

## School Watch

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

by Tonya Brantley

The Bradley County Board of Education held a special called meeting on September 3rd and their regular called meeting on September 10th. The following are highlights from those meetings.

During the September 3rd voting meeting, the board voted to accept the bids for Park View Elementary School. A total of 116 bids were taken. 47 bids were from local contractors. Out of 26 scopes of work, 12 will be performed by local contractors. The total percentage of work (by cost) that will be performed by local contractors is 64 percent. The motion, made by board member Troy Weathers and seconded by board member Dr. Richard Baker, passed unanimously.

The board unanimously voted to accept the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for Park View totaling \$8,799,015.57. The total proposed budget for the new elementary school is \$9.7 million.

During the September 3rd work session, the board discussed plans for construction of a new fine arts center at Bradley Central High School. The design from Kaatz, Binkley, Jones and Morris Architects includes a 600-seat auditorium, lobby, chorus room, band and music rooms, stage, storage, dressing rooms, library and office space. The board has set aside \$2.5 million to fund the project.

BCHS principal Todd Shoemaker discussed reinstating the Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC). The U.S. Army approved the program and would provide drilling rifles, uniforms and equipment needed.

The Site Selection Committee members have narrowed their search to 3 sites for a second new elementary school in Southwest Bradley County. County Planner and Site Selection Committee member, Corey Divel made a presentation to the board on the sites. Site A (Baugh Springs Rd. property) is a 56

acre tract located just off Bancroft Rd. to the south of I-75. Site B (South Lee Hwy property) is a 25 acre tract with fronting on Lee Highway. Site C (Old McDonald School property) is an 8 acre tract owned by the county located near the intersection of S. Lee Hwy., Brymer Creek Rd. and McDonald School Rd. The board will make their decision on which site to choose at an upcoming meeting. Chairman David Kelley mentioned the possibility of getting site A for free, but didn't want to discuss details during the meeting.

During the September 10th meeting, the board re-elected chairman David Kelley and vice chairman Terry McGuire and voted to make Director of Schools Johnny McDaniel, Tennessee Legislative Network representative.

During McDaniel's good news report, he mentioned Brad Hall, American Constructors Job superintendent, had provided yellow hard

hats for each student at Valley View Elementary School. McDaniel also mentioned the implementation of Parent Portal which will allow parents and guardians on-line access to their child's grades as they are posted as well as a means to follow daily attendance.

Dr. Rodney Fitzgerald gave a presentation to the board of the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant. Bradley County was the only district in TN to get the grant in 2009 which totals \$245,914.

The board has \$229,000 in the budget for extended learning programs and unanimously voted to approve them for this year.

Scott Humbert gave a bid presentation for smart boards, a brand of interactive white boards. The technology committee along with Humbert reviewed the bids and recommended to the board to accept Xerox Corporation's bid of \$2,945.

The board unanimously

voted to ratify the memorandum of agreement with the Bradley County Education Association (BCEA). This includes an increase of 1% on the salary schedule for classroom teachers for the 2009-2010 school year.

The board unanimously approved the boundary zoning plan for Park View Elementary school. The elementary zone will be all roads between Benton Pike and Hwy. 64. From the city limits to the Polk County line. Any road that is a dead end road on either side of Benton Pike or Hwy. 64 will be part of this zone. Also the section close to the city limits will be split as equal as possible between Michigan Avenue, Oak Grove and Park View Elementary. The secondary zone will remain the same. The school students are zoned for this year will remain the same next year. Next year, a bus will leave Park View and go to all four secondary schools.

Vice Chairman Terry McGuire made a motion seconded by board member

Christy Chritchfield to choose Kaatz, Binkley, Jones and Morris as the architects for the Bradley Central fine arts facility. The motion passed unanimously.

The board voted to use construction management services for the fine arts center project. Weathers made a motion that was seconded by Chritchfield, opting for hard bids over the use of a construction manager. Weathers motion failed after Chairman David Kelley, and board members Charlie Rose, Terry McGuire, and Dr. Richard Baker voted against hard bids. Chritchfield then made a motion seconded by Baker, to go with a construction manager for the project. The motion passed with Weathers the only board member voting in opposition.

The Bradley County School Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. 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 Tonya Brantley

The Cleveland City Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting on September 14, 2009. The following are highlights from that meeting.

The board gave recognition to the new teachers entering the Cleveland City school system this year. The following is a list of new teachers hired for the 2009-2010 school year.

