

Board Highlights

.... from September 12, 2005

✓ The Board recognized WCHS students David Boyd, Jamar Mayes, and Markissa Richardson who participated in the state FCCLA leadership conference. Jamar Mayes was also recognized for winning a gold medal in the "Illustrated Talk Event," senior division at the national FCCLA conference. The Board recognized Ms. Halona Richardson and Mrs. Oney Jones, advisors, as room consultants at the national FCCLA conference. Mrs. Jones was also recognized as one of three North Carolina participants to receive "Advisor-to-Advisor Training."

✓ Princine Jefferies provided a presentation on the Northeast Mathematics and Science Partnership Grant. The objective of the grant is to help middle school teachers improve their instructional skills in science, math, and lab safety.

✓ Costel Evans presented information to the Board on ten day membership for the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Evans also gave a report on the 2004-2005 SAT scores for Warren County. In 2005, 57.8% of seniors took the SAT, compared to 53.3% tested during 2004.

✓ Odell Clanton, Exceptional Programs Director, announced that Warren County Schools received a grant for the position of a regional coordinator for the Positive Behavior Support program. WCMS has been named as the demonstration site school for this grant.

✓ The Board approved a contract between Warren County Schools and the Warren County Sheriff's Office for School Resource Officers at WCHS and WCMS.

✓ The Board approved the appointments of the school system treasurers and official depositories.

✓ Upon the recommendation of the
(SEE **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**, PAGE 4)

June Atkinson becomes first female State Superintendent

In what seemed to have been a historic nine-month legal battle, it finally took a legislative vote on Tuesday, August 23th to elect North Carolina's first female State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson.

A seasoned educator, Dr. Atkinson has nearly three decades of experience as both a teacher and administrator in North Carolina public schools. Her most recent position was director of instructional services at DPI. She gave up this position to take on her newest challenge.

Atkinson has several key priorities to focus on as she begins her new duties. "North Carolina is a national leader in improving our schools, but we have many concerns to address. Too many of our young people drop out of high school. Too many of our youngsters are not fully prepared for higher education and for the world of work. These are issues our state can address. I look forward to working with the State Board of Education and educators across the state in the months to come," Atkinson said. Her vision includes improving the quality of instruction and student learning, as well as satisfying the Leandro court ruling to improve low-performing schools, improving the teacher turnover rate, and reducing the high school dropout rate.

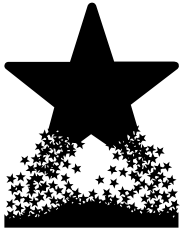
Dr. Atkinson was invited to attend the Warren County Schools Opening Day Convocation on Wednesday, August 24th. Regretfully, she was unable to attend due to the recent legislative vote and swearing in ceremony the previous day. She sent her best regards for a wonderful school year, and made a commitment to visit our district in the very near future.

Careful...Entering a Health Zone!

Warren County Schools, in partnership with GlaxcoSmithKline and North Carolina Prevention Partners will kick-off *Zone Health* at Northside Elementary School, Warren County Middle School, and Warren County High School on Tuesday, September 20th. This is a pilot program that takes a look at the childhood obesity epidemic. Through this initiative, toolkits for elementary, middle, and high schools will be developed. Each toolkit will provide practical information about preventing and addressing obesity issues. The major goal of the project is to identify children who are at-risk for health problems, both now and in the future.

Katherine Hilliard, Warren County Schools Health Educator, has coordinated a variety of events to take place at each of the three sites on the kick-off day. Participants include: McDonald's, BeActiveNC, the Warren County Health Department, Warren County Healthy Carolinians, and representatives of both GlaxcoSmithKline and North Carolina Prevention Partners. "There will be hands-on activities for the children to see the importance of healthy eating and living, as well as snacks available from our partners," Hilliard said.

(Continued on Page 3)



Stellar Performer

Rhonda Bobbitt--Service with a Smile

"She works hard, she stays late and she makes sure the job gets done right."

These were but a few of the accolades Principal Noel Robertson had for Rhonda Bobbitt, secretary at Vaughan Elementary School as he named her the school year's first Stellar Performer.

