

Summary of the Monthly Board Meeting, November 12, 2018

The Habersham County Board of Education held its Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 12, 2018 in the Board of Education Meeting Room. 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.

Pastor Keith Cox of Clarkesville First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Baldwin Elementary School Rising Eagles led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

The minutes from the following meetings were unanimously approved:

- Work Session, October 9, 2018
- Regular Board Meeting, October 15, 2018

Under announcements and recognitions, Russ Nelson presented The Extra Mile Award to Erna Dowdy, Physical Education Teacher at Demorest Elementary School. Connie Yearwood and Lana Jones made the nomination and in their nomination state:

Ms. Dowdy consistently goes the extra mile at DES to make sure our students have opportunities to participate in activities that promote healthy living. She serves as the coach for our 4th and 5th grade Raider Runners, and she volunteers time after school to train these young athletes.

Ms. Dowdy hosts an "extra recess" time in the spring for students who can stay after school to participate in physical fitness activities. She helps organize our Red Ribbon week activities, making it a family and community event. Ms. Dowdy is very flexible, and she is a team player. On many occasions, we have to use the Computer Lab Paraprofessional as a substitute teacher, and Ms. Dowdy is always willing to combine students from the PE and Computer Lab classes to make sure all of our students have quality learning time during specials class.

Ms. Dowdy trains other PE teachers in using FitnessGram. Ms. Dowdy consistently integrates content standards into the activities she designs for students.

This year Ms. Dowdy led our student t-shirt campaign and worked diligently to make sure all students had a t-shirt to show their Lion Pride.

Ms. Dowdy is an inspiring example of how to work as teammate for the ultimate goal of success for ALL of our students!

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

Dr. Robert Barron presented the Clarkesville Rotary Club Service Above Self Award to Lucia Zavala, Bookkeeper at Cornelia Elementary School. Amy McCurdy, Kevin Weems, and Sandy

Martin made the nomination and in their nomination state:

The beginning of this school year at Cornelia Elementary was a huge challenge for Lucia because of personnel changes/unfilled positions that required her to do her job as well as picking up the duties and responsibilities of others (basically everything but unclogging the kitchen sink!). She willingly picked up new information and new skills to ensure the safety of our students from arrival to dismissal. She welcomed new students, escorted parents throughout the building, learned to enter attendance, and helped parents fill out necessary beginning of the year paperwork. She has gone above and beyond by making home visits to find parents or make contact with them in the afternoons after school on her own time. She continued to come to work daily with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. She has stayed late and spent her lunch break most days by sitting at the front desk serving parents as needed. She did all of this without ever complaining - maintaining her pleasant and professional demeanor.

Lucia has also taken it upon herself to help beautify our school by planting flowers in the planters in front of our building. Even now that all of our positions have been filled, Lucia continues to serve as a leader and takes the initiative to address any needs as they arise. One of our goals this year was to have a greater social media presence. Lucia has shared school information so our Spanish speaking parents can easily access the information. She has worked to close the gap between our school and our community and helped establish a bond of trust between parents, staff and students. As a Leader In Me school, Lucia has exemplified being a leader in our front office by being proactive, seeking first to understand then to be understood, and by thinking win-win. Our school is blessed to have her and we appreciate her far more than she will ever know.

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

Stephanie Walker, Habersham County Schools Transportation Coordinator, introduced and recognized the following students as winners of this year's School Bus Safety Poster Contest:

Division 1: K-2

1st Place- Elle Buffington, 2nd Grade, Clarkesville Elementary School

2nd Place-Isabella Perez, 1st Grade, Woodville Elementary School

3rd Place-Jesus Garcia, 2nd Grade, Level Grove Elementary School

Division 2: 3-5

1st Place-Macey Harrison, 5th Grade, Clarkesville Elementary School

2nd Place-Sadie King, 5th Grade, Clarkesville Elementary School

3rd Place-Hudson Gailey, 5th Grade, Clarkesville Elementary School

Division 3: 6th-8th Grade

1st Place-Julia Chastain, 8th Grade, Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School

Students received a certificate of recognition and a gift.

Zach Free introduced and recognized Grace McClain for the following accomplishment:

Grace McClain is a 10th grader at Habersham Central High School and an FFA Officer serving as Student Advisor. At the National FFA Convention, in Indianapolis, Indiana, Grace won the National Food Science and Technology Proficiency Area from her work at the Habersham Ninth Grade Academy FFA Chapter under FFA Advisor, Zach Free. She competed against 4 students

at the National Convention with an interview and with her application judged prior to the convention. The Proficiency Award is an outreach award application resulting from Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) taught in the classroom. In Mr. Free's class, students were required to complete an SAE project with a minimum of 30 hours but some students exceeded the hours required. Grace wanted to complete a proficiency application with over 3,000 hours on her SAE project. Mr. Free and Grace decided to complete her proficiency in Food Science and Technology with her work at her family's business, Hazel Creek Cider. Her family inherited the cider company that led her to develop an interest in food science. Her work at the cider house requires her to use microbiology to ensure a safe product while also developing new products. She utilizes pasteurization to kill microorganisms to lend a longer shelf life to the product. The National FFA Foundation and National FFA Organization sponsored the award and Grace received a \$1000 award.