Blythe-Bower Elementary: Hanah Burger, Chelsea Hammond, Danielle Wright. Cleveland Middle: Alison Burdshaw, Casey Daniel, Joshua Foggin, Jade Ivey, Michael Patrick, Tara Rush, Lindsay Sluder, Pagett VanHooser, Dawn Ward, Jennifer Witney. Cleveland High: Bradley Benefield, Cheri Carroll-Morgan, Alicia Gyselman, Melissa Hoffer, Gary Murray, Autumn O'Bryan, Richard Queen, E.K. Slaughter, Gabriela Tallent, Amanda Thomas, Stephanie Wimberley and Rebecca Zaidman. Mayfield Elementary: Heather Morgan, Suzanne Smith. Ross Elementary: Lisa Eason, Bethany Soots. Stuart Elementary: Joda E. Clark. Yates

Primary: Maria Meadors, Belinda K. Rahn.

City Planner Greg Thomas discussed the population growth study being conducted for the city and county. The board appointed Chuck Rockholt, Public Information Supervisor for Cleveland City Schools, to represent the board on a strategic growth plan task force over the next six months. The city and county planning directors and the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce will act as the management team for the project.

Ann Culbreth, Cathy Goodman, and Larry Payne discussed the implementation of Tennessee's new standards for grades K-12. Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, Tennessee students will experience a new, more rigorous and relevant curriculum. The new standards will focus on many of the same knowledge/skills but require higher level thinking and a deeper comprehension of the subject matter. Instead of Gateway exams, all students will take end-of-course exams in English I, II and III; Algebra I and II; Geometry or an equivalent; U.S.

History; Biology I; Chemistry; and Physics. Students with disabilities may be allowed to substitute an alternative performance-based assessment for an end-of-course exam. All students will take college-readiness pre-tests in the 8th and 10th grades to identify gaps in learning so they can be addressed earlier in the high school experience. Board member Bill Brown questioned how additional teachers and expenses will be funded since no extra funding will be provided by the State and requested the board ask the State to provide the resources that are needed.

The board was awarded over \$4 million in qualified school construction bond (QSCB) funding from the State. 15-year interest free loan saving \$1,693,715. The loan will be used toward the construction of the Cleveland High School science wing slated to begin in November. Board member Dawn Robinson suggested the board hold a groundbreaking ceremony in the near future for the new addition.

The board unanimously ap-

proved a motion by Robinson and seconded by board member Tom Cloud to accept the agreement and release with Fillauer Family Partnership, LLC. Upon payment of \$485,000, the board will be released from its obligation to build a road and bridge from Parker Street to the remaining Fillauer property.

The board heard a request to refurbish the Betsy Vines Auditorium at CHS from Anita Boggs and Jan Murphy. A visual presentation of the auditorium was shown to the board to show the poor condition of the seats (of which 200 of the original 300 can be used), tile, lighting, catwalk, stage, curtains, and the lack of a sound system and storage. Murphy stated the drama program is in jeopardy because good, talented students are being lost to schools with better staging conditions. A request was made to the board to hire an architect to evaluate the auditorium to determine the costs for possibly refurbishing or replacing the facility.

Kathy Shankle-Rowan from the Office of Coordinated School Health gave an

update to the board on the Cleveland City Schools pandemic response plan regarding the H1N1 virus. She showed examples of posters hung in schools throughout the system drawn by students that encourage frequent hand washing and use of an alcohol-based hand cleaner to reduce the spread of any infectious conditions.

Supervisor of instruction, Larry Payne updated the board on the Cleveland City Schools attendance for this school year. In 2008, there were 4825 students, up 44 this year to 4869 students.

The board unanimously approved the first reading of policy 1.8012 Extended School Day / Year Programs and School Age Childcare. Cleveland City Schools provides an after-school childcare program known as the After School University (ASU) which provides a safe and fun alternative for working parents who do not want their children to remain at home alone. The program includes crafts, sports, games, art and music education, field trips, foreign language, homework time, enrichment

activities, computer instruction and more. All locations have a site director and program assistants who are either college graduates or students majoring in elementary education. ASU is available to any city or county resident enrolled in K-5 grade. Enrollment is limited to maintain a small ratio of children to adults. Enrollment may occur at any time during the year, although priority is always given to those needing full-week care. ASU sites are approved as a childcare program as certified by the TN Dept. of Education. In addition to a weekly fee, there is a one-time \$25 per child registration fee. Reduced tuition is available to families with more than one child enrolled, to those who qualify through the Dept. of Children's Services, to students enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program and to employees of Cleveland City Schools.

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