State awards keep rolling in for Williamson County students. They were honored with Student Spotlights during the Williamson County Board of Education meeting on March 28. Several students won state championships in the National Forensic League competition. From Brentwood High, Patrick Kellett and Michael Zoorob won for Public Forum Debate and Eli Grimes and Chris Mueller won for Duo Interpretation. Their coach is Harriet Medlin. Nick Lotz from Independence won for Extemporaneous Speaking. His coach is Tadd Himelrick. Lydia Phillips, Ravenwood, is the state champion in Humorous Interpretation. Her coach is Kari Smith.

Several Page High students were honored for earning first place in the State Health Occupation Students of America competition. Alicia Johnson was elected as the state president of the organization for 2011-12. Katie Conner, Emily Custer and Ali Schwartz won first in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness competition. Matt Lilly won in First Aid/Rescue Breathing. Their teacher is Donna Guarnieri. In addition, two Ravenwood students were honored for earning first place in the State Health Occupation Students of America competition. Demarcus Williams won for Extemporaneous Speaking, and Brandon Sands placed first in Dental Spelling. Their teacher is Denise Asbury.

Franklin High’s Sam Shapiro earned a National Medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing 2011 Awards. His teacher is Laura Saylor. Steven Junghans, Franklin, was honored for being named a 2011 Presidential Scholars Candidate.

In the area of volunteerism, Brentwood High’s Kendall Gilfillan was honored as Tennessee’s Top Youth Volunteer in the 2011 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Representatives from Prudential were also on hand to formally present a medal during the Board meeting.

Williamson County students dominated the Tennessee High School Press Association Awards. The following Brentwood High students earned first place awards Alex Dostaler, Best Reporter; Bart Trusdle, Best Videographer; Anna Brown, Chelsea Chamberlain, Rebecca Gunger and Ellenor Hord, Best Commercial; and Grace Wholley and Zach Driver, Best News Package. There was a three way tie for first place in Best Public Service Announcement with Rebecca Gunger, Chelsea Chamberlain, Sarah Willa and Abi Lindsey honored along with Thomas Proctor and Zach Madell and Michael Dunne. The team of Taylor Green, Max Ketschke, Josh Hurt, Nathan Center, Zach Madell, Josh Jirjis, Danielle Wilson, Grayson Propst, Alex Dostaler, Chris Locke, Anna Brown, Bart Trusdle, Chris Elekes, Sam Hughes, Michael Dunne, Austin Harper, Abby Vorhaus, Sara Staas, and Will Bell won first for Best Sports Live Event. Their teacher is Ronnie Adcock.

Centennial students Meredith Martin and Parker Smith won first place for the Best Commercial in the Tennessee High School Press Association Awards. Their teacher is Dawn Marek. From Ravenwood, Bailie Patterson and Aaron Mirtes won for Best News Feature. Sara Sweitzer was their teacher.

In the State’s eTales Digital Storytelling competition, which took place last school year but just recently announced, in the 3-5 Division, Hannah Oakley from Lipscomb Elementary earned the top award. Bob Armour was her teacher and Shannon Youngman her tech coach. In the 9-12 Division, Jessica Price from Franklin High won first place. Susan Orr was her teacher and Robin Couts her tech coach.
Several teachers were honored with Staff Spotlights during the Board meeting. Brentwood High’s Harriet Medlin was honored as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Citizenship Education Tennessee Teacher of the Year. Jan Little, Brentwood High teacher, was named the Bonnie Hufford Newspaper and Literary Magazine Advisor of the Year. Franklin High’s Mitzi Terry won the Cumberland Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History honor. Page High Assistant Principal Marge Lofstrom won the Lucile Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award.

The Board approved the budgets for the 2011-2012 school year. The General Purpose Budget was approved at 239,277,304; the Central Cafeteria Budget was approved for $9,194,412; the Extended School Program Budget was approved for $1,576,481; and the Capital Outlay Request was approved for $8,014,496.

The budgets will now be reviewed by the County Commission budget and education committees in April and May before being voted on by the full County Commission in July.

In the Board Chairman's Report, Pat Anderson welcomed the newest member of the district’s senior staff, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Denise Goodwin, who was attending her first Board meeting in her new role. Anderson also thanked the district’s art teachers who worked with more than 300 students who recently had art displayed at the Frist. The students’ work can be viewed on the district’s web site www.wcs.edu. A number of schools have Destination Imagination teams going to state completion in a few short weeks, and best wishes were sent to those teams. Anderson also recognized Franklin High Band Director David Aydelott. *School Band and Orchestra* magazine recently chose him to represent Tennessee as one of the 50 directors who are making a difference.

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved deleting the Student Activities policy on first reading.
- Approved five 2010-11 budget amendments including two grants for the adult education program: one for $20,000 to fund additional teaching hours and materials and supplies and one for $15,100 for material and supplies; one resolution for $250,000 to cover the cost of a student formative assessment tool after the state determined it could not provide one for next year; a resolution for $34,300 for grant funds paid to the county for school resource officers; and a resolution for $96,357 in additional money received by the state to pay for high cost students in special education.
- Adopted math textbooks for elementary, middle and high schools.
- Approved a superintendent goals/evaluation instrument for the 2011-2012 school year as amended.

In other action, the Board:

- Approved a Family Tuition Charge of $3,723 for employees and $4,975 for families moving into the district but who have not established residency within the county. The charges are for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Approved an Eagle Scout Project at Scales Elementary School.
- Approved a resolution allowing current freshmen and sophomores who have already participated in WCS-coached swimming to apply to substitute time in the athletic activity for the .5 PE credit requirement required of these students. The Board Policy Committee
will be reviewing other aspects of the Credit Requirements for Graduation policy in more detail over the next few months.

- 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, April 18, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Administrative Complex.