Across the Board

February 18, 2013

A record number of National Merit Finalists were honored during the Williamson County Board of Education meeting February 18, 2013. Thirty-four students earned the recognition with 12 from Brentwood High including Natalie Bennett, Elizabeth Cowan, Jonathan Crites, Jonathan Dencker, Luke Donahue, Si-Qi Fan, Irtiqa Fazili, Ford Galin, Caitlin Pinkard, Alexis Spahn, John Stoffer and Taylor Streaty. Centennial High’s Mika Giedt, Fairview High’s Jay Crist and Franklin High’s McKenzie Bottoms, Ashley DePeri and Mary Ruth Robinson also earned the honor. Duncan Brocklehurst from Independence High and Delaney Amatrudo, Caroline Hill and George Owen from Page High are finalists. Ravenwood had 13 finalists including Amreen Ahmed, Jesse Coker, Frances Ding, Paul Drexler, Mitchell Gordon, James Goss, Vivian Hao, Matthew Hoke, Charlene Hong, Roshni Kaushik, Michael Li, Benjamin Stadnick and Eric Yang.

Ravenwood’s Frances Ding was also honored as the Tennessee winner of the Siemens Foundation Award for Advanced Placement Scholarship based on her performance on the Advanced Placement Exams in math and science. Ravenwood’s Gene Li was honored for receiving the National Classical Etymology Exam Gold Medal. His teacher is Jason Nabors.

In the area of the arts, Independence High’s Landon Meldrum was elected the Tennessee Thespian President for the 2013-2014 school year. His teacher is Rebecca Williams.

Three students were named to national honor bands including Ravenwood’s Gene Li who was named as a member of the National Honor Orchestra. His teacher is Allison Cowen. Ravenwood’s Danielle Maeng and Laura Egyed were named members of the National Honor Band. Their teacher is Mark Kinzer.

Several students earned Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Awards. Brentwood Middle’s Gavin Bain won in the category of Sculpture. His teacher is Maggie Tucker. Brentwood High’s Zoe Schlacter won for Art Portfolios and Blair Butler won in the category of Drawing. Their teacher is Barbara Bullard. Centennial’s Curtis Evers won in the category of Drawing. His teacher is Betty McIntyre.

Franklin High had six winners including William Arrington in the category of Drawing. His teacher is Laura Rheinlander. Quentin Eastridge won in the category of Design. His teacher is Melissa Estes. Abi Lewis won in the category of Drawing. Her teacher is Michael Boyle. Vikka Schweer won in the category of Photography. Her teacher is Melissa Estes. Samantha Sowell won in the category of Drawing. Her teacher is Laura Rheinlander. Coley Spencer won in the category of Photography. Her teacher is Melissa Estes. Independence High’s Charlotte Lacroix won four awards including the American Vision Award and three in the category of Photography. Her teacher is Stephanie Prewitt.

Middle College had two award winners including Carsen Meerdink who won in the category of Painting and Samantha Starr who won in the categories of Painting and Drawing. Their teacher is Jennifer Baltimore.

Ravenwood High had three winners including Lydia Han who won in the category of Drawing. Her teacher is Diane Taylor. Morgan Jones won in the category of Photography. Her teacher is Debbie Chessor. Ashley Schilling won in the category of Drawing. Her teacher is Diane Taylor.
Brentwood High was recognized for earning the Outstanding Clean Air Partner Award. Teacher Doug Anderson leads that program.

In the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Looney thanked all of the teachers who contributed to the success of the 34 National Merit Finalists. He also recognized Sunset Middle student Tejas Manohar for creating an arts app. Tejas was given a $500 scholarship from Dr. Looney. In addition, Dr. Looney called on Maintenance Director Mark Samuels who told the Board that the district was in compliance with EPA regulations regarding disinfectants. Deputy Superintendent Jason Golden also told the Board that the district had followed the open records law during a recent request.

In the Board Chairman’s Report, Pat Anderson reminded the Board of the Let’s Talk School meetings. The first meeting was held Tuesday morning. Page High will host another meeting Thursday at 6 p.m.

In New Business, the Board:
- Approved one policy on first reading, Enrollment of Foreign Exchange Students.
- Approved four budget amendments including one $75,000 to cover SROs at the high school level for remainder of the year; $255,500 for additional special education expenses; cover salaries of current professional and classified employees; $200,000 for the roof repair at Ravenwood High; and a transfer to place salaries of current professional and classified employees in appropriate categories.
- Approved the hiring of at least one lobbyist not to exceed $30,000.
- Approved seven resolutions to be presented to the State Legislature including: Opposing House Bill 0941/Senate Bill 1175; Supporting House Bill 0446/Senate Bill 1018; Opposing House Bill 0672/Senate Bill 0692; Opposing House Bill 0911/Senate Bill 0883; Opposing Bill 1095/Senate Bill 0018; Supporting House Bill 1112/Senate Bill 1149; and Opposing House Bill 0063/Senate Bill 0085.
- Established the family tuition rate at $3,932 for employees who live out of the county and $5,414 for families moving into the district but who have not established residency within the county.

In other business, the Board:
- Approved policy Section 504 and ADA Grievances on second reading.
- Approved recommended field trip fee requests.

Each school principal has a copy of the Board packet information.

The next regular meeting of the WCBE will be Monday, March 18, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Administrative Complex.