

School Watch

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

by Tonya Brantley

The Bradley County Board of Education held their first regular monthly meeting of the new year on January 14, 2010. The following are highlights from that meeting.

Recognition was given to Bradley Central High School senior, Abby Hinkle. Hinkle was a student representative given the honor to sit in as Chairwoman of the Bradley County School Board in place of Chairman David Kelley for the first few items on the agenda.

After unanimous approval of the consent agenda, Director of Bradley County Schools, Johnny McDaniel, presented his good news report. McDaniel recognized Robert Brittingham for being named as the new principal of Michigan Avenue Elementary School. Brittingham replaces Sheena Newman who became the Supervisor of Elementary Education.

McDaniel mentioned Walker Valley High School will fight fat and hunger in 2010. Faculty, staff and students are in a "pound for

pound" challenge. For every pound of weight that the faculty loses, students will bring a pound of food. Food and gently-used clothing will be donated to local charities in Bradley County. Currently, the Walker Valley faculty has lost over 140 pounds.

Waterville Community Elementary School received the PE4Life grant awarded by the Bradley County Health Initiative. Three members will receive training in Indianapolis. The Grant was written by Director of Coordinated School Health, Andrea Lockerby.

Tennessee School Board Association District Director, Pat Chester, presented an award for excellence for reading initiative. The award was based on four qualifications: uniqueness, adaptability, involvement and evidence of success.

The board received an update on the construction projects at Valley View Elementary, Park View Elementary and the Bradley Central High School fine arts building. Construction at Valley View Elementary is close to being completely finished. Once the

construction site is cleaned up, the old portable trailers that have been used as extra classroom space will be torn down and the newer portables will be relocated to another school. Derek Martin with American Constructors said the budget for the renovation at Valley View included a small amount of contingency items totaling just under two percent of the project cost which included replacing the windows of the cafeteria.

Construction at Park View Elementary was delayed due to the cold weather at the beginning of January. The building pad has been poured and the walls will be topped out and roof trusses will be going up this month, weather permitting. Martin reminded the board that masonry and concrete are weather dependent.

Cason Conn with TriCon, Inc. updated the board on the fine arts building at Bradley Central. Conn does not anticipate any budgetary concerns saying, "The next set of drawings will be very telling with the details. It's a really nice building and not overly com-

plex from a construction standpoint. Final drawings should be ready by mid-February. Once we have the final drawings, we will be able to start the permitting process. Right now we are looking at a bid date of early March." According to Conn, construction should begin early in spring and based upon his estimates, should be completed within 8 to 10 months by fall.

Board Member Christy Chritchfield made a motion to accept Section 2 - Fiscal Management, Policy 2.809 Vender Relations adding the sentence: Due to the increase of latex allergies, schools will not accept any latex balloons. With a second from board member Dr. Richard Baker, the motion passes unanimously. It is common for some students to receive balloons for special occasions and on holidays such as Valentine's Day. Mylar balloons will still be acceptable.

Board member Terry

McGuire gave an update from the Ethics Committee. A final proposal has not been completed due to the holiday season, the Ethics Committee will present a finished proposal for final approval to the attorney for Bradley County

coincide with Cleveland City Schools.

Board Member Mark Grissom made a proposal to honor the late Coach Robert Maupin by naming the road at the North end of the football stadium on the campus at Bradley Central High School Coach Robert Maupin Blvd. With a motion from board member Troy Weathers and a second from Baker the motion passed unanimously.

The schedule for upcoming Education Committee meetings was announced for the following dates: Thursday, March 25 at 12 noon at Valley View Elementary, Thursday, May 27 at 8am at Walker Valley High School, and Thursday, July 22 at 12 noon at Lake Forest Middle School.

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. All meetings are open to the public.



(left to right) School Board Member Mark Grissom and BCHS Principal Todd Shoemaker

Schools, Chuck Cagle, then to the school board for final approval at their February meeting.

