

### Our Mission

*Catoosa County Public Schools is a student-focused learning community, where excellence is expected from staff and students, every day, without exception.*

### Our Vision

*Catoosa County Public Schools will prepare every child to reach their full potential so they graduate prepared to be good citizens and leaders of the future.*

---

## SHINING STAR RECOGNITION

Volume 7, Issue 3

April 15, 2016



### James Lanier, Battlefield Primary School Service Employee Shining Star

Pictured L to R: Jack Sims, Gloria Hunt, Superintendent Denia Reese, James Lanier, Melvin Edwards, Chairman Don Dycus, and Vice Chairman David Moeller



### Stacey Smith, West Side Elementary School Paraprofessional Shining Star

Pictured L to R: Jack Sims, Gloria Hunt, Superintendent Denia Reese, Stacey Smith, Melvin Edwards, Chairman Don Dycus, and Vice Chairman David Moeller

*Every Child, Every Day, Without Exception!*



### Dr. Tracy Horton, Heritage High School Student Service Employee Shining Star

Pictured L to R: Jack Sims, Gloria Hunt, Superintendent Denia Reese, Dr. Tracy Horton, Melvin Edwards, Chairman Don Dycus, and Vice Chairman David Moeller

## BUDGET UPDATE

If you followed the recent Georgia Legislative Session, you know that Governor Deal appropriated additional funds for public education in the FY17 budget. The state budget contains an additional \$300 million to “minimize the ongoing austerity reduction to Quality Basic Education Act funding.” Governor Deal allowed local school districts flexibility to use these additional funds to eliminate teacher furlough days, increase instructional days, and increase teacher salaries. I wanted to present the budget we are planning with the additional funding:

#### REVENUE (estimates):

★ Additional QBE funding	\$2,147,421	
★ Additional Supplemental Budget Increase	<u>\$ 600,763</u>	
★ Total additional funding		\$2,748,184

#### EXPENSES (estimates):

★ Health insurance cost increase - classified employees	\$ 690,000	
★ Certified step increases (years of service)	\$ 660,000	
★ Additional teacher/paraprofessional positions	\$ 750,000	
★ Eliminating furlough days/2 additional student days	<u>\$ 711,000</u>	
★ Total additional expenses		<u>\$2,811,000</u>

DIFFERENCE (Expenses exceed revenue) (\$ 62,816)

The state has cut our QBE funds every year since 2003. We have lost \$65,496,869 in state funding due to austerity reductions. The Board of Education appreciates your support when these cuts forced us to furlough employees and increase class sizes to maintain jobs for employees and programs/services for students. In FY17 our austerity reduction will be \$1,217,255 (\$2,147,421 less than last year). With additional funding, we can absorb health insurance costs and salary step increases. We can also eliminate furlough days and add additional teaching positions to reduce class sizes. While the budget forecast is good for FY17, I hope this explanation helps you understand that we can't increase salaries this year. The Board is committed to increasing salaries when we are confident that we can sustain the increase; HOWEVER,

the Board of Education wants to show their appreciation to you for your support during the hard times. You have supported difficult decisions through every budget challenge so Catoosa County Public Schools could maintain financial stability. Your salaries have been reduced with furlough days, you haven't had a salary increase for years, and teachers have more students in their classes; however, you have maintained an unwavering commitment to our students and our system. You have worked diligently to maintain our system's reputation for providing an excellent education. The Board of Education appreciates every employee in this system.

To show our gratitude for your hard work and your support during the challenging times, EVERY EMPLOYEE will receive a stipend equivalent to 1% of your base pay in March 2017!

0 1 0 2  
DATE March 2017  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Every Employee \$ \$\$\$\$\$\$  
1% of Base Pay DOLLARS  
FOR Unwavering commitment to our students and our system Catoosa County Board of Education  
⑆ 1 24 28896⑆ 6545898434⑆ 3266

The Board is aware that you deserve much more than a one-time stipend, but this is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our appreciation while maintaining financial stability. We are hopeful that the state will continue to restore education funding so we can implement a permanent salary increase. Thanks again for all you do to make our system GREAT!