February 18, 2014

Mill Creek Elementary, Mill Creek Middle and Nolensville High are the names the Williamson County Board of Education selected for three new schools opening in Nolensville. The Board adopted the names during its regular meeting February 17, 2014.

The Board voted to extend Superintendent Dr. Mike Looney’s contract by a year and give him a five percent pay increase. The contract will run through January 31, 2018, and the raise will bring his annual salary to $191,877.

The Board adopted seven resolutions regarding bills being considered by the State Legislature. One of the most discussed was the so called “guns in parks” bill which has already been adopted by the State Senate. The Board voted to oppose this legislation which could affect athletics and activities at all grade levels and in all areas of the county. A complete list of the resolutions can be found at http://www.wcs.edu/wp-content/pdf/School/SchoolBoard/sb_02172014.pdf

Students and staff were honored by the Board including Brentwood High’s Joyce Kang who was recognized for making her second perfect ACT score. In addition, 34 students were honored for being named National Merit Finalists. This ties the record set last year. They include Brentwood’s Nisha Bhuva, James Dai, Ruth Dunn, Kimberly Eddleman, Corey Fawcett, Spencer Franklin, Joyce Kang, Tilghman Kazmierowicz, Kylie Nairon, Taylor Puskar, Rebecca Sinard and Anjuli Young. Centennial’s Briar Cranston and Daniel Trow were also recognized. Franklin’s Samuel Albert, Natalie Andros, Laura Feamster, Joshua Garrett, Gibb Gilchrist and Lauren Patterson were honored along with Independence High’s Elizabeth Kroeger and Jarrell Raines and Page High’s Hayes Morgan. Ravenwood’s Nikhil Basutkar, Jacob Berexa, Jennifer Crook, Laura Evans, Zachary Glick, Austin Hetherington, Timothy Jiang, Simon Lowen, Niman Mann, Trevor Phillips and Lara Scott were also recognized.

Brentwood’s Joyce Kang was also honored for being named an Intel Science Talent Search finalist. Kang is one of 40 finalists and the only one from Tennessee. Final judging will take place next month.

In the arts, Page High student Doug Buckley was elected to the State Thespian Executive Advisory Board. His teacher is Michelle Tripp, and Sunset Middle student Connor Groves won First Place in the State Fire Safety Poster Contest. His teacher is Nicole Church.

In Staff Spotlights, Summit High Wrestling Coach Pete Miller was recognized as the TSSAA Middle Tennessee Dream Team Coach of the Year.

In the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Looney shared that the district had soft-launched an updated website for the district. He asked the Board and public to be patient as changes and necessary updates would be made during the next week. In addition, he thanked teachers and principals for an excellent day of professional development on Monday.
In the Board Chairman’s Report, Pat Anderson congratulated all of the employees of the year who were celebrated in January. She also read a letter from Regional Teacher of Year Laurie Mauldin, Page High, who thanked members for their support.

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved three policies on first reading including Graduation Requirements, Credit Requirements for Graduation and deleting Professional Development Opportunities.
- Approved two budget amendments including one for $11,000 for revenue generated by the Fine Arts Festival that will be held in March and a resolution for $10,225 to reflect donations from the first Williamson County Ambassadors group that will be used to provide laptops to school Computers On Wheels, COWs.

In other business, the Board:

- Approved recommended field trip fee requests.
- Approved four policies on second reading including Project Planning; Semester and Final Examinations; Vacations and Holidays; and the deletion of Hearing Procedure.
- Approved the Family Tuition Rate for 2014-15. The rate is $4,003 for employees and $5,810 for families moving into the district but who have not established residency within the county.
- Approved change orders for the Centennial High auditorium and the Woodland Middle auditorium.

Board packet information can be found on the school district’s website www.wcs.edu. Select School Board and then Minutes and Agendas.
The next regular meeting of the WCBE will be Monday, March 24, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Administrative Complex.