

TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2004 – 3:45 P.M.  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

Present were:

Alan Lee	Division Superintendent
Lee Brannon	Asst. Superintendent/Director of Personnel
Berkley Clear	Director of Academic Operations
Foney Mullins	Supervisor of Elementary Schools
Patty Barrett	Greendale Elementary School
Rhonda Byrd	Abingdon High School
Angie Hess	Valley Institute Elementary School
Jane Laoo	High Point Elementary School
Mary McKinney	Meadowview Elementary School
Doug Minnick	Technical School
Tamara Mullins	John S. Battle High School
Angela Owens	Watauga Elementary School
Kellie Persiani	Valley Institute Elementary
Joe Preston	Damascus Middle School
Erin Ruble	Wallace Middle School
Melanie Smiley	Abingdon Elementary School
Jeannie Stallard	E. B. Stanley Middle School
Linda Waldron	Holston High School
Sherri Whitlock	Skill Center
Sandra Wilson	Glade Spring Middle School

Dr. Lee welcomed the group.

He asked how many saw the article on lice in the newspaper and if there is a lice problem in any of our schools. Response was just the normal one or two cases per year.

Dr. Lee asked if they see a lot of bullying at their schools. He said that middle level students tend to be more prone to bullying and that teachers can have a big impact on kids. Responses were:

- Doug Minnick: It does go on but teachers have learned to deal with it. They are taking a hard line on bullying at the Technical School.

Dr. Lee asked how things were going at their schools. Responses were:

- Doug Minnick: He teaches auto body at the Technical School, and they have painted eight cars and done six touch-up jobs this year. His class is doing well and is working hard.

- Sherri Whitlock: Classes are very involved in the community. They have provided specialized training for businesses and offer word processing and other things. She has a concern about the future of the Skill Center.

Dr. Lee responded that there is a discussion about having a new facility in a different location. However, the program is vital and is one of only three in the state.

Teacher responses continued:

- Melanie Smiley: Everything is going well at Abingdon Elementary.
- Mary McKinney: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant in the amount of \$175,000 was just received for Meadowview, Rhea Valley and Valley Institute Elementary Schools. Meadowview could use some more updated computers. The computer labs have IMAC computers, and a lot of programs such as Accelerated Reader are not compatible. Each classroom has at least one Compaq computer.

Dr. Lee polled the group as to how many preferred IMAC over PC's. All said they preferred the PC's, and Dr. Lee told them that the Technology Department plans to replace all IMACS with PC's.

Teacher responses continued:

- Erin Ruble: We have a lot of transition going on. Current principal, Ms. Mullins, is moving up. Janet Lester will take her place as principal, and Coach Lambert will take the assistant principal role. Everything is working well. It will be nice to have a male figure in administration at their school. The only budget suggestion she heard from teachers was that new desks and chairs are needed. Library books also need updating.
- Jane Laoo: Things are going well at High Point.
- Tamara Mullins: Everything is ok at John Battle. There are no major issues or needs.
- Rhonda Byrd: Abingdon High is doing a lot of online things. The Drivers' Ed exam is online. Band and two algebra classes are also online. They teach Drivers' Ed from the Drivers' Ed manual and transparencies. There is no textbook. One potential problem may be access to computers if more teachers start using online testing. Practice tests are available online. Another concern is the increased number of physical education students. She teaches 175 students, and one is a class of 40. A positive thing that is going on is that janitors have put up anti-bacterial soaps everywhere (due to people not being able to get flu shots).

Dr. Lee told them that in the budget process, it has been advocated to increase the number of physical education teachers.

Teacher responses continued:

- Jeannie Stallard: Everything is going well at E. B. Stanley. They have heard a rumor that they soon may no longer be calling their own substitute teachers and that it will be done from a centralized location. Their concern is they know the subs that are qualified to teach their classes and want to make sure whoever is there is able to control the classroom. Otherwise, it disrupts several different classrooms.

Dr. Lee responded that the School Board has approved a Centralized Teacher Calling Center; however, this is on hold until appropriate software can be developed to ensure it is done as efficiently as possible.

- Kellie Persiana: Valley Institute needs computers and copy machines.

Dr. Lee asked if they had a limit on the number of copies they could make. Some responded they had a limit of 1,000 copies per month.

