

Board Briefs

A summary of action taken by the Vance County Board of Education
April 8, 2019
Vance County Schools Public Information Office

Superintendent Addresses Plans For Statewide Teachers' Rally On May 1

The Vance County Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting heard a report from Superintendent Anthony Jackson regarding plans by the N.C. Association of Educators to again this year sponsor a statewide "Day of Action" rally for public school teachers. This year, the rally is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, and it will be held in downtown Raleigh. Jackson noted that last year the board amended the school year calendar and changed the day of the rally to an optional teacher workday and a holiday for students. The change in the calendar was due to the high volume of teachers asking for time off from the school day to participate in the rally. Currently, local school officials are monitoring plans for the May 1 rally and its impact on the local school system. Jackson said the monitoring of requests by teachers to be absent on that school day is ongoing, with consideration also being given to the need for students to not miss instructional time at such an important time of the school year. He asked board members to be prepared for a possible called meeting during the week of April 22-26, for a decision on how to deal with a potential high volume of teachers not being in school on May 1. Jackson stressed that school system officials want to work with the board to find a reasonable way to both support the professional needs of our teachers and the academic needs of our students.

School System Is 2019 District Of Distinction For National Beta Club

Andrew Markoch, the school system's director of arts and innovative programs, led a presentation to celebrate the school system being selected as a District of Distinction by the National Beta Club. The school system received the award for 2019 for offering the academic recognition membership to students in all eligible schools in the school district. In making the award announcement in late March, National Beta officials praised the efforts of Superintendent Anthony Jackson, school chapter sponsors and deserving student members. The national award recognizes Vance County Schools' commitment to academic excellence, leadership development and service involvement, and illustrates the dedication to preparing students for college and career readiness. The students in the district understand the importance of these qualities and exemplify the Beta motto, *Let Us Lead by Serving Others*, National Beta officials noted. Markoch introduced the National Beta Club advisors in 14 of the district's 15 schools for recognition at the board meeting. Dorothy Gooche, board chairwoman, and Superintendent Anthony Jackson



congratulated each of the advisors for their work. Those advisors recognized were: Hollie Powell of Aycock Elementary School; Teresa Hicks of Carver Elementary School; Myron Duncan of Clarke Elementary School; Michelle Foster of Dabney Elementary School; Marian Faulkner of E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary School; Shaunese Coombs of E.M. Rollins Elementary School; Sharita Jones of L.B. Yancey Elementary School; Cathy

Oswald of New Hope Elementary School; Eva Jennings of Pinkston Street Elementary School; Ashley Pennington of Zeb Vance Elementary School; Ben Mixer of STEM Early High School; Vickie Fullwood of Vance County Early College High School; Pamela Perry of Vance County Middle School; and Bobbi Parks of Vance County High School.

Outstanding VCS Employees Recognized During Board Meeting

The board recognized several outstanding employees in the school system. The staff for the district's Transportation Department was recognized for having an outstanding result in the most recent annual school bus inspections done by officials with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.



The Transportation score for the inspections was 37.22, well below the state average of 44.33. In the state inspections of school buses, the lower the score the better the result, Kevin Perdue, director of facilities and transportation, noted. Board members also honored the top three bus drivers in the most recent local "Bus Rodeo." Perdue led their recognition and

stated that first-place finisher, Keith Purnell, had a perfect score of "0." He added that second-place honors went to Sarah Williams with 30 points and third place was captured by Nakitha Johnson with 40 points. Awards were presented to school custodial staff members for their outstanding results in the most recent quarterly school facility inspections.



Tommy Kirkland of Saffelle, Inc., which performs the inspections, presented certificates and awards to the custodians. Capturing top honors and leading all elementary schools, was the custodial staff at New Hope Elementary School with a rating of 99.3

out of a possible 100. Johnnie Moore, head custodian, accepted the award. Leading all secondary schools was the staff at Vance County Middle School with a rating of 95.4. Others receiving recognition were the custodial staff members for: Pinkston Street, 98.6; L.B. Yancey, 98.4; E.M. Rollins, 97.2; Zeb Vance, 96.7; Carver, 96.4; Clarke, 96.3; Aycock, 96.1; and E.O. Young, 95.4. Gooche and Jackson congratulated each of the recognized employees for their outstanding efforts.



Proclamation Honors Valuable Contributions Of Assistant Principals

Board members reviewed a proclamation honoring the school system's assistant principals during the observance of National Assistant Principal's Week, April 8-12. Michelle Burton, chief Human Resources officer, presented the proclamation to the board. The proclamation reads in part, "Assistant principals share the responsibility for the day-to-day operation of their school, which includes leading the instructional program, acting as disciplinarians, managing educational initiatives and building relationships with students, teachers, parents, community partners and others to achieve excellence . . . We are very proud of our assistant principals and sincerely appreciate their ongoing efforts to provide a world class education, focused on preparing all students for success and lifelong learning in Vance County Schools and also to promote the importance and value of public school education in the community."

Personnel Recommendations Receive Board Approval

The board approved employment for LaRhessa Bullock, bookkeeper, Carver Elementary School; and Deborah Yarborough, interim EC teacher assistant, Vance County High School.

Temporary employment was approved for Javonne Harris, substitute teacher, all schools; Latonya Boateng, substitute teacher, all schools; and Kendra Simmons, substitute teacher, all schools.

A transfer was approved for Alex Hilliard as head custodian at Zeb Vance Elementary School.

Board members accepted resignations from Joseph Bunch, school psychologist, Administrative Services; Danielle Grantham, second-grade teacher, Carver Elementary; Rasheede Hicks, third-grade teacher, Dabney Elementary; Andrea Smith, teacher assistant, E.M. Rollins Elementary; and Randy Scarboro, EC teacher, Vance County Middle.

Retirements were approved for Willa Clark, Career and Technical Education director, Administrative Services; Claudette Scales, pre-kindergarten coordinator, Administrative Services; Terri Hedrick, public information officer, Administrative Services; Susan Hughes, fifth-grade teacher, Dabney Elementary; Alice Sallins, music teacher, Dabney Elementary; Donna Vann, kindergarten teacher, Dabney Elementary; Nancy Lee, physical education teacher, E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary; Larry Alston, custodian, Zeb Vance Elementary; Michael Miller, history teacher, Vance County High; Mamie Banks, EC teacher, Vance County High; and Hye Griffin, School Nutrition assistant, Vance County High.

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

Field Trip Request for Junior ROTC Students Gains Board Approval

Board members approved a field trip request for Vance County High School students in the Air Force Junior ROTC program to travel on April 25 and 26 to Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro.

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

There were 47 out-of-county transfer requests approved by the board. Forty-three of the requests involved students living in neighboring counties or moving from out of state and seeking to attend Vance County Schools. The remaining four requests involved students who live in Vance County and will attend schools in Granville County.

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, May 13, 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, April 25

Community and Business Relations – Tuesday, May 7

Curriculum – Thursday, April 25

Finance – Tuesday, April 23

Personnel – Tuesday, May 7

Policy – Tuesday, April 23