



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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May 14, 2018, Lottsburg, VA – The Northumberland County School Board held a regular monthly school board meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019.

Teacher of the Year The School Board recognized each school's Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Rebekah Crowther, Grade 5 Mathematics & Science teacher at Northumberland Elementary School (NES); Mrs. Latasha Yerby-Lee, Chorus teacher at Northumberland Middle (High) School; and Mr. Gary Dickens, Chemistry & Physics teacher at Northumberland High School.

NCPS will select one Division Teacher of the Year to participate in the 2019 Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Program through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

American Heart Association Regional Top Fundraiser The School Board recognized Miss Olivia Metsala, a fifth grade student at Northumberland Elementary School. Olivia set a goal to raise five thousand dollars this year for the American Heart Association. She surpassed her goal raising \$5,373 for the Kids Heart Challenge (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart). Caroline Snell, a representative from the American Heart Association, recognized Olivia as the top fundraiser in the Mid-Atlantic Region including North and South Carolina, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. What an amazing accomplishment for fifth grade student Olivia, NES, and the NCPS school division! Thank you to Mrs. Nancy Burgess for planning the Kids Heart Challenge each year!

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Essay Winners The School Board recognized the following fifth grade student essay winners: Indyia Blackwell, Morgan Dunn, Cameron Gross, Holly Rose, and Ginny Swann. Thank you to NES School Resource Officer Keith Wilson for his leadership in planning and implementing the D.A.R.E. program at NES. D.A.R.E. envisions a world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance use, and other dangerous behaviors.

Students of the Month at NMS The School Board recognized NMS students for showing respect as part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) and Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) programs. The students include Grade 6: Mekhi Ball and Olivia Newsome; Grade 7: Joline Haynie and Luis-Fernando Cisneros-Avina; and Grade 8: Sereniti Conley and Jack Kitchen.

Student Winners The School Board celebrated the success of Future Problem Solving (FPS) State Bowl winners. The State Bowl took place on Friday, April 12, at Powhatan High School.

- FPS students include Haylie Mitchell, Corrie Minor, James Baker, Abby Jennings, Madison Clarke, Jay Bea, Teagan Mullins, and Amaya Crabbe.
- Scenario winners include Tahi Wiggins, Abby Jennings, and Jon Wijnand.
- Grade 7 Community Problem Solver winners include Ryan Livesay, Nash Withers, Shelby Headley, Harmyni Ball, Bevan Ransone, Jon Wijnand, Joseph Scripture, Joline Haynie, Christopher Nava, Tucker Webb, and Ava Perez.
- Grade 5 Community Problem Solver winners include Cason Rogers, Morgan Dunn, Isaac Faulkner, Alvaro Acosta-Reyes, Christ Cauja-Betancourt, J.P. Withers, Olivia Metsala, Reagan Brent, Mary Clare Hodges, James Blake, Madison Jones, Chase Hymes, Abi Contreras, Rivah Carter, Amiya Lee, Trey Felton, Jayla Wilson, and Ryland Pearson.

Thank you to sponsors Mrs. Shauna McCranie, Ms. Leah Fisher, and Mrs. Michele Jennings for your time and dedicated efforts toward programming.

Staff Recognition Director of Transportation & Custodial Support Services Mrs. Stacy Branem was recognized for attaining the VDOE Driver Trainer Certification.

Approval of Voluntary Participation in Group Long Term Insurance Virginia Retirement System (VRS) contracted with Genworth Life Insurance to offer Group Long Term Care Insurance to VRS Members. The School Board approved the offering of Group Long Term Insurance which will be a voluntary decision for NCPS employees.

Budget Update The Board of Supervisors will hold a budget work session for the NCPS budget on Tuesday, May 22, at 6 pm in the County Administrator’s conference room.

Retirement The School Board approved the retirement of Clerk of the Board & Human Resources Specialist Mrs. Carol Badenoch. The School Board expressed their appreciation for Mrs. Badenoch’s dedication and contributions to the division. The interim Clerk of the Board is Ms. Lisa Day, and the interim Human Resources Specialist is Mrs. Stacey Beynon.

School Board votes to continue superintendent’s contract The Northumberland School Board voted unanimously to continue Dr. Holly Wargo’s contract until 2023. Board Chair Mrs. Betty Christopher commented, “The entire Board is satisfied with the performance of Dr. Wargo. We were all in unanimous consent that we wanted to keep her.” Wargo stated, “I am thrilled to continue as superintendent. Thank you to the students, teachers, staff, families, and community for all of your support.”