

## School Watch

### A look at what is happening in Cleveland and Bradley County Schools

All members of the Bradley County School Board attended the March meeting held on the 12th. The following are highlights from that meeting.

The board approved field trips for the BCHS Choir to perform for the Abraham Lincoln Bi-Centennial Celebration and other venues in Washington, DC April 22-26 and for the WVHS oceanography class to go to Orlando, FL April 2-6.

During Director of Schools, Johnny McDaniel's good news report, he made the following statement in regards to reading. "Bradley County Schools has been selected to receive the Renaissance Learning National Reading Achievement Award. This award recognizes select school districts exhibiting a deep commitment to excellence in student reading. According to AR host data, for the 2008-2009 school year, students took an aver-

age of 95 quizzes per student - far exceeding the national average of 24 tests per student. As of February, Bradley County students had read over 455,700 books." Bradley County Schools are in line for receiving special recognition for reading over one million words.

McDaniel gave recognition to the 2009 Bradley Central High School Bears State Champion Wrestling Team. The wrestling team are the traditional state champions and dual state champions for 2009. They have won 19 state championships (traditional and/or dual) since 1994, have a 24-0 dual record for the season, and are winners of all seven tournaments entered this season. They have extended their unbeaten streak to 46-0 over a two-year period and extended their home winning streak to 16 years with a 123-0 record. Since 1994,

the team has had three individual state champions and eight state place winners.

Johnny Mull of the land search committee updated the board on three potential properties for a new school in Southern Bradley County. The land search committee has narrowed their search down to three potential properties in which the owners are willing to sell. The properties are located near Baugh Springs and Bancroft Road, South Lee off of Johnson School Road, and another is closer to the S. Lee Hwy. side of Bancroft Road.

Architect David Brown presented the board with four schemes to choose from for the Valley View Elementary School renovation. Board member Christy Chritchfield made the motion to accept scheme C because it is all brick and a more classic look that will withstand 50+ more years, unlike stucco. With a sec-

Valley View Elementary, Schematic Design Elevation Schemes



Scheme A



Scheme B



Scheme C



Scheme D

ond from board member Richard Baker, the motion passed unanimously.

Architect Derek Martin gave a presentation of the budget for the new elementary school on Minnis Road which was still within budget. However, the board voted to purchase a sloped, shingle roof and expand the gymnasium to seat 560 students instead of the original

plan drawings which would only seat 280 students.

The architect firm reported the cost of the new elementary school will cost \$8.81M, but with site development costs which include land clearing, sewage lines, installing utilities, paving, landscaping and anything else site related, the cost will be approximately \$10M prior to the

sloped, shingle roof and gym expansion cost.

The board is also looking into the benefits of having a geothermal unit installed in the new school.

Chairman David Kelley wants the board to form a committee to allow them to go through the process of naming the new elementary school at Minnis Road. He appointed board member Charlie Rose as the chairman of that committee and also recommended that the committee have representation from the county commission preferably from the 4th district. The committee is to report back to the board by June 2009 with more than one recommendation for a name.

The Bradley County School Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm at the administrative office on South Lee Hwy. on the Bradley Central High School campus.

## School Watch - Cleveland City Schools

The Cleveland City School Board held a long, two and a half hour meeting on March 2nd. The following are highlights from that meeting.

- Chairman Peggy Pesterfield recognized the Teachers of the Year for Cleveland City Schools.

The teachers are: Sheron Brand of Arnold Memorial Elementary, Stephen Duncan of Blythe-Bower Elementary, Gayle Vandergriff of Mayfield Elementary, Leslie Davis of E. L. Ross Elementary, Amy McGrath of George R. Stewart Elementary, Melissa Word of Donald P. Yates Primary School, Janis Brannen, Ronna Mills and Loes Riggins of Cleveland Middle School, Wanda Dent, Bedford Smith and Lea Broussard of Cleveland High School and Sylvia Cotes of the Teen Learning Center.

The system winners are: Melissa Word, Janis Brannen and Sylvia Coates.

- Director of Schools, Dr. Rick Denning announced to the board that the City Council budget retreat is scheduled for April 3, 2009. The time will be announced at a later date.

- An update was given to the board on the progress that is being made with the standards based report cards.



Cleveland City School Board Chairwoman Peggy Pesterfield

The report cards will be made compliant with the new standards that are being set by the Tennessee State Board of Education. The assessment piece of the standards is still a work in progress according to Dr. Denning.

He recommended to the

board to allow him to go ahead and work on a committee for revision of the standards based report card.

The committee will consist of two parents, two teachers, two principals, and two supervisors to do the revisions.

A motion was made by board member Dawn Robinson and seconded by board member Steve Morgan. Robinson then amended her motion to include that one of the board members would be appointed to this committee in order to observe the process only. The vote was unanimous.

- Glenn Gaines of Energy Education, Inc. gave a summary of what his company could do to save Cleveland City Schools money on energy, more specifically on electricity.

Dr. Denning asked the board to allow him some more time to do further research on these services and report his findings back to

the board at a later date.

- Larry Payne updated the board on a virtual school regarding adoption by the state board. All courses must be approved by the department of education and the school system would be responsible for evaluating the progress of

member Evelyn Rockholt seconded the motion. The motion passed with five votes in favor.

- Revisions are being made on the standards for elementary level education. Math standards have changed more than language arts.



(left to right) Cleveland City School Board Members Steve Morgan and Murl Dirksen

the student.

Board member Dawn Robinson made a motion for Dr. Denning to bring to the board a model virtual course curriculum that would work with the Cleveland High School graduation requirements. Board

The department is preparing to educate the teachers on the changes. The state is having satellite broadcasts and regular sessions and the knowledge learned from them will be passed on to educators by the curriculum team for Cleveland City

Schools.

- A unanimous vote was given to make a change in the Cleveland High School course of study handbook next year. Students will have the option of taking personal finance class for one half credit.

- Board member Bill Brown discussed the Pathway to Excellence Committee he has been interested in establishing. However, Brown would like to discuss this perhaps after school is out for the year in order to prevent more work for the teachers at this time. Board member Murl Dirksen said he would like to give gifted children an opportunity to excel.

Dirksen, along with Dr. Denning will discuss the issue at length before presenting it to the board.

The Cleveland City School Board meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30pm in the school's central office on Mouse Creek Road on the E.L. Ross Elementary School campus.