

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

November 2004

Volume XX, Number 4

Board Highlights

.... from November 8, 2004

- ✓ Barbara Brayboy and Brenda Bobbitt were recognized for their years of service on the Board of Education.
- ✓ The Board recognized Sandra Crosson, English teacher at WCHS, who was named Stellar Performer for the month of October.
- ✓ The Board recognized October Lights of Character: Asante Hill and Anita Townes, Hawkins; Malik Lewis and Karen Paynter, Mariam Boyd; Donna Coffman and Annie Duncan, Northside; Mary Allen and Sergio Escertero, South Warren; Michael Coleman and Lynn Lesak, Vaughan; Robert Jon Lumsden and Lucinda Smith, WCHS; Janae Davis and Johnathan Ricks, WCMS; and Debbie Cox, Central Office.
- ✓ Costel Evans, associate superintendent, presented information on students' performance on the 2003-2004 Advanced Placement exams. Of the 34 students taking the exams, 17 made the required score to be eligible for college credit.
- ✓ Dr. Linda Mason, Human Resources director, presented a report on teacher turnover for the 2003-2004 school year. Warren County's turnover rate was 17.51 percent as compared with a State average of 12.37 percent.
- ✓ Gary Ward, Finance officer, presented information to the Board on Charter School enrollment. Currently 78 students are enrolled in area Charter Schools, resulting in a \$443,109 reduction in funding for Warren County Schools.
- ✓ Ward presented a financial report to the Board, outlined by program for the period of July 1, 2004 through October 31, 2004.
- ✓ Rosemary Lewis provided a School Violence Report for 2003-2004.
- ✓ The Board held a second reading
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Violence down in 2003-2004

Rosemary Lewis, Student Services director, presented information to the Board on Monday night regarding the state's School Violence Report for the 2003-2004 school year.

"Local boards of education are required to report 17 acts of violence if committed on school property," Lewis said. "In addition, the No Child Left Behind Act requires the state to identify schools that are persistently violent," she said.

"These are schools in which a total of five or more violent offenses were committed per 1000 students in two consecutive years."

The data presented by Lewis showed an overall reduction in incidents of crime and violence as compared with the previous school year. "During the 2003-2004 school year there were no bomb threats or sex offenses, and there was a reduction in suspensions for substance abuse," Lewis reported.

"There was, however, an increase in assault on school personnel, and possession of weapons continues to be the leading incident in Warren County and the state," she said.

In the 2002-2003 school year, there were 59 incidents of crime and violence. That number fell to 34 during the 2003-2004 school year.

Charter School Report

Gary Ward, Finance officer, provided a report to the Board on Monday night, on enrollment in area Charter Schools by students from the Warren County district.

There are 78 students enrolled in six schools, he said. Those schools are Franklin Academy (one student), Gaston College Preparatory (2 students), Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School (52 students), PreEminent Charter (0 students), The Child's Garden (10 students), and Vance Charter School (13 students).

Warren County Schools is realizing a significant reduction in funding due to the Charter School enrollment, Ward pointed out. This year, that reduction is \$443,109, up from last year's \$304,226 involving 66 students.

Dr. Ray Spain, superintendent, expressed concern that the number of Charter School enrollees is increasing.

"We are going to be looking at the attendance areas where these students would normally be attending, to make sure there is a strong academic program in that area," said Dr. Spain.

School Report Card Date: November 16

The official release of the 2003-04 NC School Report Cards is Tuesday, Nov. 16. On this day, a statewide press conference will be held to declare Nov. 16 as "NC School Report Card Day." The NC School Report Cards provide parents and communities with important information about the state's public schools. Principals will send home to parents a snapshot of schools' report card either the day of the release or soon after.



Stellar Performer

*Karen Fleming is dedicated
to her students*

This month's Stellar Performer is Karen Fleming, mathematics teacher at Warren County Middle School.

Nominated by colleagues at the school, Fleming was recently selected as Warren County Schools' Outstanding Secondary School Mathematics Teacher for 2004 by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

"She is completely dedicated to increasing the knowledge of her students," said Angela Richardson, curriculum specialist at WCMS.

"She is concerned about the children," said Sadie Webb, language arts teacher at the school. "She's willing to take the extra time needed to push them along—she's always here after school. She's also firm, fair and consistent. She rarely has a discipline issue. She manages to get respect from the students without raising her voice."

Veronica Richardson said that Fleming is her mentor teacher. "She has been very helpful, sharing strategies and manipulatives."

Jan Bryan, another mathematics teacher at the school, said that Fleming is chair of the math department. "She takes that job very seriously. She stays up to date on current practices and is always willing to attend conferences and workshops that are helpful to all of us."

The school's principal, Danylu Hundley, appreciates that Fleming is willing to state her opinion on issues, but in a "cordial, yet firm," manner.

"She speaks up for what she believes in, but is always cooperative," Hundley added.

Fleming is a graduate of Northwest Halifax High School. She attended East Carolina University and received a degree in Middle School Education from N.C. Central University.