The board unanimously approved the 2010-2011 School Calendar. Students will begin school on August 9, 2010 with the last day on May 24, 2011. According to McDaniel, Park View Elementary will probably not be open for the first day of school. Students start later, keeping the fall break, keeping three days off at Thanksgiving and keeping a two week break at Christmas. The fall and spring breaks

School Watch - Cleveland City Schools

by Ashley Murphy

The Cleveland City Board of Education held their first regular monthly meeting since returning from the holidays on Monday, January 11, 2010. First order of business was to approve the consent agenda, however, board member Steve Morgan asked that the approval of fundraisers be pulled and voted on separately.

After approving the consent agenda without the fundraiser approval, the board moved on to review the 2009 annual report. There were concerns brought about by board members regarding the per pupil expenditures for the City of Cleveland. Currently, the State of Tennessee spends approximately \$8,518 per pupil, while the City of Cleveland is lacking on their spending with \$8,438.

Director of Schools Dr. Rick Denning said this was in part due to the many

capital projects the school system had going throughout the year. While there is only about an \$80 difference, board members asked that this number be looked at and to possibly come up with a way to have local funds match State funds on per pupil expenditures.

Scott Carroll, Athletic Director at Cleveland Middle School, came before the board to request lighting and stands for athletic fields located at the school. Carroll stated that it would be approximately \$220,000 to complete this project. Funds are tight right now, but he asked that the board review this project and try to help out the school. Carroll believes that Cleveland Middle School's athletic fields are the only fields in the city to be without lights and these lights are needed in order to complete certain athletic activities.

Cleveland City Schools Energy Education Specialist Paul Ramsey announced

during the meeting that a free online energy tracking tool is now available for use. This new website, GreenQuest, can help users track and analyze the energy use for their home or place of business. It has been made available for free to district residents to educate, raise awareness and promote energy conservation. For more information, visit:

www.mygreenquest.com.

Child Nutrition Supervisor Shelly Copeland updated the board on the City School Free and Reduced Lunches Program. Numbers were printed to reflect standings as of November 2009. System wide for City Schools, there is an average 62.01% of students currently on the free/reduced lunch program.

A lengthy discussion ensued after the topic was turned to calendar options for the 2010-2011 school year. Several board members preferred Option B,

due to a later class start date and less time off for "Fall Break." Chairwoman Peggy Pesterfield, however, liked the idea of having the Monday after Easter off of school and asked Dawn Robinson to amend her motion. Pesterfield's alternate suggestion was to adopt Option B for first semester and Option A for second semester. The suggestion was welcomed by the board and the motion passed with Evelyn Rockholt voting against it.

Steve Morgan requested the next item be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately, because it consisted of the sale of cookie dough. Dr. Denning stated that the cookie dough company is Tasty Batters and it has no connection to previously recalled cookie dough and is salmonella free. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Board member Dawn Robinson discussed possi-

ble dates for the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Science Wing Addition at Cleveland High School.

The date had been set for Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 2 p.m. at Cleveland High School. However, due to inclement weather, the ceremony has been postponed.

The Cleveland City School Board will be participating in Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) Day on the Hill on February 23, 2010.

"The annual 'Day on the Hill' event provides a unique opportunity for the education community, bringing school board members, superintendents and state legislators together for breakfast, fellowship and a discussion about pending legislation and public education."

Board members will attend and be able to talk with their local legislators one on one and express all of their concerns, plans and

what they hope the future to be like in their local districts.

It was also the time of year to hold the annual election of Board Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman Pro Tem. Peggy Pesterfield gained a nomination for Board Chairwoman. After a unanimous vote, Pesterfield maintains her position as Board Chairwoman.

Tom Cloud received nomination for Vice-Chairman and received a unanimous 'yes' around the board. Steve Morgan received the nomination for Chairman Pro-Tem and received a unanimous 'yes' to hold that spot.

The Cleveland City School Board meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30pm at the Administration office building located on the E.L. Ross Elementary School campus on Mouse Creek Road. All meetings are open to the public.