

"Discourse"

A Newsletter For And About The Staff Of
Warren County Schools

September 2006

Volume XXII, Number 1

Board Highlights

.... from September 11, 2006

- ✓ The Board meeting was opened with a moment of silence in remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy.
 - ✓ Dr. Lawrence C. Walker, Ed. D., of the Central Carolina RESA was recognized to present Dr. Ray V. Spain, superintendent of Warren County Schools a plaque in honor of his selection as the Central Carolina RESA Superintendent of the Year.
 - ✓ Princine Jefferies addressed the Board about the new High School Exit Standards. Both Ms. Jefferies and WCHS Principal Joyce Long presented the Board with information about the New Schools Project.
 - ✓ Costel Evans presented information about the ten-day membership for the 2006-2007 school year. To date, there are 2,818 students enrolled in Warren County Schools.
 - ✓ Costel Evans presented information on SAT scores for Warren County Schools.
 - ✓ The Board recognized State Senator Doug Berger and State Representative Michael Wray. Both spoke to pledge their support in helping the district and Board of Education.
 - ✓ The Board approved the appointments of the school system treasurers and official depositories.
 - ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved to accept a gift donation of \$1,000 by Lisa Uranga-Driver for the Warren County Arts Department.
 - ✓ The Board accepted the resignations of Lucinda Smith, WCHS, effective Aug. 29; McCoin Brown, NS/VE, effective Aug. 24; Matthew Crawford, HEC, effective Sept. 1; James Hunter, Jr., WCHS, effective Oct. 13; John Williams, WCMS, effective Oct. 7; Jeremy Seaman, districtwide, effective Sept. 15.
 - ✓ The Board approved the follow-
- (SEE **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**, PAGE 4)

2006-2007 Teacher of the Year Named

Sharon West, fourth grade teacher at Northside Elementary School has been named Warren County Schools' Teacher of the Year for the 2006-2007 school year.

A Virginia native and graduate of Dinwiddie High School, West attended Halifax Community College in Weldon, NC and spent several years working for both CP&L and BB&T before deciding to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming an educator. She received her bachelor's degree from North Carolina Wesleyan in 2000 and a master's in elementary education from East Carolina University in 2005. She currently awaits the results of a yearlong portfolio to see if she has achieved National Board Certification status, which will be released in October.

"I'm proof that it is never too late for anyone, especially older adults who have a desire to step out of the box and go back to school to do that," West said. "In ten years time I have earned my bachelor's and master's degrees and hopefully will earn my National Board Certification--it's been tough, but well worth it."

The pitch in West's voice rises with excitement as she talks about her career teaching, her educational experiences, and her classroom at Northside.

"I love my job, I like trying to determine the students' learning abilities and disabilities and then working on new ways to help them combat their problems. I want to be able to show them the progress they can make in learning and how educational growth is so vital to their success."

West says that one of the most important aspects of her teaching is taking up time with the students.

"They need someone to talk to and very often they don't have parents at home who have the time to spend one-on-one with them," West said. "If it's one thing I can give to every child--it's my time."

This year, however, there have been cutbacks and West's fourth grade classroom is overcrowded and time is something of a delicacy.

(See *Teacher of the Year*, Page 3)

Spain Named Supt. of the Year

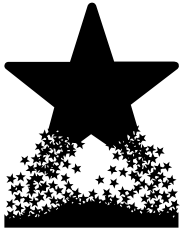
Dr. Ray V. Spain, superintendent for Warren County Schools has been named the Superintendent of the Year for the Central Carolina RESA [Regional Educational Service Alliance].

Dr. Lawrence C. Walker, Ed. D., Executive Director of the organization located in Durham, NC presented Spain with a plaque recognizing this distinctive honor at the Board meeting held on September 11.

"We are proud and honored that Dr. Spain is representing us as a candidate for this accolade," Dr. Walker said. "Dr. Spain serves this school system and community with such a sense of honor and pride."

Dr. Spain will be further recognized by the North Carolina Association of School Administrators at the State Superintendent's meeting in December and at the national level in March.

Congratulations and best of luck, Dr. Spain!



Stellar Performer

Donna Liles--Patience is a Virtue

"Her patience amazes me. She has such a calming approach to students, parents, staff--everyone. That's why I often refer to her as my personal therapist."

These were but a few of the accolades Principal Noel Robertson had for Donna Liles, exceptional children's teacher at Vaughan Elementary School as he named her the 2006-2007 school year's first Stellar Performer.

"She is so effective and efficient. She handles stressful situations well. And have I mentioned how patient she can be," Robertson said. "She anticipates the needs of the students and takes care of their every situation--she is one of the reasons our school runs as smoothly as it does."

"It is evident that Mrs. Liles loves her students and they are made aware of that fact every single day and in return they show their love for her," Robertson said. "She makes a special effort to know their routines and gets involved in their extracurricular activities such as any programs they perform in and even during the summer she makes the extra time to do things with her students."

