

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, December 17, 2018

The Habersham County Board of Education held its Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 17, 2018 at Woodville Elementary School. Present were:

Dr. Robert Barron
Russ Nelson
Pat Taylor
Doug Westmoreland
Rick Williams
Matthew Cooper, Superintendent
Jennifer Thacker, Board Attorney

Chairperson Russ Nelson called the meeting to order.

Chairperson Russ Nelson asked everyone to stand and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Officer Edgar Flores.

Pastor Richard Pletsch of Ebenezer United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Woodville Elementary School Broadcast Team led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board amended the agenda as follows:

- Add item #8e – Approve Jennifer Thacker as Board Attorney for 2019 and January 2020

The Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Work Session, November 5, 2018
- Regular Board Meeting, November 12, 2018

Under announcements and recognitions, Pat Taylor presented The Extra Mile Award to Katherine Sanders, Newcomers Program Teacher at the Habersham Success Academy. Renee York made the nomination and in her nomination states:

Katherine Sanders continually goes above and beyond her normal teaching duties. A good example of this extraordinary behavior occurred a couple of weeks ago when Katherine graciously secured dental work for her Newcomers students. Katherine organized her church's (Toccoa First Baptist Church) resources and got Drs. Chip and Eleanor Patterson to donate a free dental day. The doctors filled over 35 cavities and students even got antibiotics for abscessed teeth. This work was well over \$5,000. With donations from Katherine's church, she also took her students to buy winter coats or winter shirts of their choice. Then students enjoyed a meal at Manrique's. Katherine is to be commended for her caring heart and service. The Habersham County School System is fortunate to have a person of Katherine's caliber working with our students.

Ms. Sanders received a framed certificate of recognition and a gift certificate to Zaxbys.

Rick Williams presented the Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Lee Addis, School Bus Driver. Tim Dockery and Stephanie Walker made the nomination and in their nomination state:

On the afternoon of November 15th, Mr. Addis was driving his regular school bus route when he witnessed and became a critical part of a scary situation. While making a bus stop, Mr. Addis observed two very aggressive dogs running at one of his students. The dogs lunged and attempted to bite the student, trapping her with no indication of letting up. Mr. Addis began to blow the bus horn continuously, which scared the dogs into retreat. He then stepped off the bus to keep the dogs away. The two dogs began to return across the road towards the students; however, Mr. Addis' presence and actions kept them at bay.

After the bus route was finished, Mr. Addis contacted the office to report the incident and ask that the office call to check on the student who was attacked. We spoke to the student's mother who stated her daughter had been scratched but thankfully not bitten thanks to Mr. Addis. This student's mother also stated, "Mr. Addis is my hero and I am so thankful he is my daughter's bus driver."

Mr. Addis exemplifies the safety heroes we strive for...even if he responds, "that's just what a daddy does." We truly appreciate his caring attitude and his protection he provides to each and every one of his students on his bus on a daily basis.

Mr. Addis received a framed certificate of recognition from the Clarkesville Rotary Club and a gift certificate to Midtown Grill.

Congratulations!

Staci Newsome brought the financial report.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper thanked Dr. Susan Davis and Woodville Elementary School for hosting the board meeting.

Mr. Cooper celebrated the following successes and achievements:

- Habersham County Schools received the 2018 Chamber of Commerce Industry of the Year Award
- Habersham County Schools was ranked #12 in the state for school safety as reported by niche.com for the year 2019
- Demorest Elementary School was named an 18-19 Distinguished School. This award is given to the top 5% of Title I schools in Georgia.

Mr. Cooper congratulated The Northeast Georgian for being named a 2018 Beacon Award winner from the Georgia School Boards Association. The Habersham County Board of Education made the nomination.

Mr. Cooper recognized and presented trophies to the following schools for outstanding student and staff attendance for November 2018:

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Baldwin Elementary School – 97.2% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – South Habersham Middle School – 96.7% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Hazel Grove Elementary School – 97.0% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – Habersham Ninth Grade Academy – 97.6% Staff Attendance

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows:

Approved the following per diems:

- i. Work Session, November 5, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- ii. Regular Board Meeting, November 12, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams

Approved the following request to raise funds:

Request to Raise Funds

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Fundraiser Activity</u>
North Habersham	20 Time Flex Class	Heart O'Grams

Approved the following field trip requests:

Field Trip Requests

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates & Location</u>
NHMS, SHMS, WMS, NGA, HCHS	FFA	December 14-16, 2018 Perry, GA
NHMS, SHMS, WMS, NGA, HCHS	FFA	January 11-13, 2019 Perry, GA
Habersham Central	Swim	January 18-19, 2019 Dalton, GA
NHMS, SHMS, WMS, NGA, HCHS	FFA	January 23-26, 2019 Perry, GA
NHMS, SHMS, WMS	Middle School Bands	January 31-February 2, 2019 Auburn, Alabama
Habersham Central	Girls's Golf Team	March 1-3, 2019 Jekyll Island, GA

Under business and following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the financial report as presented.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel recommendations:

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following resignations:

- Laura Kytle – School Nutrition Assistant at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy – effective November 13, 2018
- Windell “Tony” Chitwood – Custodian at Cornelia Elementary School – effective January 4, 2019

Accept the following termination:

- Belinda Nicholson – School Nutrition Assistant at South Habersham Middle School – effective December 10, 2018

Accept the following transfers for 2018-2019:

- Doug Smith – transferring as Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver
- Jessica McCallister – transferring as Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Bus Driver
- Nancy Russell – transferring as Full-Time Special Education Teacher at Hazel Grove Elementary School to Special Education Teacher 49% at Cornelia Elementary School

Accept the following personnel for 2018-2019:

- Joshua Slate – History Teacher at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Austin Holcomb – Network Administrator in the Technology Department
- Kimberly Stewart – Centralized Registrar 49% in the Technology Department
- Jennifer DeLoach – Special Education Speech Paraprofessional at Cornelia Elementary School
- Jodi Mann – Custodian at Cornelia Elementary School
- Christopher Brooks – Substitute Bus Driver (Pending Completion of Training)

Following Mr. Cooper’s recommendation, the Board unanimously approved an agreement with Sharp Business Systems district-wide copier fleet rental as presented. The agreement will be effective February 1, 2019.

Following Mr. Cooper’s recommendation, the Board unanimously approved an affiliation with Peach State Federal Credit Union and authorized the addition of same as an allowable payroll deduction option for employees in accordance with Habersham County Board of Education Policy DJCB, Salary Deductions.

Following Mr. Cooper’s recommendation, the Board unanimously approved Ms. Jennifer Thacker as Board Attorney for 2019 and January 2020. Jennifer Thacker, of Adams, Ellard & Frankum, will continue to serve through January 31, 2020.

Ms. Pat Taylor and Mr. Rick Williams thanked the Board, Habersham Schools and the community for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education. Board members and Mr. Cooper thanked them for their commitment to Habersham County Schools.

There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.