

Board Briefs

*A summary of action taken by the Vance County Board of Education
February 11, 2019
Vance County Schools Public Information Office*

Student Spotlight Award Winners Earn Recognition At Board Meeting

The Vance County Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting recognized the first eight Student Spotlight award winners for the 2018-2019 school year. Nancy Wykle, publisher of The Daily Dispatch, which partners with the school system and other community supporters on the student recognition program, led the presentation at the board meeting. Wykle presented framed certificates to each of the award recipients. Superintendent Anthony Jackson and Board Chairwoman Dorothy Gooche congratulated each of the students. Those students recognized included: Marisol Hernandez



of E.M. Rollins Elementary School; Nashanti Richardson of Early College High School; Roland Chavez Galindo of Carver Elementary School; Randy Palacios of AdVance Academy; Ruby Zuniga Trejo of STEM Early High School; Andrew Chiem of Dabney Elementary School; and Anderson Boyd of Aycock Elementary School. Chloe Hightower of Clarke Elementary School, also was recognized but was unable to attend the meeting. The Student Spotlight

awards are presented to a deserving student throughout the school year from each of our 15 schools. The students can be nominated by teachers, school administrators, other staff members and fellow students. Award winners have strong academics, but are mostly recognized based on their outstanding character, which includes their compassion and caring for others, positive support of their teachers and classmates and willingness to help in their school and community. The remaining seven Student Spotlight recipients to be honored this school year will be recognized at the May board meeting.

Board Affirms Proclamations To Honor Counselors, School Bus Drivers

Board members affirmed proclamations to recognize the important roles both school counselors and school bus drivers play in our educational process. The proclamations are in observance of National School Counseling Week, February 4-8, and National School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, February 11-15. With the board's affirmations, each school counselor and each school bus driver will receive a copy of their respective proclamations. The National School Counseling Week proclamation notes that "school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development." The proclamation also states, "School counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society." The proclamation for National School Bus Driver Appreciation Week was signed by N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper and stresses, "School bus drivers travel thousands of miles each school year, navigating rural roads, neighborhood streets and multi-lane highways to deliver students to their schools and homes safely. The State of North Carolina commends and appreciates school bus drivers for the invaluable contributions they make to public education and student safety."

N.C. Reform Model Report Shared; Vance CORE Focus Of Presentation

The board also received a report on the N.C. Reform Model for E.M. Rollins Elementary School as a restart school in our district. As a restart school, E.M. Rollins is in its second year as a year-round school with a focus on project-based learning in its STEAM Academy, providing enhanced instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in addition to the core subject areas. The N.C. Reform Model Annual Report is designed to report on how the reform efforts in the school have resulted in success for all students. For the 2017-2018 school year, E.M. Rollins students experienced significant academic growth and more advancements are expected for this school year. The report notes that current year school improvement goals at E.M. Rollins include: at the end of this school year the school will be at 53 percent proficiency schoolwide and will exceed growth based on state standards; continue the Positive Behavior Intervention Support/House System with the fidelity to track referral data and student leadership, school attendance and academic responsibility using iReady, Accelerated Reader and growth on school/district assessments by increasing positive data by 20 percent by the third quarter of the school year; and every student has excellent educators as measured by teacher vacancies and reduction in long-term substitutes. Dr. Trixie Brooks led a presentation about the Vance CORE professional development and support program for local educators. With assistance from Letisha Judd, director of Elementary Education and Professional Development, and Destiney Ross, instructional technology facilitator, they demonstrated how the professional development calendar and related information are readily available on the school system's website. They went through the professional development training sessions listed on the calendars and how educators can register online for the workshops. Brooks noted that these professional development opportunities serve as great support for classroom teachers and other school system employees. They also stressed the convenience of the calendar and professional development catalogue to all employees through the school system website and that employees have provided positive feedback on the available information.

School Resource Officer Agreement Receives Revisions, Board Okay

The board approved the revised School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding between the school system and Vance County Sheriff's Department. The approval involved a few revisions made in partnership with the county's new sheriff. The agreement calls for five full-time school resource officers to serve each school day from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Vance County Middle School, Vance County High School and AdVance Academy. Each officer works closely with school administrators to ensure safety across each campus and inside each school.

Committee Recommendation Granted Approval

Curriculum Committee – The board approved a recommendation for the School Improvement Plans as submitted by school leadership teams at Aycock Elementary School, Carver Elementary School, Clarke Elementary School, Pinkston Street Elementary School, L.B. Yancey Elementary School, E.O. Young Jr. Elementary School, STEM Early High School and AdVance Academy.

Personnel Recommendations Receive Board Approval

The board approved employment for Michael Bundy, chief finance officer, Administrative Services Center; Bruce Stevenson, mechanic II, Transportation; Jason Lowman, mechanic I, Transportation; Kevonia Jones, teacher assistant, Pinkston Street; Raven Burns, temporary parent liaison, L.B. Yancey; Rayvonne Evans, science teacher, Vance County Middle; Cherie Pettiford, English/language arts teacher, Vance County Middle; Agnes Jover, interim math teacher, Vance County Middle; and Sophia Bonner-Cranston, intervention specialist, Vance County Middle.

A resignation request was accepted from Sandra Byrd, an assistant principal at Vance County Middle School.

Retirements were approved for Jeanette Cousin, a teacher assistant at L.B. Yancey Elementary School, and Christine Ayscue, receptionist at Vance County Middle School.

Three requests for leaves of absence were approved by the board.

VCHS Field Trip Request Gains Approval From Board Members

A request for students and coaches with the Vance County High School wrestling team to attend an event February 14-16, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, was approved by board members.

Out-Of-County Student Transfer Requests Reviewed By Board Members

There were 21 out-of-county transfer requests approved by the board. All of the requests involved students living in neighboring counties or moving from out of state and seeking to attend Vance County Schools.

Upcoming Board And Committee Meetings Are Scheduled

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Vance County Board of Education will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in the Administrative Services Center on Graham Avenue in Henderson.

Upcoming meeting dates for the board's committees are as follows:

Building and Grounds – Thursday, February 28

Community and Business Relations – Tuesday, March 5

Curriculum – Thursday, February 28

Finance – Wednesday, February 27

Personnel – Tuesday, March 5

Policy – Wednesday, February 27