The Williamson County Board of Education gave Superintendent Dr. Mike Looney a glowing evaluation during its regular meeting January 21, 2014. The Board voted to accept his evaluation which reflected exemplary reviews and cited an outstanding performance. Dr. Looney thanked the Board for the opportunity to work in Williamson County Schools.

Students and staff were honored by the Williamson County School Board during its first regular meeting of the new year. In the area of academics, Ravenwood student Niman Mann was selected for the United States Senate Youth Program, one of two from Tennessee.

In the area of arts, the following students were honored for receiving one or more 2014 Scholastic Gold Key Awards. Centennial’s Emily Grams won in Ceramics and Glass. Her teacher is Elizabeth McIntyre.

Franklin’s Vikka Schweer won four awards for Photography and Digital Art, including Best of Show. Her teacher is Melissa Estes. Independence students Evan Genter won for Comic Art; Gabrielle Martinez won for Painting; and Beverly Warner won two awards for Drawing, including Best of Show. Their teacher is Andrea Howard. Independence student Alexandra Rutan won in Design. Her teacher is Stephanie Prewitt. Ravenwood’s Heather Hernandez won two awards in Painting, one for Best of Show. Her teacher is Margaret Brown while Ravenwood’s Morgan Jones won in Photography and Digital Arts. Her teacher is Debbie Chessor. Summit’s Nicole DiCicco won in Painting. Her teacher is Warne Riker.

Three Franklin students were honored for becoming members of the 2013-14 Honor Band of America including Cameron Drury, Ryan Fisher and Mikaela Ray. Their band director is David Aydelott.

Several students across the district were honored for being named All State Musicians including Brentwood’s Lauren Castor, McKenzie Fetters, Jessica Gehring, Dawn Wu, James Dai and John Kang. Their band director is Randy Box. Centennial’s Gabriel Collins earned All State honors. His band director is Daniel Ibarra-Scurr. Franklin’s Annea Dossey and Ryan Fisher earned All State. Their band director is David Aydelott. Page’s Rebecca Singletary and Clayton Heinecke were also named to the All State Band. Their band director is Matt Emerson. Ravenwood musicians earning the honor include Jennifer Crook, Luan Barajas, Tina Babler, Travis Burhart, Dustin Lin, Titus Cody, Thomas Vines, Taylor Winkler, Jerry O’Dwyer and Kathryn Rigsby. Their band director is Mark Kinzer.

In athletics, Fairview High’s Erica Suhrbier was honored for becoming a member of the 2013 Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team. Her coach is Kevin Sizemore.

The Ravenwood Cheerleaders won the 2013 TSSAA State Medium Varsity Cheerleading Championship. Members are Aerial Griffin, Brooke Phillips, Caley Caldwell, Jasmine Archie, Rylie Armstrong, Kaylen Lanius, Olivia Blair, Lauren Martin, Riley Stofka, Claire Webb,
Taleigh Wood, Clare Sorenson, Becca Zaves, Bailey Wertz, Kylie Betchley, Sarah Klippenstein, Logan Jordan and Sydney Fordice. Their coach is Stephanie Feyes.

In Staff Spotlights, Franklin High French Teacher Betsy Taylor was elected the 2014 President of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association, and Brentwood High Environmental Science Teacher Doug Anderson received the Keep America Beautiful Young Professional Award.

In the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Mike Looney hinted that there would be a major announcement in a few days about three schools achieving a major award.

In the Board Chairman’s Report, Pat Anderson thanked the Heritage Middle chorus which performed for the Board prior to the meeting. In addition, she complimented Summit High’s culinary arts students for preparing an outstanding meal for the Board prior to the meeting. Finally, she thanked the Williamson County Chamber for inviting Dr. Looney to speak at its meeting January 21.

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved five policies on first reading including School Attendance Areas, Zoning and Nonresident Students; Project Planning; Semester and Final Examinations; Vacations and Holidays; and the deletion of Hearing Procedure.
- Approved five budget amendments including one for $180,000 from the Central Cafeteria Fund for replacement, renovation and new cafeteria equipment; a resolution for $222,300 from the Extended School Program Fund for the world language program at elementary schools, a self-sufficient program; a resolution for $50,500 internet filtering; a resolution for $50,000 for light installation at Cheek Park in partnership with Williamson County Parks and Recreation; and a resolution for $1,520,000 from fund balance for the purchase of two replacement and three growth special education buses and six growth regular education buses.
- Approved a recommendation for tenure.

In other business, the Board:

- Approved recommended field trip fee requests.
- Approved two policies on second reading including Board Meeting Agendas and Overtime Pay.
- Approved the Columbia Presbytery Church lease at Pearre Creek Elementary.
- Approved a construction easement between Spring Station Middle and Summit High as requested by the City of Spring Hill.

Board packet information can be found on the school district’s website www.wcs.edu. Select Administration/Departments and then School Board.

The next regular meeting of the WCBE will be Monday, February 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Administrative Complex.