

## Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, November 9, 2009

The Habersham County Board of Education met in a Work Session on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 4:00 to meet with the Superintendent's Advisory Council and with Justin Ellis, Executive Director of the Soque River Watershed Association to discuss Rain Gardens.

The Habersham County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2009 in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Present were:

Robert Barron  
Trent DeMore  
Meredith McConnell  
Pat Taylor  
Robert Costley, Superintendent  
Mike Sanders, Assistant Superintendent  
Jennifer Thacker, Board Attorney

Mr. Gilbert Barrett was absent.

Chairperson Pat Taylor called the meeting to order.

Nancy Cathcart, Counselor at Clarkesville Elementary, led the invocation. Student Council members from Clarkesville Elementary and teacher Sara Kastner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes from the following meetings were approved:

- Regular Meeting, October 19, 2009

In Announcements and Recognitions, Board Member Meredith McConnell presented the Extra Mile Award to Denise Dorsey, teacher at South Habersham Middle School. Cathy Grier nominated Ms. Dorsey. Ms. Dorsey was nominated for her hard work in presenting a reception for South Habersham's Veterans Day Program. Ms. Dorsey can be found at the school very early each day and late in the afternoon. She expresses a desire to introduce her students to skills which they can carry with them the rest of their lives. Mrs. McConnell presented Denise Dorsey with a certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate from Pizza Hut.

Superintendent Robert Costley presented the Habersham Sunrise Rotary Service Above Self Award to Leslie Clark, Security Officer at Habersham Central. Nancy Bailey nominated Ms. Clark for helping students, teachers and parents get to and from school and work and always performing her duties with a smile. Mr. Costley presented Leslie Clark with a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Hawg Wild BBQ.

Mr. Costley and the Board of Education recognized the cast and crew of Theatre Central's show "Mirrors" which placed first at Region 8-AAAA One-Act Competition. They will be competing at the state level on November 14. The cast of "Mirrors" is Jacob Smagur, Jesse Abbott, Justin Gallagher, Mar Vargas, Daphne Crane and Stacey Suss. The crew includes Kelly Adams, Deeanne Seelig, Hannah Gale, Chelsea Drinkard, Jamie Haselhurst, Kat Bengel, Tony Bishop, A.J. Velazquez and Daniel Vega. The Director of Theatre Central is Drama Teacher Jenny Sanders. All students were presented with a certificate of recognition.

Rodney Green, School Improvement Director, brought the School Improvement Report. Mr. Green updated the Board on student absences, the 2010 graduation class and upcoming tests which includes the second Benchmark test for grades K-8 and the EOCT to be administered in December.

Mike Sanders, Assistant Superintendent, brought the facilities update. Mr. Sanders informed the Board that Habersham County Schools is accepting bids on property to be used for hay bailing purposes. The bids are due by November 20 and more information can be found on the website. Mr. Sanders updated the Board on the renovation of the existing high school and provided an update on the new high school project. He also provided the Board with a sketch of the additional classrooms to be added to the Ninth Grade Academy.

Mr. Sanders made the Financial Report. He reported on SPLOST and Advalorem revenue.

Dr. Patti Chism, Director of Secondary Schools, brought an Ends Presentation on ESOL Improvement. She provided the Board with an overview of the ESOL program and plans to improve the program including Summer Camp, data analysis, models and training of all teachers and administrators.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Costley updated the Board on the H1N1 vaccination, which District Two Health will administer to students at the secondary schools.

Mr. Costley reminded the Board of the Education Summit to be held on Wednesday, November 11 at 8:00 a.m. at HEMC. This Summit is a joint effort between Habersham County Schools and the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Costley commended South Habersham Middle, South Habersham Sixth Grade Academy, North Habersham Middle and North Habersham Sixth Grade Academy for their Veterans Day Ceremonies.

Superintendent Costley brought an update of the calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. The Board met in a Work Session prior to the Board Meeting with members of the Superintendent's Advisory Council to discuss the calendar. Personnel Director Angela Robinson will be meeting with a group of parents to receive feedback on the proposed

calendar.

Mr. Costley announced that due to funds from SPLOST designated to provide technology in classrooms, that all classrooms in grades 3-12 will be 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms by 2011.

Mr. Costley also announced that the Board has been named a Board of Distinction 2010-2012. The Board has met state standards and has received training that earned them the recognition of Board of Distinction.

Mr. Costley reminded the public and the Board of a Called Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 10. The Board will meet in Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. at Habersham Central High school to discuss personnel. The Called Meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Approved Payables to include the following per diem:
  - i. **Regular Meeting, October 19, 2009:** Gilbert Barrett, Robert Barron, Trent DeMore and Pat Taylor
  - ii. **GSBA Trustee Meeting, October 16, 2009:** Robert Barron
- b. Approved the following Personnel Recommendations:

**Accepted the following personnel for the 2009-2010 year:**

- Jennifer Arrington – Special Education Paraprofessional to serve all grades at Level Grove Elementary
- Dana Emig – PREP Paraprofessional at Level Grove
- Shannon Clark – Sub-Custodian – Countywide
- Jason Moody – Sub-Custodian – Countywide
- David Smith – Sub-Custodian – Countywide
- Jason Martin – SPED Paraprofessional – Resource at Cornelia Elementary
- Shirley Whitfield – SPED Paraprofessional – Clarkesville Elementary
- Melody Ralston – Kindergarten Paraprofessional – Fairview Elementary
- Lori Carr – Nutrition Substitute – Countywide
- Joyce Moore – Nutrition Substitute - Countywide

**Accepted the following transfer:**

- Margoral L. Read – transferring from Cashier/Nutrition at South Habersham Sixth Grade Academy to Cashier/Nutrition at Habersham Central High School

**Accepted the following resignations:**

- Clare Stinespring – Special Education Teacher at the Ninth Grade Academy – effective November 27, 2009
- April Akridge – Teacher at Baldwin Elementary – effective December 18, 2009
- Shannon Collins – Paraprofessional at Fairview Elementary
- Rebecca Cook – Bus Driver – effective November 2, 2009

c. Approved the following Requests to Raise Funds:

- Baldwin Elementary – Media Center – School Store
- Habersham Central – Latin Heritage Club – Taste of the Latin Food
- Habersham Central – AFJROTC – 2009 Winter HCHS AFJROTC Ball
- Habersham Central – FBLA – Avon Fundraiser
- Ninth Grade Academy – Student Council – Winter Ball
- South Habersham Middle – Yearbook – Dance Pictures
- South Habersham Middle – Lady Rebel Basketball – Basketball Signs
- South Habersham Middle – Niyelo/Yearbook – Dodge Ball
- South Habersham Sixth Grade – Junior Beta – Pennies for Patients

d. Approved Field Trip Request: North Habersham Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Jr. Honors to Savannah, GA February 17-19, 2010

Under Business, the Board unanimously approved State DOE waivers.

The meeting was adjourned.