Jeremy Bishop introduced and recognized the cast of "The Importance of Being Earnest," who earned a sweeping victory at this year's region One Act Competition. In addition to winning first in 8AAAAAA Region, the Habersham Stage Raiders also won the following awards:

Best Actor: Rylan Pugh
Best Supporting Actor: Justin Williams
Best Supporting Actress: Ellawyn Ketch
All-Star Cast: Kendall McShane and Grace Wills

The Habersham Stage Raiders represented Habersham Schools at the State competition on November 3, 2018.

Congratulations!

Russ Nelson excused himself from the meeting because of an obligation and Vice-Chairperson Doug Westmoreland presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Staci Newsome brought the financial report.

In the Superintendents Report, Mr. Cooper thanked the middle schools for outstanding Veteran's Day Programs.

He congratulated the Habersham Central High School Raider Football team on their winning season and wished them the best during the upcoming playoffs.

Mr. Cooper congratulated Grace McClain for winning the National Food Science and Technology Proficiency Area at the National FFA Convention.

Mr. Cooper congratulated the Habersham Stage Raiders on their success at this year's region One Act Competition.

Mr. Cooper announced and celebrated 2018 CCRPI results:

- Habersham County ranks #5 of 15 RESA school systems
- Habersham County has the #1 Elementary School in the RESA on the 2018 CCRPI – Demorest Elementary School (#1 of 62 RESA elementary schools)
- Habersham County has the #1 Middle School in the RESA on the 2018 CCRPI – Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School (#1 of 24 RESA middle schools)

- Habersham County has the #2 High School in the RESA on the 2018 CCRPI – Habersham Ninth Grade Academy (#2 of 23 RESA high schools)

Mr. Cooper congratulated Stephanie Walker on becoming a Certified Director of Pupil Transportation (CDPT). Mr. Cooper provided the following details regarding Stephanie’s certification:

- Only 8 in Georgia are Certified Directors of Pupil Transportation
- Stephanie is the FIRST female in Georgia
- Stephanie won a full scholarship (Brandon Billingsley Scholarship) to attend the 2018 National Conference & Training for NAPT in Kansas City, MO
- Stephanie has completed all requirements and will be scheduling her test soon to become the very first in Georgia to achieve Certification in Special Needs Transportation

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

- Top Elementary School for Student Attendance – Baldwin Elementary School – 97.3% Student Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Student Attendance – South Habersham Middle School – 97.3% Student Attendance
- Top Elementary School for Staff Attendance – Hazel Grove Elementary School – 97.5% Staff Attendance
- Top Secondary School for Staff Attendance – Habersham Success Academy – 98.1% 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, October 9, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams
- ii. Regular Board Meeting, October 15, 2018: Dr. Robert Barron, Russ Nelson, Pat Taylor, Doug Westmoreland, Rick Williams

Approved the following field trip requests:

Field Trip Requests

<u>School</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates & Location</u>
Habersham Central	Swim Team	November 30-December 1, 2018 Adairsville, GA
Fairview Elementary	Discovery	December 19, 2018 Seneca, South Carolina Clemson, South Carolina
Habersham Central	Wrestling	January 25-26, 2019 Suwanee, GA
SHMS, WMS	Middle School Bands	January 31-February 2, 2019

Auburn, Alabama

North Habersham

NHMS Symphonic Band

April 27, 2019

Chattanooga, Tennessee

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, minus Melissa Bramlett.

The Board approved the personnel recommendation of Melissa Bramlett. The vote was 3-0 with Rick Williams recusing himself from the vote.

Personnel Recommendations:

Accept the following retirements:

- Sonya Frady – History Teacher at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy – effective December 21, 2018
- Jeff Johnson – Video/Drafting Teacher at Habersham Central High School – effective May 31, 2019
- Louise H. Evans – Special Education Paraprofessional at Hazel Grove Elementary School – effective January 1, 2019

Accept the following resignations:

- Vicki King – School Nutrition Assistant at South Habersham Middle School – effective November 2, 2018

Accept the following transfers for 2018-2019:

- Kim McAllister – transferring as Special Education Paraprofessional at Woodville Elementary School to PREP Paraprofessional at Clarkesville Elementary School

Accept the following personnel for 2018-2019:

- Judith Davis – STEM Enrichment Teacher 49% at Hazel Grove Elementary School
- Beverly Knight – Custodian 49% at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Harold “Eddie” Mason – Custodian at Clarkesville Elementary School
- Melissa Bramlett – PE Paraprofessional 49% at Woodville Elementary School
- Laura Kytle – School Nutrition Assistant at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Amanda Sweatman – School Nutrition Assistant at Demorest Elementary School
- Gina McConnell – School Nutrition Assistant at Habersham Ninth Grade Academy
- Austin Cates – Special Education Paraprofessional at Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School

Following Mr. Cooper's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved a final reading of the following policies and the policies are adopted:

- i. Policy JBC – School Admissions
- ii. Policy JBCCA – Student Assignment to Schools
- iii. Policy JBCCA(2) – Unsafe School Choice Option

There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.