"She is so effective and efficient. She handles stressful situations well. She certainly knows the routines of our school," Robertson said. "She anticipates the needs of the staff and takes care of every situation--she is one of the reasons our school runs as smoothly as it does."

At the start of last school year, Bobbitt arrived on the job only a few weeks prior to Robertson.

"It was as if she had been here forever," Robertson said. "She has such a good attitude about everything and everyone. Mrs. Bobbitt makes the first impression on anyone coming to this school. It doesn't matter if you walk through the door, or call on the phone, you'll always be greeted in a 'smiling' manner."

A native of Northhampton County, Bobbitt graduated from Halifax Academy and Halifax Community College, where she received an associate degree in business. She began her career with Warren County Schools as secretary at North Warren Elementary School with Principal W.T. Ramey in 1990.

"When the new middle school opened (WCMS), and they closed North Warren, we had to move," said Bobbitt. She and her principal moved into the new middle school building and she stayed there until October of 1998, when she left the county to explore her career in a different setting.

Five years later, Bobbitt was calling Warren County Schools home again.

"I missed my work close to home and wanted to come back," she said. "I needed a change of environment for a while--but then I really began to get homesick."

The opportunity presented itself in 2003 when she was hired by Janet Farrar to work with the Child Nutritional Services Division at the Central Office. In August of 2004, Bobbitt was assigned to the secretarial post at Vaughan.

"I feel like I've finally come home," she said.

Bobbitt works closely with everyone in the Vaughan school family.

"Even though she has only been here a year, it seems like she's been here forever," said Renee Mizelle, reading coach. "It's only the second week of school and she has already memorized almost all the kids names--she is not only the secretary, but she is also the nurse, school mom, receptionist, SIMS operator, copier technician, babysitter, mail girl--she's our everything."

Bobbitt herself couldn't have put it any better. "When you're a school secretary, you play many different roles--you treat people the way you want yourself (or your child) to be treated--you definitely have to multi-task."

The faculty and staff at Vaughan can't say enough about their beloved secretary.

"She is extremely cooperative and so pleasant about everything," echoes Barbara Rowlett, Vaughan teacher. "She goes out of her way to do special things for everyone--we want to keep her!"

It is obvious that Rhonda Bobbitt is as enthusiastic about her job and the people who work with her as they are about her.

"Five years from now, I hopefully see myself right here--I love my job--I enjoy the area--I couldn't be happier."

Bobbitt spends her free time with the other loves in her life, husband Henry (Dal) and daughter, Tori. She and her husband continue to restore their new home, his grandparents' homeplace, while they both try to keep up with their active eleven-year old daughter.

Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Final figures are in for the end of the 2004-2005 school year, and they reveal that Mariam Boyd Elementary School received the Best Attendance Award. Students there achieved a rate of 96.13 percent. Way to go Eagles!

Mariam Boyd Elementary School also came in with top honors for the year, with the award for the most improved attendance. The Eagles achieved an average increase of .63 percent. Congratulations Mariam Boyd!

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

CFNC--A Welcome Addition

The 2005-2006 school year begins a partnership with the College Foundation of North Carolina that will create greater opportunities for all students. "We want our students to begin planning for a post secondary education for any type of college," said Dr. Ray V. Spain, superintendent. "The College Foundation of North Carolina is an excellent way for our students and their parents to get information on college planning as early as possible," said Dr. Spain. "All students have the opportunity to attend college," added Rosemary Lewis, Student Services Director. "The CFNC collaboration is a great way for students and their parents to have a roadmap to get there."

This school year will focus primarily on activities at the eighth and ninth grade levels. Eighth and ninth graders will establish a college foundation account, participate in counseling sessions organized through CFNC, and have access to a variety of college resources for both students and parents. Principals Danylu Hundley and Dr. Tony Cozart invited CFNC representatives Jennifer Ball and Margaret Causey to participate in open house activities to introduce eighth and ninth grades parents to what the College Foundation of North Carolina would have to offer students.

