

## Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, January 14, 2019

The Habersham County Board of Education held its Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2019 in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Present were:

Dr. Robert Barron  
Kristie Dover  
John Elger  
Russ Nelson  
Doug Westmoreland  
Matthew Cooper, Superintendent  
Jennifer Thacker, Board Attorney

Chairperson Russ Nelson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Angus Hunter, School Bus Driver.

Pastor David Stancil of Hills Crossing Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Demorest Elementary School students led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Jennifer Thacker presided over the election of Board Chairperson for 2019.

The Board unanimously elected Dr. Robert Barron to serve as Board Chairperson for 2019. Dr. Robert Barron abstained from the vote.

Dr. Robert Barron presided over the election of Board Vice Chairperson for 2019 and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

The Board unanimously elected Doug Westmoreland to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2019. Doug Westmoreland abstained from the vote.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Work Session, December 4, 2018
- GSBA Annual Conference, December 6, 2018, December 7, 2018, and December 8, 2018
- Called Board Meeting, December 17, 2018
- Regular Board Meeting, December 17, 2018

Under announcements and recognitions, Dr. Robert Barron presented The Extra Mile Award to Eileen Fortner, Special Education Teacher (Self-Contained EBD) at Cornelia Elementary School. Amy McCurdy made the nomination and in her nomination states:

Ms. Fortner has shown herself to be an outstanding teacher on a daily basis at Cornelia Elementary School. Beyond her daily duties as a special education teacher providing services in the self-contained setting, Ms. Fortner goes the extra mile by providing our general education teachers with behavioral support for their classrooms. She has worked with grade level teachers to develop effective behavioral interventions to help individual students improve their classroom behaviors. She has provided both advisory support as well as material support allowing teachers to address chronic disruptive behaviors in their classrooms. She is an active member of the Cornelia Elementary behavior team providing broad support in addition to the direct assistance

for specific teachers. She maintains a professional demeanor and remains calm in what can only be described as exceptionally challenging situations where students are displaying severe behaviors. This calm demeanor was recently tested when Ms. Fortner successfully applied the Heimlich maneuver during class when her paraprofessional began choking and was unable to breathe and saving her life She has recently volunteered to help establish class rules and procedures for the new 4th/5th grade behavioral classroom at Hazel Grove Elementary. When called upon to go the extra mile Ms. Fortner always rises to the occasion to ensure that our students receive the best possible support. Always going the extra mile requires Ms. Fortner to put in the extra time and effort to stay on top of her regular caseload. Ms. Fortner is here at her assigned reporting time without fail and is nearly always the last teacher to leave the building at night. For Ms. Fortner the extra mile is just another waypoint in her daily educational marathon.

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

Russ Nelson presented the Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Karla Paramo, Parent Engagement Coordinator at Level Grove Elementary School. Darlene Hudson and Michelle Blackburn made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Karla consistently demonstrates a “Can Do” attitude about whatever needs to be done to help our parents and students succeed! While our counselor has been on maternity leave, Karla not only continued her Parent Engagement Coordinator duties and responsibilities, but also stepped up to coordinate and distribute the Thanksgiving meals to our families in need. Karla has also coordinated the Christmas programs such as Toys to Kids and pairing up families in need with various church and community groups. She has contacted numerous parents and assisted them in completing the forms to ensure their children participate. Karla is an amazing liaison between the families and school and believes that every child succeeds when we all partner together. She also assists our PTO with Santa Shop by wrapping gifts, talking with parents who need an interpreter, and helping the children shop for their families’ gifts. We are thankful for Karla and her vision for uniting parents, students, and the school!

Ms. Paramo 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. Mrs. Newsome presented ESPLOST Audit results. Habersham County School System received another clean audit opinion showing compliance regarding expenditure of sales tax for educational purposes for the year ended June 30, 2018.

Please visit [habershamschools.com](http://habershamschools.com) to view the FY 18 ESPLOST Audit.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper welcomed new board members Kristie Dover and John Elger.