- Linda Waldron: She said that a lot of kids at Holston are doing volunteer projects in the community such as Adopt and Angel or family. She thanked the school system for sending them to a meeting in Roanoke. It was a good meeting and a good experience. She learned a lot of things she could use in the classroom. They are still working on the computer situation at Holston, and it is becoming more successful. There is no limit on the number of copies they can make, but Mr. Hill does track the number. There are no extreme needs at Holston at present. Ms. Waldron also announced that Holston had 100% pass rate on the Algebra SOL.

Dr. Lee reminded them of the January 27, 2005, joint meeting between the School Board and Board of Supervisors to discuss the Facilities Plan. A lot of facilities' updates are planned. He informed them that all schools have made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress); however the school division did not due to a category of students from each school site, which totaled more than 50, that were unable to pass the SOLs. An emphasis is on those kids to help them reach that goal.

- Sandra Wilson: Glade Spring needs ideas to increase parental involvement.

Suggestions were:

- Jeannie Stallard: E. B. Stanley has a large chorus and band, and that brings in a lot of parents. They also have a large PTA. Most of the parents involved have kids in 8<sup>th</sup> grade sports or chorus and band.
- Joe Preston: One of the teachers at Damascus Middle School does skits and sends home notes to parents. A lot of parents will come to watch a performance.

- Erin Ruble: The more involved you have your kids, the more involved the parents are. Wallace Middle has SOL night, sponsored by teachers and faculty, where they have game shows such as math that relate to the SOLs. Kids can come and get extra credit. Parents come as well. They have raffles. They have a 50-60% participation rate.
- Dr. Brannon said e-mails to parents helps get the word out.
- Rhonda Byrd: She e-mails student progress reports out and gets a lot of positive parent comments back.
- Erin Ruble: Wallace has a new radio station, 93.1, with a one-mile radius. Students announce all activities. The transmitter was purchased through a PTA fundraiser.
- Dr. Mullins said that parents will come to school for specific reasons. Advisory groups can be established for different groups. Or, room mothers can recruit other parents to help with projects.

Teacher responses to budget needs continued:

- Angela Owens: Things talked about in the Teacher Advisory Meetings do happen. They asked for an art teacher and got her. They also got a music teacher, and they have a wonderful music program at Watauga. They sang at the Martha Washington. At every grade level, kids elected not to buy gifts for each other but to do a community project. The things they chose to do were:
  - KG-2<sup>nd</sup> – Second Harvest Food Bank
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Items for Nursing Home
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Adopted 3 Angels
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Samaritans' Purse
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – Collected Dog Food, Cat Food, Litter for Animal Shelter
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – Adopted Angels

She said that she could use a Smart Board and projector for her room. She is currently using the mobile one and has to roll it up and down the hallway. The children love it. You can find things on the Internet on every subject. It also works well for students with learning disabilities. Everything is interactive.

- Erin Ruble: She said that there are a lot of grants out there to help purchase school needs. A lot of local businesses such as King Pharmaceuticals, Capital One and Bristol Compressors will give money. Wallace got a \$12,000 Learn and Serve Grant.
- Jane Lao: There is a Hewlett Packard grant out there now, and applications begin January 30. It's listed on their website.

Dr. Clear said that last year each school received an additional Smart Board.

- Erin Ruble: If you have a projector and a whiteboard you can still do a lot.

- Jane Lao: At the Technology Expo she attended they did web quest that was aligned with the SOLs. Some used with just the projector and some with the Smart Board.
- Joe Preston: Everything is going well at Damascus. They are concerned that in January, they may need more textbooks. Now they have just enough, and if more students come in the first of the year, they will be short on textbooks. The librarian would still like to be able to order textbooks online as she does printer cartridges.
- Patty Barrett: Judy Honaker is a wonderful Technology Teacher. She brings in a lot of new technology.

Dr. Brannon thanked them for all they do, especially after school hours.

Mr. Funk said that the Finance Department has made some changes that will hopefully make life a little easier for everyone. He wished them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dr. Clear told them that most instructional issues talked about are being worked on. The problem is to address them fast enough to make everything successful.

Dr. Lee told them he wants them to always feel free to speak what is on their minds. He thanked them for the wonderful job they do and wished them a Merry Christmas.