Her first teaching job was at Northwest High School, where she taught physical science. In 1997, she began teaching at Warren County Middle School. She is now teaching eighth grade General Mathematics and Algebra I, traveling to and from Roanoke Rapids each day.

Fleming said that there have been several teachers in her family. "I guess it's just in my blood," she said.

She added, though, that her father, who was a minister, may be the one she should credit with helping her develop her teaching style.

"He had a way of wanting things to be done the right way. I learned from him to respect teachers. At the same time, at home, we were free to talk about how we felt about things."

Fleming says that in her classroom, she works to get respect from the students, though she also allows for them to express their opinions.

"I take the approach that every single student in the class can learn—at whatever level. There is something in every concept that every student can do."

Fleming makes use of cooperative learning in her classes, she said, to teach some concepts. "Some of the best students help with some of the others. Sometimes they have a way of explaining things so that other students can understand. I do a lot of pairing and group work."

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

Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

This month, the good news is that South Warren students did the best job of getting to school. They will take the Best Attendance banner after charting an attendance rate of 96.15 percent.

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

Close behind South Warren is Mariam Boyd, with 96.13 percent, followed by Vaughan, with 96.06 percent. Northside charted a rate of 95.72 percent; WCMS, 94.13 percent, and WCMS, 92.82 percent.

The Most Improved banner is mildewing! Please stress to students and parents the importance of good attendance.

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Teachers' Corner

► *Teachers serving on the State Superintendent's 2004-05 Teachers' Advisory Committee* have been named. Some of those representing teachers in this area are:

- Johnny Gatlin, Middle Creek High (Wake County Schools), jgatlin@wcpss.net;
- Tommie Evans, Northern Middle (Person County Schools), evanst@person.k12.nc.us;
- Michael Dunton, Butner-Stem Middle School, (Granville County Schools), duntonm@gcs.k12.nc.us;
- Chris Monte, J.F. Webb High (Granville County Schools), 919/693-2521;
- Ann McArthur, Teacher Advisor, The Office of Gov. Michael Easley, ann.mcarthur@ncmail.net;
- Ann Franklin, The Office of Gov. Michael Easley, alfranklin@charter.net;
- Eleanor Goettee, Executive Director, Teaching Standards Board, EGoettee@dpi.state.nc.us;
- Eddie Davis, President, NCAE, eddie.davis@nae.org; and
- Audrey Thomason, Exec. Director, NC School Counselor Association, ncsca@nc.rr.com.

If you have issues or concerns to be passed along, please contact one of these individuals.

► *The IRS last week advised educators* to save their receipts for books and other classroom supplies purchased in 2004 and apply it to the educator expense deduction. Teachers can deduct up to \$250 when figuring adjusted gross income. This deduction is available whether or not the taxpayer itemizes deductions on Schedule A. To be eligible, a person must work at least 900 hours during a school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide. For more information, please call the IRS Tele-Tax system toll-free at 800/829-4477 and select Topic 458. Or go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and use its search engine to find Tax Topic 458

► *The Public Schools of North Carolina* and other key partners invite you to participate in the North Carolina Action Plan for High School Innovation Conference, scheduled to take place Dec. 2 at the North Raleigh Hilton (Raleigh) and Dec. 3 at the Adams Mark Hotel (Charlotte). The North Carolina Action Plan for High School Innovation will provide short and long-term strategies for high school reform in addition to a call to action for every North Carolina community. For more information or to register please go online to <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/newschoolproject/>

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As for her discipline philosophy, Fleming said, "I am careful to pick only the battles that I can fight. Some things are not worth worrying about."

Fleming spends time at home caring for her mother and her one daughter, who is a high school junior.

"She is in the band, so I spend a lot of the time on the road, following the band."

She is also an active member of London Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids. "I would like to attend graduate school at some point," she said.

Meanwhile, Fleming has nothing but good things to say about Warren County Middle School. "I really enjoy working here. It was a big change at first, but I really like the middle school level. Mrs. Hundley is a great person to work with, and I really enjoy the eighth grade team."

She must, according to Angela Richardson. "She's been offered other jobs but has chosen to stay here. Her heart is at Warren County Middle School."

From the State - - -

Gov. Mike Easley signed a proclamation designating the month of November as American Indian Heritage Month and urged the state's citizens to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by native inhabitants. According to Census 2000, almost 100,000 American Indians live in North Carolina, which gives our state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River and the eighth largest American Indian population in the nation. For additional information, please contact the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs at 919/733-5998 or visit their Web site at <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cia/indian.htm>

State Treasurer Richard Moore has partnered with the Center for Student Credit Card Education to offer free supplemental classroom materials that teach high school seniors how to responsibly use a credit card before they go to college or out into the workforce. High school teachers interested in taking part in this program should contact Ellen Richardson, Office of the State Treasurer, 919/508-5164, or by email, ellen.richardson@treasurer.state.nc.us, by Friday, Nov. 12, and let her know the number of students you will be teaching, your contact information, and the mailing address to send the program materials.