Mr. Cooper emphasized that our focus will continue to be “Success For All Students”. Mr. Cooper also stressed the importance of the “Big 4”.

1. Safety
2. Attendance
3. Discipline
4. Quality Instruction

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

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Baldwin Elementary School – 95.1% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – Habersham Central High School – 97.0% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Woodville Elementary School – 98.5% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – Habersham Central High School – 98.1% Staff Attendance

Mr. Cooper congratulated Stephanie Walker on receiving certification in Special Needs Transportation. Ms. Walker is the first person in Georgia to complete all requirements and to achieve certification.

This concluded the Superintendent’s report.

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as follows:

Approved the following per diems:

- Work Session, December 4, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- GSBA Annual Conference, December 5, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- GSBA Annual Conference, December 6, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- GSBA Annual Conference, December 7, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- GSBA Annual Conference, December 8, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- Called Board Meeting and Regular Board Meeting, December 17, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams

**Field Trip Requests**

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates &amp; Location</u>
Habersham Central	Mock Trial	February 1-3, 2019 Savannah, GA
Habersham Central	Habersham Drama	February 7-9, 2019 Columbus, GA
Fairview Elem	Habersham Discovery	April 3, 2019 Seneca, South Carolina Clemson, South Carolina

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 retirements:**

- Donna LaPierre – Special Education Teacher at South Habersham Middle School – effective June 1, 2019
- Donna Barrett – High School Teacher at Habersham Success Academy – effective June 1, 2019

**Accept the following resignations:**

- Jessica Dundore – Special Education Paraprofessional at Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School – effective December 13, 2018
- Charles Perry – Custodian at Level Grove Elementary School – effective December 20, 2018
- Amanda Sweatman – School Nutrition Assistant at Demorest Elementary School – effective November 19, 2018
- Janice Robertson – Bus Driver (remain as substitute bus driver) – effective December 21, 2018
- Bobby Loudermilk – Bus Driver (remain as substitute bus driver) – effective December 21, 2018
- Leah Cueva – Special Education Paraprofessional at Hazel Grove Elementary School – effective January 1, 2019
- Trevor Lewallen – Science Teacher at Habersham Central High School – effective January 11, 2019
- Brenda Williams – Special Education Speech Paraprofessional at Demorest Elementary School – effective January 15, 2019
- Taylor Greer – ISS Paraprofessional at Habersham Central High School – effective February 1, 2019

**Accept the following transfers for 2018-2019:**

- Sam Hall – transferring as Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver
- Menissa Worley – transferring as Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver to Full-Time Bus Driver

**Accept the following personnel for 2018-2019:**

- Charlene Frye – Special Education/EBD Teacher at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Tara Black – Special Education/EBD Paraprofessional at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Samantha Clarke – Special Education Paraprofessional at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Judith Davis – Special Education/EBD Paraprofessional 49% at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Eliza “Elli” Fricks – Kindergarten Paraprofessional at Woodville Elementary School
- Rob Roberts – Special Education Paraprofessional at North Habersham Middle School
- Carly Sales – Special Education Speech Paraprofessional at Hazel Grove Elementary School

Following Mr. Cooper’s recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the CCRPI Reset

Accountability Contract.

Ms. Lee Kilby highlighted accomplishments made by Habersham County Family Connection for 2018. Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved Habersham County Family Connection Fiscal Agent Designation and Acceptance for FY 20.

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2019 and January 2020.

Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2019

February 11  
March 11  
April 8  
May 13  
June 10  
July 22  
August 12  
September 9  
October 21  
November 11  
December 9

Board of Education Meeting Date for 2020

January 13

Each regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. All dates are the second Monday of each month with the exception of July and October 2019. Meeting location is 132 Stanford Mill Road, Clarkesville unless otherwise posted.

Work session will be held Thursday at 4:30 p.m. prior to Monday's regular meeting unless otherwise posted.

Dr. Robert Barron read the above dates and information aloud to those attending.

There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.