This does not mean, however, that other grades will not benefit during this school year. All schools have been receiving information on college-targeted activities through CFNC. Vaughan Principal Noel Robertson commented, "We have already scheduled the College Foundation of North Carolina to come and speak at our school in late September. Even the elementary parents need to know how to plan for their child's future education."

Coming Up - - -

❖ "The Knowledge to Teach, the Passion to Care" is the theme of the 55th Conference on Exceptional Children scheduled for Nov. 7-9 at the Koury Convention Center/Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro. Sessions related to IEP development, state alternate assessments, AYP for students with disabilities, behavior, literacy, math, writing, and many other pertinent topics will be featured. For more information, please contact David Mills, Exceptional Children Division, via email at dmills@dpi.state.nc.us.

❖ "Setting the Sails...Staying the Course" is the theme of the annual conference for the North Carolina Dropout Prevention Association schedules Sept. 19-21 in Wilmington, N.C. The keynote speaker will be Horatio Sanchez, of Resiliency, Inc. Key officials from DPI, including State Board of Education Chair, Howard Lee, will present insights and initiatives on the issues surrounding dropout prevention. For more information, please contact John L. Reimer, N.C. Dropout Prevention Association, via email at jreimer@caa.k12.nc.us.

ZONE HEALTH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students and staff will have to become more actively involved in physical fitness this year---it will be mandated by the state during the 2006-2007 school year," Hilliard said.

Wanda Hunt, Northside Principal stated, "I believe this is going to be a great opportunity for our students and

our staff. The on-going program will certainly have lasting, long-term effects that will produce healthy results for all of us. I am looking forward to participating. You will certainly see a lot more 'Cool Moves' going on at Northside as we participate in this program."

Education Fund awards grants

Portia Hawes, president of The Warren Education Fund, awarded seven Teacher MiniGrants and three Schoolwide Grants to teachers and administrators at the Warren County Schools' Opening Convocation on Wednesday, August 24th.

Receiving Schoolwide Grants are: Joyce Long, (*FRED*) *Families Reading Every Day*, Mariam Boyd Elementary School; Noel Robertson, *Leave No Child Behind*, Vaughan Elementary School; Danylu Hundley, *Get in the Circle with BOB (Battle of the Books)*.

Teachers receiving Teacher MiniGrants are: at Mariam Boyd, Valinda Wooten, Angela Vaughan, Dolah Edmonds--*Boost Up!*; Gail Coleman, Lorell Lewis, Catherine Sledge--*Third Time is the CHARM! A Study and Comparison of a Terrarium, Saltwater and Freshwater Aquarium*; Elaine Leet, Pat Riethmeier, Christina Skinner--*Mixing Up Math*; Reneka Andrews, Norma Retzlaff, Chelsa Jennings, Christina Casper--*Awesome Authors Plus!* From Warren County Middle School: Chery Sebrell--*Banish Boring Book Reports*; Gwen White, Nikeena Boyd-Kearsey--*North Carolina From A to Z*; Julia Conrad--*DEAR Listening Challenge*.

Awards totalled \$9,950.

The Warren Education Fund is a local foundation that was formed in 1986 and governed by a board of directors composed of community leaders. The mission of the Fund is "to develop programs and support projects that enhance educational opportunities for the students of Warren County Schools."

Anyone with questions concerning the Fund's grants programs should contact Emmy Coleman, Fund advisor, 257-3184.

National Board Certification

Teachers considering applying for National Board certification are invited to visit www.nbpts.org to review the areas offered for certification and the standards for those areas of certification. The state of North Carolina will pay the \$2,300 assessment fee for all teachers who meet the eligibility criteria as indicated at www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts. The state continues to pay a 12 percent pay differential for the life of the certificate. The application window is open until Nov. 15, 2005. The following steps are suggested for those teachers who are considering this opportunity:

- Visit the Web site, www.nbpts.org, to review information about certification standards, research, etc.

- Visit the Web site, www.ncpublicschools.org/nbpts, to review information as it relates to guidelines for funding in North Carolina, pay differentials, frequently asked questions, etc.