"*Building the Foundation*," is the theme for the 2005 College Access Conference, which has been scheduled for Feb. 16-18 in Wilmington. Focus areas of this year's conference include "Sustaining Your College Access Initiative" and "Promoting Positive Transitions in Education." For more information, including registration, please go online to <http://www.cfnc.org> and click on CFNC Events then 2005 NC College Access Conference.

Coming Up - - -

◆ *In response to the increased demand* from the field for information regarding dual language programs, DPI is pleased to announce the "Dual Language Conference" to be held in Charlotte on Jan. 10. The conference will feature strategies for successful dual language program implementation and programming at the elementary level. For more information on the conference, registration and hotels, please visit the DPI's Second Language Web site at <http://www.learnnc.org/dpi/instrserv.nsf/Category9> and scroll to "Dual Language Conference/January 2005," or contact Helga Fasciano at 919/807-3865, or by email, [hfascian@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:hfacian@dpi.state.nc.us).

◆ *On Nov. 18, the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health* is sponsoring a video conference, "Kids With Diabetes In North Carolina Schools - What's New In 2004?," at 16 sites across the state. The registration deadline is Nov. 10 and the cost for the session is \$40. For more information, go to www.sph.unc.edu/oce/, click on Courses and Conferences then look under the November link.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on a policy revision regarding the School Health Education Program, then adopted the policy as revised.

✓ Overnight field trips were approved for the WCHS SADD organization to travel to Raleigh, November 19-21; and for Mariam Boyd Exceptional classes to travel to Wilmington, May 12-14.

✓ The Board approved the listing as surplus property seven vehicles that were not used during the past school year.

✓ The Board approved the transfer of Lane Elkins from fourth grade teacher at Northside to fourth grade teacher at Vaughan, of Pearl Simes from kindergarten teacher at Northside to kindergarten teacher at South Warren, and of Deborah Williams from teacher assistant at Northside to teacher assistant at Mariam Boyd.

✓ The Board approved Sandra Skipwith-Hicks and Jacqueline Teeters as WCMS homebound teachers for the EC program. Wendolyn Owens-Foster was approved as a teacher assistant at South Warren.

✓ Approved as substitutes are Marion Harrison and Gloria Tillet. Approved as substitute custodians are Bryan Green and Marvin Henderson.

✓ The Board approved Extra Duty Assignments for South Warren, Mariam Boyd, WCHS, Northside and WCMS.

✓ The Board approved the resignations of Bobbie Richardson, Exceptional Programs director; Christopher Singerline, seventh grade math teacher, WCMS; Alicia Walker, school nurse, districtwide; Annette Lynch, teacher assistant, Mariam Boyd; and Anthony Watson, wrestling coach, WCHS.

✓ Vacancies include: an Exceptional teacher at South Warren; an assistant principal, Northside; a sixth grade Language Arts/Social Studies teacher, a science teacher and two math teachers, WCMS; at WCHS, a choral music teacher, an EC teacher, a biology teacher and a math teacher; and districtwide, a Speech-Language therapist, a Health Educator, a Social Worker, two ESL teachers, an Exceptional Children's director and a Technology assistant.

✓ Dr. Spain reported that Warren County Schools will receive a portion of a grant awarded to the Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund a distance learning project at Warren County High School. The grant will be used to set up an "information highway" site at the school.

"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

November

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH; NAT. PTA CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION MONTH

- 10 Interim Progress Reports Issued
Northside Sch. Imp. Tm.
Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
- 11 Veteran's Day
Teacher Workday
- 15-19 American Education Week
Nat. Children's Book Week
Youth Appreciation Week
- 15 Vaughan Sch. Imp. Tm Mtg.
3:15 p.m.
- 16 WCMS Fall Athletic Banquet
6:30 p.m.
- 17 Northside Native American
Program, 12:30 & 1:30 p.m.
South Warren Sch. Imp. Tm.
Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 18 Northside Mom's Breakfast, Gr.
K, 4, 5, 7:45 a.m.
WCMS Native American
Program, 9 a.m.
Vaughan K/1 Parent Luncheon,
11 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Reading/Writing
in the Night, 6-7 p.m.
Northside PTA/Fall Concert
Gr. 3-5, 7 p.m.
- 19 Northside Moms' Breakfast, Gr.
1-3, 7:45 a.m.
- 22-26 Nat. Family Week
- 22 Mariam Boyd Sch. Imp. Tm.
Mtg., 3:05 p.m.
- 23 Mariam Boyd Native American
Program, 9 & 10 a.m.
So. Warren Parent Lunch, Gr.
K-12, 11:15 a.m.
WCHS Senior Dues Deadline
- 24-26 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 30 Hawkins Character Celebration
9:30 a.m.

December

- 2 WCHS Fall Athletic Banquet
6:30 p.m.
- 6 Leadership Team, 10 a.m.
- 7-9 Reading and Math Benchmarks
NC Competency Test
- 7 Hawkins Christmas Prog., 6 pm
WCMS PTSA Mtg., 7 p.m.