

## School Watch

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

by Tonya Brantley

The Bradley County School Board met for their regular monthly meeting on July 9, 2009. The following are highlights from that meeting.

Recognition of career and technical education national winners was given to students April Barnes and Stormer Kyker from Bradley Central High School for winning national awards from the Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA) and to Morgan Lane, a Walker Valley High School student, for winning third place in architectural engineering from the Technology Engineering Education program.

The board voted to terminate a seventh-grade tenured teacher at Lake For-

est Middle School if charges against her are true. Casey Brock, 32 is charged with solicitation of a minor and sexual battery. Board Chairman David Kelley announced that there would be no debate or comments on the merits of the case and her termination is warranted if the charges against her are true. Brock was suspended from teaching in April and indicted in June and will remain on unpaid suspension until her court hearing. The board voted 6-to-1 in favor for the recommendation of termination. Board member Mark Grissom voted in opposition.

Andrea Lockerby, director of the Bradley County Coordinated School Health (CSH) program, gave an update to the board on the

program's accomplishments for the 2008-09 school year. CSH has written several grants totaling a potential \$524,000 additional monies for the Bradley County School system to improve student health through physical education equipment, nutrition education, and continuing education opportunities for teachers.

Lockerby updated the board on the number of students that visited the school nurses. Out of 10,074 total students in the system, there were 55,337 nurse visits. Of those visits, 47,245 were sent back to the classroom. This averages 5.5 times per student per year that each student visited a school nurse. The Bradley County school system added a part-time

school nurse clinical manager position and a part-time nurse. Lockerby said that as of now the system has 11 full-time nurses and 1 part-time. Director of Schools, Johnny McDaniel mentioned the system is looking to hire more part-time nurses and encourages those interested to apply.

Board member Terry McGuire made a motion to extend Johnny McDaniel's contract for 1 year which will max out at a 4 year limit based on McDaniel's recent evaluation and progress. The motion passed unanimously.

Angie Lyon with Kaatz, Binkley, Jones and Morris, architects for the new Park View Elementary on Minnis Rd. and renovations at Valley View Elementary School, and Derek Martin

with American Constructors, construction management for the projects, updated the board on their progress. The final geo-tech report has been made at the Minnis Rd. site with no major issues or problems reported with the location of the building.

The proposed budget for Valley View Elementary's additions and renovations is complete with the total capital project fund cost of \$1,999,214 just shy of the \$2M approved by the county commission for the project. Park View Elementary is estimated to cost \$10M.

Johnny Mull of the Land Search Committee updated the board on possible locations for a new school in southwest part of Bradley County. According to Mull,

most of the land is in the McDonald area. The committee plans to recommend its top three locations to the board at this month's meeting.

The board approved the continuation of Physical Education 2 courses at Walker Valley and Bradley Central high schools. The program allows athletes in organized sports programs to take PE 2 for a half credit. The program is approved by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association.

The Bradley County School Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm at the administrative office on South Lee Highway on the Bradley central High School campus. All meetings are open to the public.

## School Watch - Cleveland City Schools

by Ashley Murphy

The Cleveland Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting on July 13. The following are highlights from that meeting.

Rodney Fitzgerald made an announcement to the board that he applied for the Readiness and Emergency Management for School (REMS) discretionary grant for the Cleveland City School system. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$245,914. The grant will address four phases of emergency management: Prevention-Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. The Cleveland City School district was the only district in Tennessee to receive part of this \$26 million REMS grant.

Linda Kidwell, a teacher at Cleveland High School, requested approximately 575 calculators for all 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade math classes. The cost is assumed to be around \$40,630.50. There is already \$55,000 set aside from stimulus money for technology and supplies, so the board did not need to cumulate a vote, resulting in Kidwell continuing on with the project.

The calculators will remain in the classrooms, not with the students, and can also be used for Gateway and ACT testing.

Dr. Denning announced several new additions to the Cleveland City Schools faculty: Mrs. Cheri Morgan has been hired as a teacher at Cleveland High School; Mr. E. K. Slaughter, Head Football Coach; Mr. Mike Collier, Athletic Director of Cleveland High School; and Mrs. Autumn O'Bryan, Principal of Cleveland High School.

Proposed Board Policy changes were brought before the school board for approval. One change was in regards to school board meetings and photographic equipment. The policy would prohibit photographic equipment and the taking of photographs or video without permission from the individuals whose photo would be taken. Bill Brown made a motion to remove this addition and leave the policy as it was, allowing photographic equipment without permission. The motion passed unanimously.

The board was given a packet containing informa-

tion for the Director's Evaluation. All categories were marked with Compliance, Progress toward Compliance, Inadequate Compliance, and Not in Compliance. Policy 5.802 consisted of the Qualifications and Duties of the Director of Schools with five separate categories: General Administrative, Financial Management, Personnel Management, Instructional Leadership, and Community/Public Relations. Bill Brown made an overall motion stating that Denning was in compliance with all five of the categories. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy 1.700 of the Director's Evaluation consisted of School District Goals with four separate categories: Instruction, Students, Personnel, and Operations. Murl Dirksen made a motion to find Denning in compliance with all four categories. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelly Copeland made an announcement that the Child Nutrition Department was awarded \$20,000 of the \$52,000 that was originally requested in American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act (ARRA) grant money. The funds will be used for school food service equipment for the Arnold Elementary School kitchen.

Mark your calendars, because the 2009-2010 school year will be beginning in

the second week of August. Student registration will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2009. The first full day of classes for students will be on Wednesday, August 12, 2009.

The Cleveland City

School Board meets on the 1st Monday of the Month at 5:30 p.m. in the school system's central office on Mouse Creek Road on the E.L. Ross Elementary School campus. All meetings are open to the public.

## Park View Elementary Groundbreaking

by Tonya Brantley

A groundbreaking ceremony was held July 16, 2009 for the new Park View Elementary School on Minnis Road. Several Bradley County commissioners and school board members attended, along with county mayor D. Gary Davis and

Rep. Eric Watson. Bradley County Director of Schools, Johnny McDaniel said, "This is a monumental day in the history of Bradley County Schools and this community as we begin construction of a new elementary school. I am excited about Park View Elementary School being lo-

cated adjacent to a beautiful park from which our children can experience a living laboratory along with pristine wetlands of this area. Once built, this state-of-the-art facility will serve many generations of the fourth district." Park View Elementary is scheduled to open in August 2010.

Groundbreaking for Park View Elementary School on Minnis Road