- When applying for National Board Certification, teachers MUST also apply at the North Carolina site if they are requesting funding from the state.

The application window for this candidacy cycle will close on Nov. 15, 2005, with all portfolios being due to NBPTS by March 31, 2006. Those with questions should contact the NC National Board Certification Coordinator at 919-807-3358, Jeanne Washburn at 919-807-3373 or jwashbur@dpi.state.nc.us, or Deanna Harris at 919-807-3358 or dharris@dpi.state.nc.us.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Superintendent, the Board approved a First Citizens Bank card for the school district.

- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the salary increases for staff based on Senate Bill 622 passed by the North Carolina General Assembly.

- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the discretionary budget reduction to be returned to the state in the amount of \$97, 810.

- ✓ The Board recognized the retirement of Peggy Williams, SIMS/Textbook Coordinator, districtwide, effective September 30, 2005.

- ✓ The Board accepted the resignation of Shanda Glover, teacher assistant at South Warren, effective September 2, 2005.

- ✓ The Board approved the following for employment: at Northside/Vaughan, Mary Walsh, music teacher; at Hawkins Alternative Program, Onie Herring, English teacher; at South Warren, Carlotta Woodard, teacher assistant; at WCHS, Coseye Hawkins, social studies teacher and at the Central Office, Crystal Richardson, personnel assistant, John Berry, workstation technician. Extra duty assignments were approved approved for WCHS and WCMS.

- ✓ Approved as systemwide substitutes are Esther Baker, Wanda Bradley, Joyce Barnes, Connie Palmer, Geraldine Richardson, Artishia Johnson, Myrtice Chavis and Angela Perry (afterschool program only).

- ✓ Approved as a systemwide bus monitor was Shirley Hunt and substitute custodians were Sean Bullock and Willie Williams.

- ✓ Vacancies include: at WCHS, a health occupations teacher, family & consumer science teacher, and transition specialist; and districtwide, a SIMS/Textbook coordinator and HVAC technician.

“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
Emmy L. Coleman, Editor
www.warren-countyschools.org

Calendar

September

- 15 South Warren 3-5 Gr. Acct. Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Mariam Boyd 3rd Gr. Acct. Mtg. 10 a.m.
- 19 Senior Staff, 10 a.m. Vaughan Sch. Imp., 3:15 p.m.
- 20 Mariam Boyd 5th Gr. Acct. Mtg. 10 a.m.
Zone Health Kick-Off
Vaughan Parent Ed. Night, 6:30 p.m.
WCHS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 21 South Warren Sch. Imp., 3:15 p.m.
Northside Sch. Imp., 3:15 p.m.
- 22 *South Warren Muffins for Moms* @7:45 a.m.
WCHS College Day, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Mariam Boyd Math Night, 6 p.m.
Northside PTA, 7 p.m.
- 23 M. Boyd 4th Gr. Acct. Mtg., 10 a.m.
South Warren Burger King Night
- 26 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Interim Progress Reports
Mariam Boyd Sch. Imp., 3:05 p.m.
- 27 Mariam Boyd Writing Prompt
Vaughan School Pics, 9 a.m.
N'side Parent Fair, 6:30 p.m.
WCMS PTSA, 7 p.m.
- 29 *N'side Grandparents' Breakfast*
Gr. K, 4, 5 7:45-8:20 a.m.
- 30 *N'side Grandparents' Breakfast*
Gr. 1-3 7:45-8:20 a.m.

October

- 3 Leadership Team, 10 a.m.
- 5 South Warren Boys' Club Begins 3-4:30 p.m.
- 6 *South Warren B'fast with Dads* 8:30 a.m.
Vaughan Parent Ed. Night 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 7 WCHS Awards Program, 6 p.m.
- 10 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11 Management Team, 9 a.m.
Hawkins PTA, 6 p.m.
WCMS PTA Burger King Night 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Vaughan PTA/Night of the Arts Gr 3-5, 7 p.m.
- 12 Mariam Boyd FRED, 10 a.m.
Northside Sch. Imp., 3:15 p.m.