Ms. Bullock demonstrates authority and responsibility for the operation of her bus," said Wendy Young, Transportation supervisor. "She has a positive attitude and maintains order on the bus. She has built a relationship of mutual respect with her students."

Until last year, the NC Petroleum Association sponsored the Tracy Lea Calhoun Award for an outstanding bus driver in each county in the state. Because of budget issues, the association had to discontinue the practice.

"We feel like this practice of recognizing an outstanding bus driver should continue," Young said.

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tendent, presented the Board a tentative testing calendar for 2004-2005.

✓ The Board approved the one-year extension on the contract with North Carolina Driving School, Inc. for driver education instruction.

✓ The Board approved overnight field trips for Mariam Boyd Young Scholars to travel to Norfolk, Yorktown and Newport News, VA, June 7-9; for WCMS and WCHS Indian Education students to travel to Pembroke June 9-12 for the 25th Native American Youth Conference; and for WCHS Indian Education students to travel to Phoenix, AZ for the June 25-29 National Unity Conference.

✓ The Board tabled approval of a calendar for the 2005-2006 school year. The Board made no changes to the calendar for the 2004-2005 school year.

✓ The Board approved a budget request for FY 2004-2005 as presented by Gary Ward, Finance officer.

✓ The Board approved the employment of Millon Blackshear, science teacher, Dennis Carrington, business education teacher, and Wayne Muhammad, social studies teacher, WCMS. Also approved was Chris Jones, Afterschool assistant, Mariam Boyd; Corey Long, extra duty work, Mariam Boyd; and Almeta Powell, substitute teacher, all schools. The Board acknowledged the retirement of Charles Holmes, WCHS social studies teacher.

✓ The Board accepted the resignations of the following WCMS teachers: Nicholas Holquist, EC, John Miga, social studies, Crista Moody, biotechnology, Meredith Parmett, social studies, Andras Paul, mathematics, Maia Steward, science/math, David Tilton, social studies, and William Yeiser, Spanish/ESL.

✓ The Board approved probationary and career personnel as listed.

✓ Additional vacancies include: Career-Technical director, districtwide; an EC teacher, South Warren, WCMS; a counselor, South Warren; a Language Arts teacher, WCMS; math teacher, WCMS and WCHS; music teachers, Mariam Boyd and WCMS; social studies teachers, WCMS (2) and WCHS (1); Spanish/ESL teacher, WCMS; 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

May

- 11-13 End-of-Grade Tests
- 11 WCHS Sr. Awds., 10 a.m.
WCHS Senior Banquet, 7 p.m.
- 12 So. Warren Sch. Imp. Team Mtg., 3 p.m.
N'Side Sch. Imp. Team Mtg. 3:15 p.m.
- 12-13 Last Month Competency, Srs.
- 13 WCMS Accelerated Reader Celebration
WCMS Spring Athletic Banquet, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Vaughan Field Day
- 17 Mariam Boyd Field Day
WCMS Exploratory Awards Gr. 6-8
- 18 Last Day for Pre-K Students
WCMS 6th Gr. Awards, 9 a.m.
- 19 WCMS 7th Gr. Awards
So. Warren Kind. Celeb., 9:30
- 20 Vaughan Char. Ed. Celeb., 1:30
WCMS Greatest Gains, 1:30
WCHS Athletic Banquet, 6:30
- 21 So. Warren Field Day
M. Boyd K Grad., 9 a.m.
N'Side K Celeb., 9:30 a.m.
Vaughan K Celeb., 10 a.m.
Vaughan Gr. 1-4 Awds., 1:30
WCMS Perf. Attn. Celeb., 2
WCMS Dance, 7 p.m.
- 24 M. Boyd Awds., 11 a.m.
VES Perf. Attend. Celeb., 1
WCMS 8th Gr. Promotion, 7
- 25 Northside Awards, 9& 1
So. Warren Awds., 9:30 a.m.
Hawkins Grad., 9:45 a.m. (at Mariam Boyd)
- 26-27 End of Course Testing, WCHS
- 26 M. Boyd 5th Gr. Grad., 9 a.m.
N'Side 5th Gr. Celeb., 9:30 a.m.
S. Warren 5th Gr. Celeb., 1 p.m.
- 27 Vaughan 5th Gr. Awds., 10 a.m.
Last Day for Students
- 28 Teacher Workday
WCHS Graduation, 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Teacher Workday

June

- 1-4 Teacher Workdays
- 14 Board Mtg., 7 p.m.
- 15-17 Mgmt. Team Retreat
- 22 Board Work Session, 6 p.m.