A native of Warren County, Liles attended both Vaughan Elementary School and Littleton High School. She graduated from Peace College with an associate of arts degree and from Atlantic Christian College with a bachelor of science degree in education. She achieved her National Board Certification in the area of special education in 1998. She is currently working on her master's degree in learning disabilities at East Carolina University.

"I started graduate school many years ago while my husband was in the army and we ended up moving to Germany before I could finish my program," Liles said. "I started graduate school twice more and moved each time before I could finish. Now it is a priority more than ever."

Liles has been teaching for 23 years and during this time has worked with every age group.

"I have worked at elementary schools, a junior high, and a high school. I have worked in a daycare setting training providers in developmentally appropriate practices for babies to school age children. I currently am a facilitator for Praxis preparation seminars for the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium. I really enjoy teaching other teachers, especially those just entering the profession."

Lou Ann Bender, a third grade teacher, has worked with Liles for many years at Vaughan.

"Mrs. Liles is a professional in every sense of the word. Who she portrays inside of the classroom is exactly who she is outside of the classroom. She has high expectations for her students and herself. She puts her students first and works extremely hard to ensure their success," Bender said.

Rhonda Bobbitt, Vaughan secretary, concurs with Bender's statements.

"Mrs. Liles makes sure that 'every i is dotted and every t is crossed' when it comes to her job and her students," Bobbitt said. "I also must say that she has the most patience of anyone I know."

Liles feels that it is her responsibility to find the strengths in each child and help them build on those strengths while remediating the weak areas. She firmly believes that every child has potential and it is her job [as well as every teacher] to uncover that potential and help students develop their potential.

"Vaughan Elementary School is most fortunate to have someone like Donna Liles on staff," added Robertson. "Just take a look at the front of our building when you drive up...those beautiful flowers and stepping stones are the giving work of Mrs. Liles."

Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Final figures are in for the end of the 2005-2006 school year, and they reveal that Vaughan Elementary School received the Best Attendance Award. Students there achieved a rate of 96.11 percent. Way to go Eagles!

Vaughan 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 .26 percent. Congratulations Vaughan!

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Teacher of the Year, continued from Page 1

"To complete the regional teacher of the year portfolio, you have to choose an educational platform and I have pretty much narrowed mine down to classroom size based on what I have experienced so far this school year," West said. "Last year, I had a class of eighteen students and now to have gone from that to twenty-seven is a drastic change that has an impact on everything I do as a teacher."

West says that her concerns lie in the fact that she feels with the overcrowding she may not be meeting all of her students needs and with that she is not going to be at her very best.

"The disadvantages truly have a trickle down effect which goes from the teacher to the students, and then throughout the whole school," West continued. "It is an issue that needs some serious thought and attention, not just here, but everywhere."

"Northside is so fortunate to have Mrs. West on the teaching faculty," said Wanda Hunt, Northside Principal. "She goes beyond the call of duty and puts 110% into everything she does both with her students and with her schoolwide responsibilities. She is very deserving of this honor."

"Mrs. West is a very creative, energetic teacher and she is so persistent. She doesn't give up on her students and she doesn't give up on tasks," Hunt continued. "I value her input and opinions tremendously. She seems to internalize everything from a schoolwide perspective--I appreciate that."

Married for 24 years, West and her husband Scott have two children, Jamie a senior at East Carolina University currently involved in student teaching, and Joshua, a United States Marine stationed in Jacksonville, NC.

When she is not busy at Northside, West can be found teaching curriculum and planning and reading and writing methods at Halifax Community College, and trying to enjoy a few other extracurricular activities such as reading, crocheting, and working with the local 4-H clubs.

"I truly love what I do...knowing that my being here every day is making a difference is someone else's life...makes it all worthwhile," West said. "Above all, I am truly honored to have been selected to represent Warren County Schools as the 2006-2007 Teacher of the Year...it is a humbling experience."

Coming Up - - -

❖ The 56th Conference on Exceptional Children is scheduled for Nov. 6-7 at the Koury Convention Center/Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro. This conference focuses on promising practices and policies in the education of students with disabilities and/or academic or intellectual gifts. It is the largest and longest running conference sponsored by a state education agency. For more information, please contact Mary Watson, Exceptional Children Division, via email at mwatson@dpi.state.nc.us.

❖ The Personnel Administrators of North Carolina (PANC) Fall Conference will be held Oct. 2-4 at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel. For more information, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/panc/fall/>

What's New - - -

❖ A new eight-minute movie, "Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Under NCLB," provides an overview of SES and how the process works for Title I schools that must offer this service. This movie was designed for central office, school staff, and parents. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/newsroom/topics/> for more details. Also online, the "SES Timeline and Checklist" provides a guide to the actions necessary during the course of a year to fulfill SES obligations. This checklist was created with school districts and administrators in mind. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb/sample/ses/> to access this useful outline as well as other recently-developed SES sample materials.

❖ Key articles in the August 2006 edition of "NC NCLB News" focus on the impact of AYP results for schools and districts, NCLB and ABCs changes for North Carolina and changes and timelines for implementation of the supplemental educational services program. Visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb/news/> to access NC NCLB News.

