

The following are highlights from the Winston County Board of Education meeting on April 28, 2005:

Accepted retirement of Gerald Hayes and Mary White, Bus Drivers at Addison; Marie Prestridge, Guidance Counselor at Double Springs Middle School; Theresa Snoddy, teacher at Winston County High; and Alan Gray, Teacher at Winston County Technical Center.

Personnel matters also included extending maternity leave of absence to Leigh-Ann May for the 2005-2006 school year.

The Board commended the following students or personnel for achievements:

- Betsy Bartlett, Addison High School Student, placed 1st in the Junior Division Illustrated Talk at the State FCCLA Conference.
- Ashley Rawls, Lynn High School Student, received the State 1A Bryant Jordan Achievement Award.
- Zack Brannon, Addison High School Student, chosen by Cullman Electric Co-op Board to attend Youth Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.
- Courtney Bell, Meek High School Student, placed 1st All-Around in her age division at the Alabama Gymnastics Meet and as a level nine gymnast, placed 1st in the bars and the balance beam.
- Ashton Carter, Meek High School Student, chosen as one of 10 girls in Alabama to play in USA Junior Nationals International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio.
- Winston County High School State BETA Club Winners: Kaylee Bohon, 1st place ♦ poetry; Heather Wilson, 1st place ♦ Oil Painting and 1st place ♦ Acrylic Painting; John Bailey, 2nd place ♦ Special Talent; Jacob Alford, 3rd place ♦ Math Academics; Kayla Anthony, Haley Batchelor, John Bailey, Amber Miller, Ashley Millwood, Laci Tomlinson, and Melanie Wakefield, 3rd place for Scrap Book.
- Randy White, Addison Teacher/Coach, selected to coach in North/South Softball Game during Alabama High School All-Star Sports Week.
- Denise Cagle, teacher at Lynn Elementary, chosen as one of six teachers from Alabama applicants to attend the ♦Ag in the Classroom.

Educational School Trips, that are out-of-state or overnight, were approved for Lynn High School Science Club, Meek High School FACS, Meek High School Beta Club and WCHS Beta Club.

A resolution supporting immediate passage of education budget by legislature was approved as follows :

WHEREAS the recent upturns in the economy have generated more revenue for public education in Alabama than in the last four fiscal years; and

WHEREAS the legislature has the opportunity to fund many of the items that have been deeply cut or frozen in recent years; and

WHEREAS this education budget likely will enable the State of Alabama to begin restoring and expanding programs that directly impact the quality of education we provide our students; and

WHEREAS Alabama's public K-12 schools need funding to continue full implementation of the Alabama Reading Initiative, which has proven highly successful in helping students to learn to read on grade level; and

WHEREAS Alabama's public K-12 schools need to expand the Alabama Math/Science/Technology Initiative, which is expected to greatly improve the quality of the education students receive; and

WHEREAS Alabama's public K-12 schools need to meet the staffing requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which is possible with funding for principals, assistant principals, librarians and counselors; and

WHEREAS Alabama's public K-12 schools are seeking funding for a statewide network for distance learning that will put more advanced courses within reach of all Alabama public school students, regardless of where they live; and

WHEREAS Alabama's public K-12 schools need increased funding for textbooks and transportation in order to reduce the amount of local money they use for these items; and

WHEREAS Alabama's public K-12 schools recognize that quality teaching is one of the most crucial factors in student performance and are seeking additional money for professional development and for helping teachers earn certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Winston County Board of Education does hereby strongly urge the Alabama Senate to immediately pass the 2006 Education Budget and promptly send it to the governor for his signature.

The next scheduled meeting will be May 10, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.