Education Fund awards grants

Portia Hawes, president of The Warren Education Fund, awarded six Teacher MiniGrants and two Schoolwide Grants to teachers and administrators at the Warren County Schools' Opening Convocation on Friday, August 18th.

Receiving Schoolwide Grants are: Canecca Davis, (*BOB-E*) *Battle of the Books-Elementary*, Mariam Boyd Elementary School; Danylu Hundley, *Join the Club!*.

Teachers receiving Teacher MiniGrants are: at Mariam Boyd, Gail Coleman, Lorell Lewis, Catherine Sledge--*All the World's a Stage*; from Northside Elementary School: Sharon West--*Making Connections*; from South Warren Elementary School: Carolyn Brug--*Going to Carolina in My Memory Book*; from Warren County Middle School: Cheryl Sebrell--*The Play's the Thing to Make Literature Sing*; Jacqueline Teeters--*Monarchs in the Classroom*; Paula Aycok, Brian Kaprive--*Math for Multiple Intelligences*.

Awards totalled \$6,812.52.

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 J. Patrick Draffin, 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 Oct. 31, 2006. 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 Oct. 31, 2006, with all portfolios being due to NBPTS by March 31, 2007. Those with questions should contact Deanna Harris, NC National Board Certification Coordinator at 919.807.3358 or dharris@dpi.state.nc.us.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing for employment: at Northside/Vaughan, Crystal Moseley, health & PE teacher; at HEC, Dakisha Perry, teacher assistant, Alexander Young, child nutrition food transporter, Anita Towns, transfer from EC pre-K to pre-K; at South Warren, Lori Sheldon, 1st grade teacher; at WCHS, Shenika Lockett, EC teacher, Rebecca Marlin, teacher assistant; and at WCMS, Jacqueline Hargrove, literacy coach.

✓ Approved for extra duty assignments were: Rebecca Burgess (volunteer), soccer coach, WCMS; Kathy Allen, asst. volleyball coach, WCMS; Lucretia Kinnin, volleyball coach, WCHS; Ann Robbins, boys & girls soccer coach, WCHS; David Donaldson, girls tennis coach, WCHS; Herley Moss (volunteer), asst. football coach, WCMS; Donald Moody, head JV girls basketball coach, WCHS; Christa Moody, head varsity girls basketball coach, WCHS; Maurice Bowles, head JV boys basketball coach, WCHS.

✓ Approved as a systemwide bus monitors were: Lanese Jones and Toyia Davis.

✓ Approved as a systemwide substitutes were: Jameatrice Alston, Carol Evans, Jonas Alston, Cassandra Williams, Katrina Davis, Sharon Bowman, Brenda Crump-Shearin, and Veronica Boyd.

✓ Vacancies include: at WCHS, an EC teacher, guidance counselor, media specialist and custodian; at Hawkins Educational Center, an EC pre-K teacher, at WCMS, an EC teacher, at Mariam Boyd, an EC teacher, at South Warren, an elementary education teacher and districtwide, an ESL teacher and a groundskeeper.

“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
J. Patrick Draffin, Editor
www.wcask12.org

Calendar

September

- 18 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Vaughan SIT, 3:15 p.m.
South Warren Staff Mtg., 3 p.m.
Mariam Boyd SIT, 3:05 p.m.
- 20 Northside SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 21 *South Warren Muffins for Moms*
@7:45 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Math Night, 6 p.m.
Northside Parent Curriculum Acct. Fair, Gr. K-5, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 22 M. Boyd 3rd Gr. Acct. Mtg., 10 a.m.
South Warren Burger King Night
- 25 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
South Warren Leadership Team Mtg., 3 p.m.
- 26 Interim Progress Reports Issued
EC Progress Reports Issued
WCMS PTSA Open House, 7 p.m.
IEP Chair Mtg., 3 p.m.
M. Boyd 5th Gr. Acct. Mtg., 10 a.m.
- 27 Vaughan School Pictures
South Warren Reading Family Fun Night, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 28 Northside PTA/NCLB Session, 7 p.m.
Northside Grandparents' Breakfast, Gr. K, 4-5, 7:45-8:20 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Writing Prompt

October

- 2 Leadership Team, 10 a.m.
South Warren Staff Mtg., 3 p.m.
Mariam Boyd Staff Mtg., 3:05 p.m.
- 3 Northside Fall Pictures
- 5 Vaughan Parent Education Night/
Science Projects, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 South Warren Breakfast with Dads, 7:45 a.m.
- 9 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
South Warren SIT, 3 p.m.
Northside Staff Mtg., 3:15 p.m.
Board Mtg., 7 p.m.
- 10 Management Team, 9 a.m.
IEP Chair Mtg., 3 p.m.
Hawkins PTA, 6 p.m.
Vaughan PTA/Fall Concert
Gr 3-5, 7 p.m.
- 11 South Warren Fire Prev. Day
Northside SIT, 3:15 p.m.
- 14 South Warren Chicken Plate Sale, 12-6 p.m.